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My name is Enriqueta Molina Macías, I am the Director General of the National Seed Inspection and Certification Service (SNICS) of the Mexican Ministry of Agriculture.

What does being a member of UPOV mean in concrete terms for Mexico and the region to which the country belongs?

I believe that membership is significant in terms of capacity-building and the whole process of development of legislative and normative structures. From the point of view of a mega-diverse country with a wide range of native varieties, UPOV is a body that works with those who generate technologies. Much progress has been made in Mexico in terms of innovation and the generation of plant varieties in the case of certain species. Membership has allowed us to become more competitive on the international market with regard to species for which we have major export potential and is also an important reference point when incorporating reference varieties, for example, certain commonly used varieties, native varieties, varieties that correspond perfectly to the definition of variety and that have been included in reference collections.

There is a wide range of examples, including strictly staple crops which allow us to offer farmers new alternatives. These crops represent a different approach, provide higher yields and are more adaptable, especially in this time of climate change. Ground-breaking work has been carried out on more specific products, as is the case with bio-energy, specialized products which involve seeking out particular characteristics and which encourage innovation. Likewise, looking at certain materials that are perhaps less traditional, some species that were grown for ornamental purposes have now been developed further and are currently being used for food or as bio-pesticides, and this is another new development. We are currently backing a number of field research projects aimed at generating technologies which the SNICS will, in turn, protect and register. [Chapter 10]