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**Is the fact that a country offers PVP and is a member of UPOV relevant?**

This is a crucial consideration. We will not do business in countries which do not offer PVP. We know that, without such protection, we will not be able to cover our costs with royalties. We only deal with countries which have at least initiated the UPOV accession procedure. This is something that we check. . [Chapter 5]

**What do you see as the main strength, the main benefits of the UPOV system?**

Of crucial importance is the breeder's exemption which means that breeding, sustainable breeding, is encouraged because protected varieties can be used for further breeding, thus substantially increasing the size of the gene pool. This is an enormous benefit.

Furthermore it is a well balanced system. The duration of protection is limited. Thus, criticism to the effect that access to genetic material is prohibited is not really justified. On the contrary, the plant protection system enhances, and in some cases, enables access to genetic material. One example is barley, for which there is no breeding in Switzerland: Thanks to the UPOV system – and subsequently the Swiss law - , foreign breeders are entitled to be granted breeder's rights in Switzerland and, therefore, are willing to market their barley varieties. Thereby, Swiss farmers are able to get access to modern genetic material, to performing and marketable varieties.