



APSA

Quality seed, Quality life

Benefits of UPOV membership in the Netherlands

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Some history

- 1920 national patent law
- 1941 national PVP law
- 1966 UPOV convention; NL one of 6 founding countries
- 1978 adoption of UPOV78
- 1991 adoption of UPOV91 + start of European Regional PVP system (CPVO)



Why PVP - 1

- > Plant Breeding is an industry with high investment in knowledge and services, but also high added value
- > Farmers and consumers need better varieties
- > We need new and better varieties to cope with:
 - > effects of climate change
 - > new pest and diseases
 - > new consumer demand
 - > more sustainable agriculture (less pesticides, less fertiliser)



Why PVP -2

- › creating a new variety takes investment of 5-15 years, copying a variety is easy
- › without protection there is no incentive for breeders
- › protection gives possibility to earn investment back
- › protection gives not an absolute monopoly: with breeders' exemption all good genetics are available for further breeding

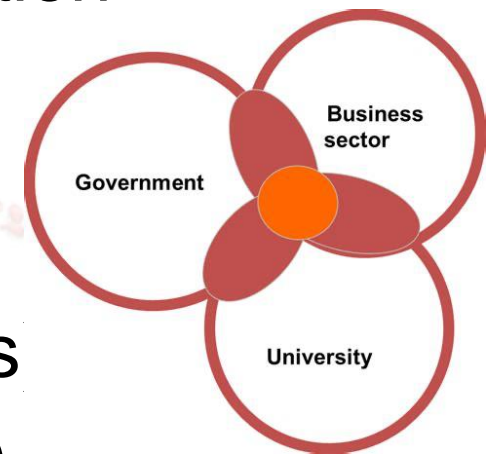


Current state of affairs - 1

- PVP law integrated in Seed Law (quality, certification standards)
- 250 SME breeding companies, exporting to almost every country
- NL companies world market leader in vegetables, ornamentals, potatoes
- Not only Breeding: also specialised spin-offs in seed cleaning, seed treatment, packaging, legal services etc, creating an attractive cluster with relatively easy access for new companies
- Industry itself invested early in private independent quality control/certification

Current state of affairs - 2

- yearly 2000 new varieties in NL developed, 800 for national PVP, 1200 for European PVP
- long term innovation agenda developed in cooperation between government, university and breeding companies (“triple helix”)
- in this agenda: fundamental research (university)
- pre-competitive research (university and companies)
- applied research - creating of varieties (companies)



Benefits of UPOV Membership - 1

- Improved plant varieties are very important for sustainable agriculture
- UPOV-compliant law means a country protects newly developed varieties
- This means companies are happy to sell their varieties in that country, giving farmers access to more and better varieties
- UPOV membership means there is a global market opportunity for breeders - private sector development

Benefits of UPOV Membership - 2

- Working together in UPOV countries can benefit from all collaboration and knowledge of members
 - Technical meetings, discussing specific crops
 - Technical guidelines for these crops
 - IT system for exchanging information
- Taking over of reports - reducing testing time and work
- Technology transfer

Farm saved seeds in the Netherlands

- Farmers can save seeds of not-protected varieties and re-use them; not sell them
- For protected varieties of potato and grains there is possibility of farm saved seeds: farmer uses own seeds but has to pay breeder (lower price than new seeds)
- Very small part of the market; most farmers buy new seeds
- Very efficient system developed by breeders and farmers together
- For other protected species not allowed to save seeds and re-use them
- Key point: good communication between farmers and breeders necessary; farmers understand that new varieties have benefits but come with a cost

Genetic resources

- Introduction of PVP gives farmers more choice
- Some or many farmers will start using modern varieties
- risk of genetic erosion
- Breeders need genetic resources for further breeding;
- That is why gene banks are necessary - save traditional varieties including exchange around the world with other genebanks
- With implementation of PVP Law also attention for good functioning genebank

Thanks for your attention

Questions?

