



April 2011

Keun-Jin Choi

Position

My name is Keun-Jin Choi from Korea, I am a director of Seobu Branch office of Korea Seed & Variety Service (KSVS)/MIFAFF, and another position in UPOV is president of the Council since 2010.

Experience with PVP and UPOV

Since 1995, after drafting PVP of seed industry law of Korea, I have been preparing to operate PVP system. From that time, I have been close relationship to UPOV, participating UPOV meeting especially working party meetings and got all information to establishment of operating PVP system in Korea.

Benefit of PVP in Korea

Breeding new plant varieties is most important in seed industry because releasing variety is starting point of seed industry, which provides new plant variety for the farmers and growers through seed production (multiplication), processing and marketing and provides large opportunity to the farmers and growers to select their own variety appropriately. Plant variety protection is encouragement system for breeders to develop new plant variety for society.

Benefit of UPOV member

In my experience, there were two advantages to join the member of UPOV. One was that a large number of varieties from abroad were introduced and contributed to increase the farms economy through use of this variety by farmers and growers. And secondly, all these varieties were contributed to upgrade breeding level in Korea through use of varieties as breeding material in some crops by breeders.

Role of UPOV in Korea

When we introduce PVP system at the beginning stage, we participate in all UPOV meeting as an observer to get information to set up our PVP system. We can say our PVP system is based on all information from UPOV. After set up PVP system, through continuous participation of UPOV meetings, we can operate PVP system properly using all documents, information, guidelines and communications with member countries. In that regard, UPOV has been a big role to set up PVP system of Korea.

Impact of PVP and membership of UPOV

I can say that there were three big changes happened after introducing PVP system under UPOV Act. Firstly this stimulated potential breeder to develop new variety and it leads to increase the number of breeders. Secondly, number of varieties whether developed by Korean or introduced from foreign used and contributed to farmers and growers to provide more chances to select high quality variety for themselves. Thirdly, PVP system leads to breeders' competition of their varieties in the commercial seed market with the quality, price and etc.

Key strength of UPOV

UPOV is a unique international organization which has plant variety protection act internationally. There is no other international organization except UPOV which has PVP Act, therefore this is a key strength of UPOV.

Benefit of variety in agriculture

New plant variety provides benefit to the farmers and growers and society as well. Some special varieties which have functional nutrients for example, high content of fiber, GABA, and amylose in rice were developed welcomed by consumers. This plant varieties leads to a niche market for new processing products such as a health and diet food using functional nutrients. This has been a big role to develop seed industry in Korea.

Use of PVP

At the beginning stage of introduction of PVP, farmers and growers focused to use those varieties whether developed in Korea or introduce from abroad to increase their agricultural economy. Later stage, breeders as well as farmers and growers use those varieties as breeding material to develop new varieties. This makes increment of number of individual breeders who were farmers and growers.

Future development of UPOV

UPOV is a unique international union which has international act for plant variety protection. Now 69 countries and one organization are member of the Union, however many countries and organizations are preparing to become a member of union soon or later. Therefore UPOV will be come to the fore as a unique international union for PVP. I am expecting that PVP under UPOV system will be done a big role for society through providing new varieties for agricultural development.