

(Draft)
The 10th East Asia Plant Variety Protection Forum Meeting
Japan's Proposal for Future Direction of the EAPVP Forum for the Next Decade

Agenda: Discussion of the Future Direction of the EAPVP Forum

Proposal: Review our objectives and activities

Proposed action: to discuss EAPVP's "10 year strategic plan" in the 11th EAPVP Forum meeting

Introduction

1. For achieving our common goal, further development of the agriculture, forestry and food industry of East Asia, EAPVP was established in 2007 with the intent of strengthening each PVP system while harmonizing them, and facilitating the understanding of the UPOV Convention and role of UPOV for the harmonization of PVP systems in accordance with the UPOV Convention in each country in order to promote breeding of new plant varieties in each country as well as to provide an incentive for foreign breeders' investment
2. Under "the Guideline for Operation of EAPVP Forum" approved by the First meeting of the EAPVP Forum in 2008, to achieve the Forum's objectives such as to promote mutual cooperation particularly in capacity building by sharing experience and knowledge in the region, key activities of the Forum has been focused on 'information exchanges' to understand and harmonize the PVP system in each member, considering capacity level as well as technical gap of each country.

Achievements

3. During the past decade, under the EAPVP Forum, thanks to series of cooperation activities, technical capacity of each country including the DUS examination has been improved. On the facility aspects, DUS test stations have been newly established or strengthened in some member countries.
4. In addition, the DUS test guideline for tropical plant discussed under EAPVP activities, and was considered in the discussion in UPOV Technical Working Parties (TWPs) which have served to provide detailed practical guidance for the harmonized examination of DUS testing.
5. As well as harmonization of the PVP systems in the region, there is movement / development towards the preparation to be UPOV member in some EAPVP member countries, though it should be noted that it has not been seen new membership of the UPOV from EAPVP members in terms of legal aspect.

Challenges

6. Recognizing the key role of the EAPVP Forum as a sustainable forum exploring cooperative activities for the development of PVP system in the East Asian region and its achievements over the decade, it may be high time for the Forum to reconsider our strategies and activities adding to information exchanges for the next decade to archive our common goal so that the Forum will continue to play a key role as a regional forum while gaining the members' active participation.
7. Among others, further harmonization or integrity of the PVP system in Asian region should be one of the main issues for consideration because internationally harmonized effective PVP system in accordance with the UPOV system facilitates to protect plant breeder's rights internationally and efficiently. In this context, reconsidered objectives and activities may include region-specific programs in East Asian region in consistent with UPOV Convention that has function to encourage non-UPOV members in EAPVP Forum to join to the UPOV membership.
8. It is obvious to respect the different situation and concerns of each member countries surrounding PVP as ever discussion in the EAPVP Forum.

Proposal

9. Japan would like to propose the EAPVP Forum to:
 - i. discuss and prepare EAPVP's "the Next 10 years strategic plan" which may include common direction, members' individual implementing strategy for strengthening their PVP system, and regional cooperation on PVP harmonization strategy consisting with UPOV system in the 11th EAPVP Forum meeting after reviewing our achieved objectives and future possibilities,
 - ii. discuss "the Guideline for Operation of EAPVP Forum" and "the Priorities for Activities to be implemented under the EAPVP Forum Cooperation Framework" in respect of the views shared through the discussion in bullet i, which may be revised in the 11th Forum or the future meeting, if necessary,
 - iii. organize pre-Forum meetings (including electric meetings) before the 11th EAPVP Forum for facilitating discussion in bullet i and ii, if necessary,

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