

International Seminar “Benefits of UPOV Membership in Your Country”

Benefits of the UPOV System and Membership Procedure

Ms. Yolanda Huerta, Vice Secretary-General

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UPOV

Purpose of UPOV & Plant Variety Protection



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graph LR; A((Purpose of UPOV & Plant Variety Protection)) -.- B(01 Incentivize innovation in plant breeding); A -.- C(02 Foster global food security); A -.- D(03 International Cooperation); A -.- E(04 Economic Benefits); A -.- F(05 Agricultural Sustainability);
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01

Incentivize innovation in plant breeding

02

Foster global food security

03

International Cooperation

04

Economic Benefits

05

Agricultural Sustainability



Incentivize innovation in plant breeding

**How to produce more and better with less
water, less land, less inputs**

Breeding plant varieties with improved yield, more efficient use of nutrients, resistance to plant pests and diseases, salt and drought tolerance and better adaptation to climatic stress

Fusarium oxysporum f.sp. *lycopersici* race 2

Symptom Assessment Scale



00
healthy



01
part of
plant wilted



02
half of plant
wilted



03
whole of
plant wilted



04
plant died

Disease resistance character in PVP Japan

Yoshiyuki Ohno

Plant Variety Protection Office



The UPOV Seminar in 2023 provided examples on the use of technologies such as “genome-sequencing”, “marker-assisted selection”, “induced mutation”, “gene-editing” and “double-haploids” in support of plant breeding



Foster global food security

Expansion of UPOV membership:

Nigeria, joined UPOV in March.

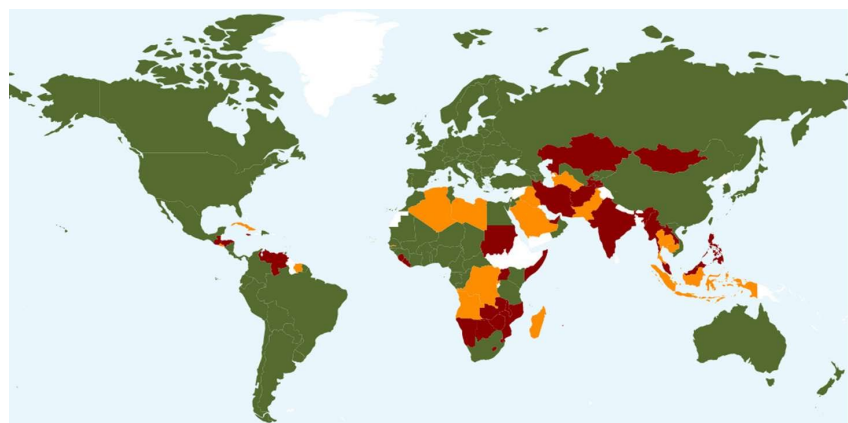
UPOV now has 80 members covering 99 States

By 2050, the global population is projected to reach 9.1 billion

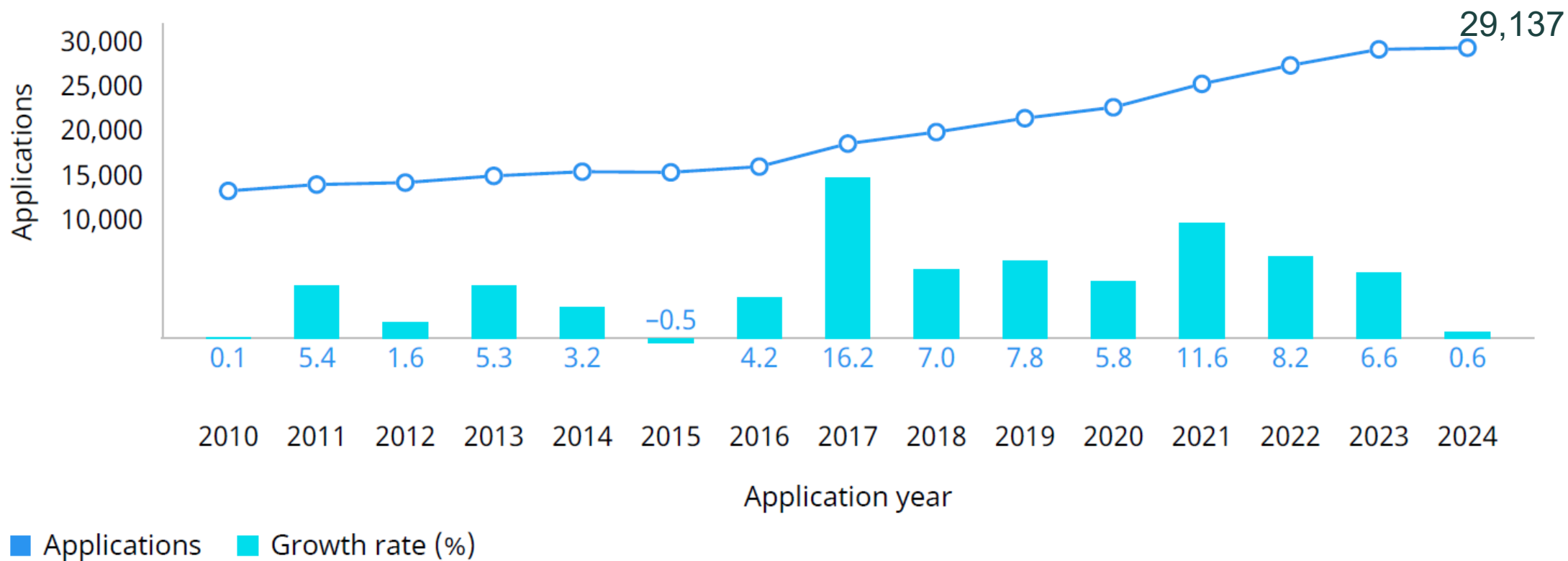
As food demand rises, providing farmers with access to high-quality varieties is crucial to ensuring food security.

Dr. Folarin Sunday Okelola

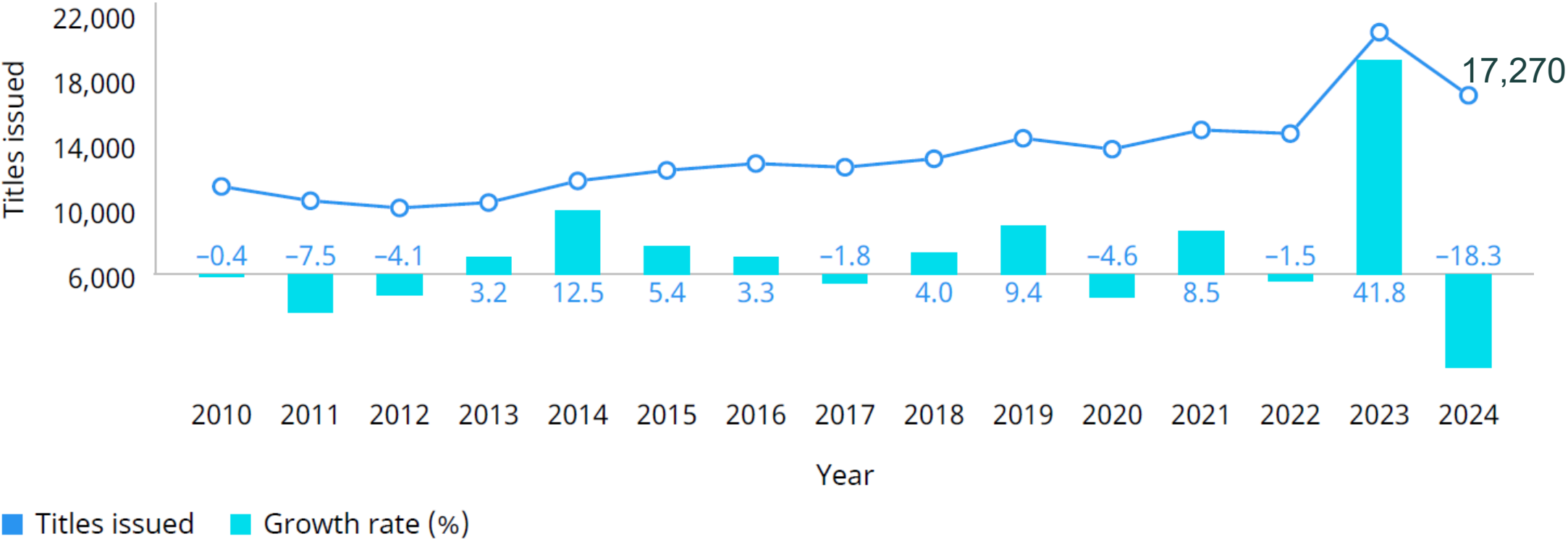
Registrar, Nigerian Plant Variety Protection Office



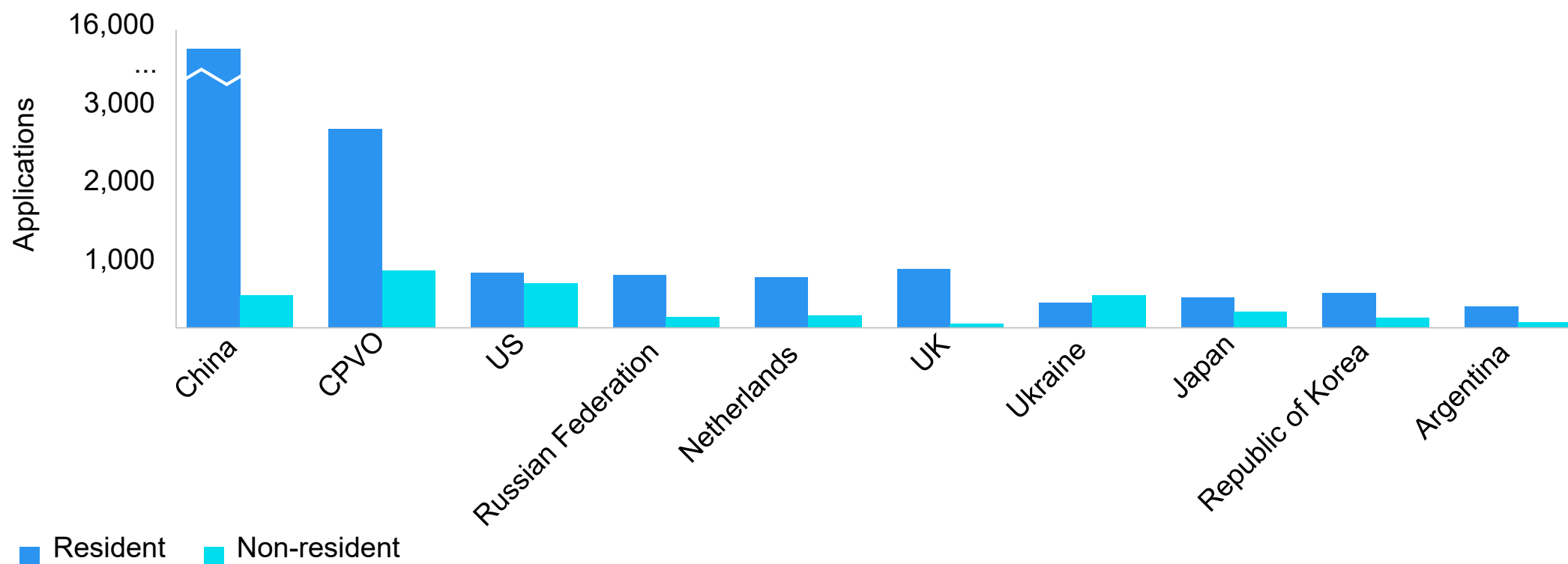
Trend in plant variety applications worldwide, 2010–2024



Trend in plant variety titles issued worldwide, 2010–2024



Plant variety applications for the top 10 offices, 2024





Foster global food security

https://www.upov.int/about/en/benefits_upov_system.html

Protecting breeders' rights not only **drives innovation** but also **fosters** the wider **dissemination** of new varieties

Effective protection and enforcement plays a key role in protecting all the stakeholders in the value chain that are investing on, or benefiting from, protected varieties

Canada uses PVP to improve the livelihood of Canadian cherry growers



First decision in **Peru** for a PBR infringement mandarin case based on genetic marker testing



International Cooperation

UPOV plays a key role in **setting the international standards** for plant variety protection in the legal, technical, digital and training areas

The shorter breeding time and commercial cycle of some new varieties encourage UPOV members to find faster, cost-effective ways to grant titles

UPOV e-PVP is a catalyst for effective digital PVP operations and connector of digital systems - those from users and PVP offices

<https://www.upov.int/upovepvp/en/index.html>

International Cooperation

UPOV will continue exploring the use of DNA-based information and phenotyping tools, such as image analysis, automation of collection of data/processes to assist in variety examination

Utilize image analysis technology to improve the efficiency of maize phenotype data collection and analysis in China

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle-Based Field Phenotyping in the Agricultural DUS testing





Source
NIAB

Economic Benefits: examination of new varieties

Recent developments in technology makes it cheaper and easier to develop new varieties and the commercial life of certain varieties in the market is shorter

Advances in biological sciences and DNA-based information provide opportunities for enhanced cooperation among UPOV members and efficiency gains in variety examination

Progress in phenotypic prediction of genotyped varieties could lead to an alternative method for the assessment of characteristics reducing costs and time in DUS examination

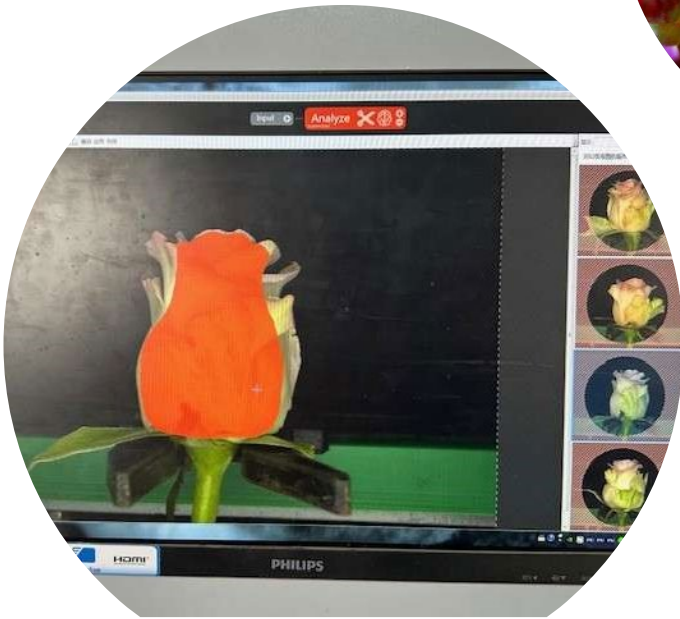
Economic Benefits

Call for action: protect your new varieties

By creating an enabling environment for protecting new plant varieties – you incentivize continuous progress in breeding, and you protect all the players in the value chain that invest in that new variety – breeders, suppliers, farmers, producers, exporters, importers and the consumers

Creation of employment in the flower sector –4 million in China

Key role of new varieties and new technologies, such as image analysis and color calibration



Economic Benefits



<https://arandanosperu.pe/2021/06/17/peru-exporto-arandanos-por-us-1000-millones-y-fue-el-principal-exportador-del-mundo-por-segunda-vez/>

JUNIO 17, 2021

NORMA ROJAS MARROQUIN

Perú exportó arándanos por US\$ 1,000 millones y fue el principal exportador del mundo por segunda vez



In 2021 Peru became the first world exporter of blueberries for the second time with more than 60 new varieties of blueberries protected since Peru became a UPOV member.

Economic benefits: impact study in Viet Nam*

A Study on the impact of plant variety protection in Viet Nam after its tenth anniversary of UPOV membership in 2017

provides that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) added upstream and downstream (value chains) amounts to USD1.5 billion

total added value to the economy of Viet Nam amounts annually to USD5 billion (>2.5 percent GDP)

- **1995-2005:** increase in yield mainly through increased level of inputs – no detectable increase due to plant breeding
- **2006-2016:** annual land productivity increase due to plant breeding
 - **Rice** 1.7 %
 - **Corn** 2.1 %
 - **Sweet potatoes** 3.1 %

- “The socio-economic benefits of UPOV membership in Viet Nam; An ex post assessment on plant breeding and agricultural productivity after 10 years” (Corresponding author: Steffen Noleppa) by HFFA Research GmbH
- https://www.upov.int/about/en/benefits_upov_system.html

HFFA Research GmbH

The socio-economic benefits
of UPOV membership in Viet Nam:

An ex-post assessment on plant
breeding and agricultural productivity
after ten years

Corresponding author: Steffen Noleppa

Agricultural Sustainability



Meet Dr. Mary Mgonja a Tanzanian plant breeder using the UPOV system as a force for good

In her words: “Plant variety protection helps me ensure that farmers I’m working with receive the authentic varieties they pay for, safeguarding them from counterfeit seeds. This protection not only preserves the integrity of my work but also guarantees that farmers benefit from the high-quality, resilient crops they rely on.”



[@International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants](#)



[@UPOVint](#)

OTHER BENEFITS OF UPOV MEMBERSHIP

- Internationally accepted and harmonized *sui generis* system
- Protection for Breeders in other UPOV members
- Benefit from national treatment and priority
- Co-operation in examination, protection and enforcement
- Legal and Technical guidance – UPOV TGs
- Training and assistance – UPOV PVP Certificate
- Awareness / Influence of future developments
- Digitalization: access to UPOV e-PVP – IT tools to manage applications and grants



UPOV membership process

Policy decision to draft legislation in accordance with the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention

Contact the Office of UPOV for assistance provision of the Law Drafting Guidance Document INF/6 and consultations

Finalize the Draft Law for its examination by the Council of UPOV

Ask advice of the Council of UPOV (art. 34(3) 1991 Act)

If advice positive and Law in force **deposit instrument of accession to become a UPOV member**

Communication strategy on UPOV/PVP benefits

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6,495 followers
5d • Edited • 🌐

What is the Plant Breeders' Exemption?

Did you know breeders can use protected plant varieties to develop new ...more

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Myth 🗑️ or Fact 🗑️?

There's a lot of misinformation about plant breeding and plant variety ...more

UPOV Plant Breeders' Exemption • 3 pages

What is the Plant Breeders' Exemption?



The plant breeder's exemption in the UPOV Convention is a rule that allows breeders to use protected plant varieties to create new varieties without needing permission from the breeder of a protected variety.

In simple terms, it promotes innovation by enabling plant diversity to be available for further breeding of new improved varieties as acts done for breeding other varieties are not subject to any restriction by the breeder.

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"I became a breeder because of the real life needs of my community. Most of the local farmers need a [#NewPlantVariety](#) that delivers high yields and supports the economic development of their families." ...more



Pham owns the **plant breeders' rights** to the new variety

Plant Breeding Myths • 6 pages

Debunking Plant Breeding Myths

Separating Fact from Fiction



👤👤👤 Marlène Borlant and 74 others

11 reports

👤👤👤 You and 40 others

1 comment • 8 reposts

and 103 others

9 comments • 25 reports

Common vision

Promote the role of new plant varieties
for **global cooperation** and development

Connecting, inspiring and shaping
the future of plant breeding for
a **better life and better planet**

