



INTERNATIONALER  
VERBAND  
ZUM SCHUTZ VON  
PFLANZENZÜCHTUNGEN  
  
GENF, SCHWEIZ

UNION INTERNATIONALE  
POUR LA PROTECTION  
DES OBTENTIONS  
VÉGÉTALES  
  
GENÈVE, SUISSE

UNIÓN INTERNACIONAL  
PARA LA PROTECCIÓN  
DE LAS OBTENCIONES  
VEGETALES  
  
GINEBRA, SUIZA

INTERNATIONAL UNION  
FOR THE PROTECTION  
OF NEW VARIETIES  
OF PLANTS  
  
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

## UPOV Press Release No. 87

Geneva, October 20, 2011

### UPOV Council Sets Biennial Program, Marks 50th Anniversary of the UPOV Convention

The Council of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) met in Geneva on October 20, 2011, in the year of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UPOV Convention, to take stock of the Union's work over the past year and approve the next biennium's program and budget.

UPOV members acknowledged that the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UPOV comes at a time when a changing world carries many challenges for agriculture. At the global level, increasing population, climate change, parallel demands for food and energy production and evolving human needs require a response in agricultural production, often at the same time as land and inputs become increasingly scarce and expensive. Success in responding to these challenges relies on dynamic and sustainable agriculture.

Plant Breeding has significantly contributed and will continue to be a major contributor to increased food security whilst reducing input costs, greenhouse gas emissions and deforestation. With that, plant breeding significantly mitigates the effects of population growth, climate change and other social and physical challenges.

Innovation in agriculture and horticulture is important for economic development in the rural sector. Production of high value varieties of ornamentals, fruit and vegetables provide employment and income for hundreds of thousands – even millions – of people. An effective system of plant variety protection is crucial for a sustainable contribution of plant breeding and seed supply and is a key enabler for investment in breeding and the development of new varieties of plants. UPOV membership promotes economic and social benefits and is an important global signal for breeders to have the confidence to introduce their new varieties in that country, which will be of benefit to farmers and growers in the country.

To mark the 50th anniversary, UPOV organized the “Symposium on Plant Breeding for the Future”, on October 21, 2011, which reviewed recent developments in plant science and looked forward to the challenges and opportunities for applying those scientific developments in plant breeding.

([http://www.upov.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting\\_id=24133](http://www.upov.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=24133))

### Round-up of key developments in UPOV Council:

#### *New members of the Union*

The Council was informed that Peru had deposited its instrument of accession to the UPOV Convention and became the 70<sup>th</sup> member of UPOV on August 8, 2011.

#### *Program & Budget*

The Council approved the Program and Budget for the 2012-2013 biennium, amounting to Sfr6,798,000. This budget contains no change in the value of the contribution unit by members of the Union and no change in the total number of posts for the Office of the Union.

#### *Information on UPOV*

Plans for the launch of a redesigned website on November 1, 2011, were approved with the aim of improving the availability of information on UPOV to a range of users. Some of the features of the redesigned website include the following:

- freely accessible database of plant varieties (PLUTO), formerly only available in the form of a CD-ROM on subscription
- multimedia presentation on UPOV
- video on the use of plant variety protection by gentian farmers in the Ashiro region of Japan (“the Ashiro Rindo story”)
- launch of UPOV YouTube channel
- UPOV collection of materials explaining the UPOV system
- database of UPOV members’ laws (UPOV Lex)

#### *Public Access to UPOV Documents*

In a further move to increase access to documents, the Council agreed that the documents of the Administrative and Legal Committee (CAJ), Technical Committee (TC) and Technical Working Parties (TWPs), which were formerly only accessible to members and observers, would be made publicly accessible.

#### *Cooperation with ITPGRFA*

The Council agreed with the request of the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture for the Office of the Union to cooperate with ITPGRFA on a research project on the economics of the Multilateral System of the ITPGRFA, based on information available from the Plant Variety Database (PLUTO).

#### *Other*

The observer status for the Asia and Pacific Seed Association (APSA) was extended to the Administrative and Legal Committee (CAJ), Technical Committee (TC) and Technical Working Parties (TWPs).

*Plant Variety Protection Statistics*

The Council noted a record number of plant variety protection titles granted in 2010, with the number exceeding 11,000 for the first time (a 3% increase on 2009). A record number of titles in force – 90,214 – was recorded in 2010, representing a 4 percent increase on figures for 2009.

*Cooperation in the Examination of New Plant Varieties*

In 2011, the number of plant genera and species for which there were agreements between members of the Union for cooperation in the examination of distinctness, uniformity and stability totaled 1,990, compared to 1,400 in 2010.

A report of decisions taken at the forty-fifth ordinary session of the Council, held in Geneva on October 20, 2011, is available at:

[http://www.upov.int/meetings/en/doc\\_details.jsp?meeting\\_id=24136&doc\\_id=186841](http://www.upov.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?meeting_id=24136&doc_id=186841)

For further information about UPOV, please contact the UPOV Secretariat:

Tel: (+41-22) 338 9153/9233

E-mail: [upov.mail@upov.int](mailto:upov.mail@upov.int)

Fax: (+41-22) 733 0336

Website: [www.upov.int](http://www.upov.int)

**MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF  
NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS**

**International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants\***  
UPOV Convention (1961), as revised at Geneva (1972, 1978 and 1991)

**Status on October 20, 2011**

State/Organization	Date on which State/Organization became member of UPOV	Latest Act <sup>i</sup> of the Convention to which State/Organization is party and date on which State/Organization became party to that Act
Albania.....	October 15, 2005	1991 Act.....
Argentina.....	December 25, 1994	1978 Act.....
Australia.....	March 1, 1989	1991 Act.....
Austria.....	July 14, 1994	1991 Act.....
Azerbaijan.....	December 9, 2004	1991 Act.....
Belarus.....	January 5, 2003	1991 Act.....
Belgium <sup>ii</sup> .....	December 5, 1976	1961/1972 Act.....
Bolivia (Plurinational State of).....	May 21, 1999	1978 Act.....
Brazil.....	May 23, 1999	1978 Act.....
Bulgaria.....	April 24, 1998	1991 Act.....
Canada.....	March 4, 1991	1978 Act.....
Chile.....	January 5, 1996	1978 Act.....
China.....	April 23, 1999	1978 Act <sup>iii</sup> .....
Colombia.....	September 13, 1996	1978 Act.....
Costa Rica.....	January 12, 2009	1991 Act.....
Croatia.....	September 1, 2001	1991 Act.....
Czech Republic.....	January 1, 1993	1991 Act.....
Denmark <sup>iv</sup> .....	October 6, 1968	1991 Act.....
Dominican Republic.....	June 16, 2007	1991 Act.....
Ecuador.....	August 8, 1997	1978 Act.....
Estonia.....	September 24, 2000	1991 Act.....
European Union.....	July 29, 2005	1991 Act.....
Finland.....	April 16, 1993	1991 Act.....
France <sup>v</sup> .....	October 3, 1971	1978 Act.....
Georgia.....	November 29, 2008	1991 Act.....
Germany.....	August 10, 1968	1991 Act.....
Hungary.....	April 16, 1983	1991 Act.....
Iceland.....	May 3, 2006	1991 Act.....
Ireland.....	November 8, 1981	1978 Act.....
Israel.....	December 12, 1979	1991 Act.....
Italy.....	July 1, 1977	1978 Act.....
Japan.....	September 3, 1982	1991 Act.....
Jordan.....	October 24, 2004	1991 Act.....
Kenya.....	May 13, 1999	1978 Act.....
Kyrgyzstan.....	June 26, 2000	1991 Act.....
Latvia.....	August 30, 2002	1991 Act.....
Lithuania.....	December 10, 2003	1991 Act.....
Mexico.....	August 9, 1997	1978 Act.....
Morocco.....	October 8, 2006	1991 Act.....
Netherlands.....	August 10, 1968	1991 Act <sup>vi</sup> .....
New Zealand.....	November 8, 1981	1978 Act.....
Nicaragua.....	September 6, 2001	1978 Act.....
Norway.....	September 13, 1993	1978 Act.....
Oman.....	November 22, 2009	1991 Act.....
Panama.....	May 23, 1999	1978 Act.....
Paraguay.....	February 8, 1997	1978 Act.....
Peru.....	August 8, 2011	1991 Act.....
Poland.....	November 11, 1989	1991 Act.....
Portugal.....	October 14, 1995	1978 Act.....

State/Organization	Date on which State/Organization became member of UPOV	Latest Act <sup>i</sup> of the Convention to which State/Organization is party and date on which State/Organization became party to that Act	
Republic of Korea .....	January 7, 2002	1991 Act .....	January 7, 2002
Republic of Moldova.....	October 28, 1998	1991 Act .....	October 28, 1998
Romania .....	March 16, 2001	1991 Act .....	March 16, 2001
Russian Federation.....	April 24, 1998	1991 Act .....	April 24, 1998
Singapore .....	July 30, 2004	1991 Act .....	July 30, 2004
Slovakia.....	January 1, 1993	1991 Act .....	June 12, 2009
Slovenia.....	July 29, 1999	1991 Act .....	July 29, 1999
South Africa .....	November 6, 1977	1978 Act .....	November 8, 1981
Spain .....	May 18, 1980	1991 Act .....	July 18, 2007
Sweden.....	December 17, 1971	1991 Act .....	April 24, 1998
Switzerland.....	July 10, 1977	1991 Act .....	September 1, 2008
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.....	May 4, 2011	1991 Act .....	May 4, 2011
Trinidad and Tobago .....	January 30, 1998	1978 Act .....	January 30, 1998
Tunisia.....	August 31, 2003	1991 Act .....	August 31, 2003
Turkey .....	November 18, 2007	1991 Act .....	November 18, 2007
Ukraine.....	November 3, 1995	1991 Act .....	January 19, 2007
United Kingdom.....	August 10, 1968	1991 Act .....	January 3, 1999
United States of America .....	November 8, 1981	1991 Act <sup>vii</sup> .....	February 22, 1999
Uruguay.....	November 13, 1994	1978 Act .....	November 13, 1994
Uzbekistan.....	November 14, 2004	1991 Act .....	November 14, 2004
Viet Nam.....	December 24, 2006	1991 Act .....	December 24, 2006

(Total: 70)

\* The International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), established by the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, is an independent intergovernmental organization having legal personality. Pursuant to an agreement concluded between the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and UPOV, the Director General of WIPO is the Secretary-General of UPOV and WIPO provides administrative services to UPOV.

<sup>i</sup> “1961/1972 Act” means the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants of December 2, 1961, as amended by the Additional Act of November 10, 1972; “1978 Act” means the Act of October 23, 1978, of the Convention; “1991 Act” means the Act of March 19, 1991, of the Convention.

<sup>ii</sup> With a notification under Article 34(2) of the 1978 Act.

<sup>iii</sup> With a declaration that the 1978 Act is not applicable to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

<sup>iv</sup> With a declaration that the Convention of 1961, the Additional Act of 1972, the 1978 Act and the 1991 Act are not applicable to Greenland and the Faroe Islands.

<sup>v</sup> With a declaration that the 1978 Act applies to the territory of the French Republic, including the Overseas Departments and Territories.

<sup>vi</sup> Ratification for the Kingdom in Europe.

<sup>vii</sup> With a reservation pursuant to Article 35(2) of the 1991 Act.

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