



East Asia Plant Variety Protection Forum  
**11th Annual Meeting**  
**Muntinlupa, Philippines, 01 August 2018**

**EAPVPF/11/05**  
**Date: 1 August 2018**

---

## **PROPOSAL OF COOPERATION ACTIVITY (REGIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITY)**

*prepared by Vietnam and Japan*

### **Pilot project for building regional harmonized PVP mechanism**

#### **1. Background**

Plant Variety Protection (PVP) system encourages breeding and introduction of new plant varieties by providing protection of the Right for Plant Breeders, and brings benefit for society.

Asian especially ASEAN where it is almost Agriculture countries with plentiful of plant genetic recourse, New Plant Varieties is significant contributing to the development of agriculture for those countries.

For the implementation of PVP in the region effectively, since East Asian Plant Variety Protection Forum (EAPVPF) established in 2007, Viet Nam and Japan have been supporting harmonization PVP systems in the region as key Members of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV).

Further, building a harmonized effective regional PVP system/mechanism in the region can be one of major topics on the activities of the Forum. This can reduce the burden of the PVP authority in each country in conducting examination of PVP applications by mutual cooperation and sharing resources among UPOV members, which would demonstrates benefit to become UPOV members, and that inspires non-UPOV nations to become UPOV members. In addition, such a regional PVP system/mechanism can reduce the expenditures (time and finance) on the introduction of prominent varieties can be reduced, which gives more benefits not only for Breeders but also for consumers.

Reflecting the Common Direction of the 10-YSP with the Objective 1 and Objective 2, Vietnam and Japan agreed to propose a Pilot project for regional cooperation activity to strengthen the harmonization regional PVP system.

#### **2. Duration of the Program**

The program proposed to implement in two phases by total 5 years as follow:

Phase 1 from 2018 to 2021 and;

Phase 2 from 2022 to 2023

#### **3. Expected outcome of the proposed program**

The Pilot Project is a Regional cooperation activity to achieve Objective 2 of the Common Direction of the 10-Year Strategic Plan, i.e.:

*Build a regionally harmonized mechanism for application and examination procedures under the UPOV Convention, encouraging mutual acceptance of DUS test reports towards an efficient and cooperative PVP system in the region for breeders.*

### **3.1 Phase 1 (2018 – 2021)**

Develop a model procedure from filing to the grant of plant breeders' right as a foundation of regional harmonized mechanism in line the UPOV Convention.

The model procedure will be consisted of a unified application form, harmonized DUS test proceedings with Test Guidelines and mutual acceptance of the DUS Test results and administrative proceedings.

### **3.2 Phase 2 (2022 – 2023)**

A regionally harmonized PVP mechanism for UPOV members of the EAPVP Forum is established together with National PVPOs.

## **4. Proposed activities in details**

### **4.1 In the period from 2018 to 2021 (Phase 1)**

4.1.1 To call participants and provisional participants of the pilot project adding to Vietnam and Japan. Participants and provisional participants will be selected as described in 6. (mid of 2018).

4.1.2 To harmonize the administrative procedure from filing to the grant of plant breeders' right, with application form, relevant papers on the procedures, utilizing tools and documents prepared by the UPOV including UPOV Model Form, UPOV PRISMA and UPOV Test Guideline as options.

\*National application form and Test Guideline will be harmonized as much as possible.

4.1.3 To demonstrate model examination proceedings (DUS test) at selected examination centers (probably in Vietnam) applied in plural countries. DUS test will be operated with presence of applied countries for some selected crops including rice and maize.

4.1.4 To discuss possibility to register examined varieties in applied third countries (2020)

4.1.5 To discuss possibility of utilization of a demonstrated model procedure for unification of proceedings (2020)

### **4.2 For the period from 2022 to 2023 (Phase 2)**

Establish a regionally harmonized PVP mechanism under the UPOV Convention for UPOV members of the EAPVP Forum. The crops will start from rice and maize.

## **5. Proposed venue**

### **Phase 1**

Vietnamese PVP Office and DUS Testing Agencies in Vietnam (for food crops and some other crops)

### **Phase 2**

DUS Testing agencies of other Members for other crops (based on the ability of implementation of DUS)

## 6. Participants

6.1 Participating countries will be selected by Vietnam and Japan from UPOV members of the EAPVP Forum.

6.2 The EAPVP member countries which have officially committed to join UPOV (Brunei Darussalam, Myanmar and Malaysia) can be selected, upon their request, to participate the Phase 1 of the pilot project as provisional participants.

6.3 The Progress of the project will be reported to the EAPVP Forum's Annual Meeting.

## 7. Budget:

- Vietnam: in-kind contribution (e.g. provision of facilities for the meetings, DUS testing centers, human resource)

- Japan and/or other interested donors: Operation cost (some contribution may be covered by Japan's Funds-in-Trust to UPOV)

\*Note: Detailed will be consulted among Vietnam, Japan, and donors.

## 8. Contact Point

- Nguyen Thanh Minh (Plant Variety Protection Division, MARD, Vietnam)

e-mail: minhnt.nn@mard.gov.vn

- Atsuhiko Meno (PVP Office, MAFF, Japan)

e-mail: Atsuhiko\_meno150@maff.go.jp

[End of document]