### International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants

#### **Meeting on Electronic Applications**

Fourth meeting Geneva, October 22, 2024

#### **EAM/4/6**

Original: English

Date: December 20, 2024

#### **REPORT**

#### adopted by the Meeting on Electronic Applications

Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance

#### WELCOME AND OPENING

- The fourth meeting on electronic applications (EAM/4 meeting), which was held as a hybrid meeting, was opened and chaired by Mr. Martin Ekvad, Director of Legal Affairs of UPOV, who welcomed the participants.
- 2. The list of participants is reproduced in Annex I to this report.

#### APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The meeting adopted the draft agenda as proposed in document UPOV/EAM/4/1. 3.

#### DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING UPOV e-PVP

#### Overview of UPOV e-PVP

- The meeting considered document UPOV/EAM/4/2 "Overview of UPOV e-PVP" and received a presentation by the Office of the Union on the:
  - Current and future use of UPOV e-PVP;
  - Financing of UPOV e-PVP components, including the strategy to sustain standard module support.
- A copy of the presentation is reproduced in Annex II to this document.

#### **UPOV PRISMA**

The meeting considered document UPOV/EAM/4/3 "UPOV PRISMA" and received a presentation by the Office of the Union on the developments concerning UPOV PRISMA since the third Meeting on Electronic Applications ("EAM/3 meeting"), a copy of which is reproduced in Annex II to this document.

Use of UPOV PRISMA (as of September 30, 2024)

The participants noted the information on the use of UPOV PRISMA as of September 30, 2024, as reported in Annex II of this report.

Launch of Version 2.10 (November 2024)

- The participants noted that the second part of UPOV PRISMA Version 2.10 will be deployed in November 2024, with the following updates:
  - Addition of 9 new crops for China;

- Addition of Ghana as a new participating country, in addition to United Republic of Tanzania (already joined in September 2024);
- · Bulk invoice.

#### Launch of Version 3.0 (2025)

- 9. The participants noted that UPOV PRISMA Version 3.0 will be deployed in 2025, with the following updates:
  - Move to the cloud;
  - New user interfaces;
  - · Improvement of user management;
  - Improvement of bulk upload;
  - Accessibility;
  - Morocco: 1 new crop (tomato rootstocks);
  - Serbia: 1 new crop (sunflower);
  - · Türkiye: national listing.

#### Other developments

#### Improvement of user-friendliness of UPOV PRISMA

- 10. The participants noted the summary of the progress of updating the PVP Office procedure presented during the Task Force meeting held on May 15, 2024. Eighty-four per cent of the procedures have been updated.
- 11. The participants noted that the participating Authorities have been requested to provide information about their national fees and whether or not those fees are subsidized.
- 12. The participants noted that the information on national fees will be implemented as a new section in the PVP Office procedure.
- 13. The participants noted that one-to-one meetings were organized with two authorities out of the top five that receive application data via UPOV PRISMA, namely Canada and South Africa. The following questions were discussed:
  - Whether it would be possible to make UPOV PRISMA mandatory: the main challenge is how to convince the
    applicants to add the extra UPOV fees to their costs. What are the incentives of doing that from applicant and
    PVP Office perspective?
  - Whether to add coverage to the National Listing;
  - Raise awareness of UPOV PRISMA: it was agreed to arrange joint information sessions with the focal points
    of the UPOV members participating in UPOV PRISMA and the UPOV PRISMA users (breeders and agents).
    The time and date of the sessions will be agreed jointly and communicated to relevant interested parties;
  - Fees' structure.
- 14. The participants noted the presentation of the International Seed Federation (ISF) about the Breeders' perspective on the use of UPOV PRISMA, a copy of which is reproduced in Annex II of this document (slides 19 to 24).
- 15. Uruguay and Colombia shared their experiences and challenges concerning UPOV PRISMA, in particular on the costs and user adoption. Canada shared its strategy to encourage the use of UPOV PRISMA through a fee mechanism that would, in essence, allow applicants to pay a lower application fee for applications filed through UPOV PRISMA.

#### Form synchronization

16. The participants noted the importance of maintaining up-to-date synchronization between the PVP Offices and their most recent forms. The participating authorities are invited to inform the UPOV PRISMA Team on changes in application forms or national TQs promptly. Moreover, PVP Offices are encouraged to annually verify, with the UPOV PRISMA focal points, that the mentioned forms used in UPOV PRISMA are up-to-date.

- 17. The participants noted that the CPVO and UPOV are discussing the timelines in relation to the completion of synchronization projects, taking into account the available resources.
- 18. The participants noted the new procedure for updating the TQ forms:
  - After the adoption of a Test Guidelines (TG) by the TC, the UPOV PRISMA Team will ask the PVP Offices
    charged with handling each non-UPOV language to make the necessary translations;
  - Within four months after the request for translation, upon publication of the TG, the relevant translated TQ will become accessible in UPOV PRISMA:
  - Should a PVP Office not be able to provide a translation within four months, it is agreed that the English version be used for filing an application via UPOV PRISMA.

#### UPOV e-PVP Administration Module

#### Developments since the EAM/3 Meeting

- 19. The participants noted that, as of September 30, 2024, four application data had been transferred to the Admin Module to one member using UPOV PRISMA, from three companies and for four different crops.
- 20. The participants noted that the United Kingdom signed the Terms of use on August 23, 2024. The United Kingdom will start using a customized version of the UPOV e-PVP Admin Module in 2025.
- 21. The participants noted the presentation of the United Kingdom on the UPOV e-PVP Project, "Customisation for the UK", a copy of which is reproduced in Annex II of this document (slides 36 to 45).

#### Joining requirements

22. The participants noted the proposal to the Consultative Committee to provide access to the UPOV e-PVP platform during a trial period of three years to non-UPOV members having already received a positive advice from the UPOV Council on the conformity of their (draft) law with the UPOV Convention.

#### Future developments

- 23. The participants noted that, as of January 1, 2025, Viet Nam will migrate all their data to the UPOV e-PVP Admin Module.
- 24. The participants noted that, in 2025, the United Kingdom will migrate all their data to the UPOV e-PVP Admin Module and will start using the existing and customized functionalities.

#### **DUS Exchange Module**

#### UPOV e-PVP DUS Report Exchange Module Features

#### Developments since EAM/3

- 25. The participants noted that seven DUS reports had been exchanged between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Viet Nam since September 30, 2024.
- 26. The participants noted that in the new release planned in November 2024, eight additional Authorities will join the UPOV e-PVP DUS Exchange Module:
  - Brazil;
  - Canada;
  - · European Union;
  - Georgia;
  - Ghana;
  - Morocco:
  - New Zealand;
  - · United States of America.

- 27. The participants noted that the United Kingdom will start using the e-PVP DUS Exchange Module in 2025.
- 28. The participants noted that Japan intended to use the e-PVP DUS Exchange Module, and that it will communicate when it will start using it.
- 29. The participants noted that a test campaign had been conducted from May 15 to June 7, 2024. UPOV members, who had already expressed their interest in participating in the UPOV e-PVP DUS Exchange Module as of May 15, 2024, were invited to test the tool. China, Japan and the United Kingdom were also invited to participate upon their request.
- 30. The participants noted that feedback had been received from Brazil, Canada, China, Japan, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, New Zealand and the European Union.
- 31. The participants noted that the following changes had been implemented in the DUS Exchange Module since the last update:
  - Extend the support of browser's languages to new languages including Dutch, Chinese and Portuguese. Users can now keep their default browser language and view the interface and content in English if their national language is different from English, French, Spanish, German, Japanese or Vietnamese;
  - Update the breeder's name when editing a request. Users can now correct or modify the name of the breeder when they edit an existing request for a DUS report;
  - Display the full botanical name along with the UPOV code. Users can now see the full scientific name of the plant species or genus in addition to the UPOV code when they search;
  - When raising a request, remove the link to the application when the requesting PVP Office is not using the UPOV e-PVP Admin Module. Users can now avoid confusion and unnecessary clicks when they raise a request for a DUS report from an Office that does not use the admin module to manage applications;
  - Remove the possibility to download a report when it is decommissioned. Decommissioned reports will be marked as such and will not have a download option;
  - Support of regional authorities, e.g. the European Union (EU), in addition to countries. Users can now select EU as the requesting or source authority for a DUS report, as well as individual member States of the EU. This will facilitate the exchange of reports with the EU (and with other individual authorities).

#### Why join?

- 32. The participants noted the following benefits of joining UPOV e-PVP DUS Exchange module:
  - Streamline and centralize the provision of reports;
  - Connect with UPOV members to take over or commission DUS reports;
  - Easy to find the designated focal point per authority to which requests should be addressed;
  - Advertise information about available reports.

#### Future developments

33. The participants noted that customization is needed for the European Union and the United Kingdom.

#### DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 34. The next meeting of the EAM was agreed to be held by internet means on Monday March 17, 2025.
  - 35. This report was adopted by correspondence.

[Annex I follows]

#### EAM/4/6

#### ANNEXE I / ANNEX I / ANEXO I

#### LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS / LIST OF PARTICIPANTS / LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES

(dans l'ordre alphabétique des noms français des membres / in the alphabetical order of the French names of the members / por orden alfabético de los nombres en francés de los miembros)

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[L'annexe II suit/ Annex II follows/ Sigue el Anexo II]

# Meeting on electronic applications

**Developments concerning UPOV e-PVP** 

Geneva, October 22, 2024

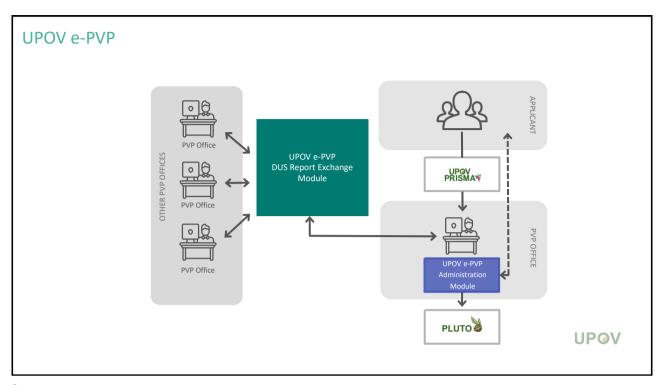


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Document EAM/4/2
'Overview of UPOV e-PVP'



**UPOV** 



# Current Use of UPOV e-PVP Number of authorities using UPOV e-PVP DUS exchange Number of authorities exchanged using UPOV e-PVP Admin pVP DUS exchange Number of authorities using UPOV e-PVP Admin pVP DUS exchange Number of authorities using UPOV e-PVP Admin pVP PISMA to UPOV e-PVP Admin 4. Netherlands (Kingdom of the) 2. Viet Nam (since Sep.23) Between Netherlands (Kingdom of) and Viet Nam 1. Viet Nam (since Sep.23) From 3 companies 4 different crops

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# Future Use of UPOV e-PVP

Number of authorities using/committed to use UPOV e-PVP DUS Exchange

12 (+10)

- Canada(as from Nov.24)
- European Union (as from Nov.24)
- Georgia (as from Nov.24)
- Japan (TBC)
- Morocco (as from Nov.24)
- Netherlands (Kingdom of the) (since Dec.23) New Zealand(as from Nov.24)
- United Kingdom (in 2025)
- 10. United States of America (as from Nov.24)

Number of authorities using/committed to use UPOV e-PVP Admin

3(+2)

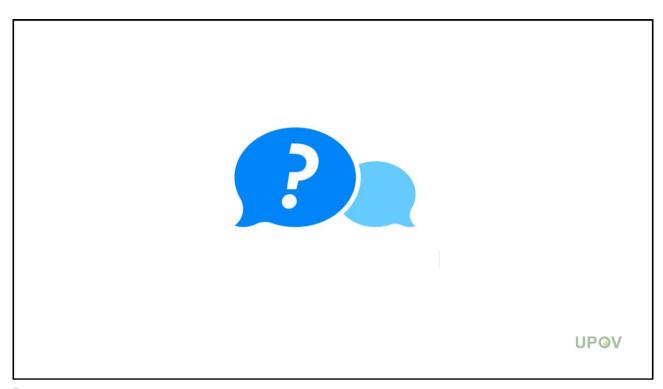
- 1. Ghana (as from Nov.24)
- 2. United Kingdom (in 2025)

UPOV

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# Financing UPOV e-PVP

- Document CC/104/04 outlines financing options for UPOV e-PVP
- Current funding sources:
  - Fees from UPOV PRISMA and PLUTO users
  - Special funds from Japan and the Kingdom of the Netherlands
  - UPOV regular budget
- Strategy to sustain standard module support:
  - · Liaise with PVP Offices and users
  - Promote UPOV e-PVP usage to increase revenue
  - · Proposal for multilateral donor fund:
    - To be considered by the Consultative Committee in October 2024





- Use of UPOV PRISMA
- Plans 2024-2025
- Other developments

**UPOV** 

# Use of UPOV PRISMA in 2024 (as of Sept.30, 2024)

Number of authorities using/committed to use UPOV PRISMA

Number of applications transferred through UPOV **PRISMA** 

Number of active users

Number of authorities in which UPOV PRISMA was used to transfer application data

1309 (+4%) 719

Ghana (as from Nov.24) Tanzania (republic of) (since Sept.24) 1255 : Jan.23 to Sept.23

UPOV

- Use of UPOV PRISMA
- Plans 2024-2025
- Other developments

**UP@V** 

11

#### Plans 2024-2025

Version	When	What
Version 2.10 (second part)	November 2024	<ol> <li>China: 9 new crops</li> <li>Ghana: new participating authority</li> <li>Bulk invoice</li> </ol>
Version 3.0	2025	<ol> <li>Move to the cloud</li> <li>New user interfaces</li> <li>Improvement of user management</li> <li>Improvement of bulk upload</li> <li>Accessibility</li> <li>Morocco: 1 new crop</li> <li>Serbia: 1 new crop</li> <li>Türkiye: national listing</li> </ol>
POV		

- Use of UPOV PRISMA
- Plans 2024-2025
- Other developments
  - User-friendliness of UPOV PRISMA
  - Form synchronization
  - Feedback from breeders

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# User-friendliness of UPOV PRISMA: continuous feedback collection from the stakeholders



UPOV PRISMA Task Force meeting on May 15, 2024 Next TF meeting : November 19, 2024



Authorities requested to provide information on national fees and subsidies.



84% PVP office procedure updated

Proposal to include national fees information in PVP Office Procedure



Finance-related information session held on June 12, 2024, with 22 participants



New videos and dedicated webpage developed for payment process guidance



September 2024: One-to-one meetings organized with Canada, Türkiye, South Africa and United states of America

# One-to-One meetings: Discussion topics



Whether or not it is possible to make UPOV PRISMA mandatory



Whether or not to add National Listing in the coverage



Raise awareness of UPOV PRISMA through joint webinars.

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Fees structure

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# **PREVIEW**

- Use of UPOV PRISMA
- Plans 2024-2025
- Other developments
  - User-friendliness of UPOV PRISMA
  - Form synchronization
  - Feedback from breeders

# Form synchronization



# Ensure synchronization between PVP Offices and latest forms

Inform UPOV PRISMA team of changes in application forms or national technical questionnaires promptly
Annual verification with UPOV PRISMA focal points



# CPVO and UPOV discussing timelines for projects



# Responsibility of UPOV to keep UPOV TQ forms up to date

Version 2.10: Revised TQ forms to align with latest versions

Procedure for updating TQ forms:

- •Distribute translations of TG after TC adoption •Publish TQ in all languages four months after TG
- •If translation is incomplete, use English version

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# **PREVIEW**

- Use of UPOV PRISMA
- Plans 2024-2025
- Other developments
  - User-friendliness of UPOV PRISMA
  - Form synchronization
  - · Feedback from breeders



# Breeders' perspective on the use of **UPOV PRISMA**

Rose-Lyne Schottler Emerson Limberger

Geneva, 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2024

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# Paper application Obtain application forms in word or pdf format from the PVP office website Check no changes occurred from one filing season to the next, particularly in the technical questionnaire Translate the necessary information on the application form in the "Output language" required by the PVP Office Use (or not) a macro, mail merge, etc. to fill in the forms Check that all mandatory fields have been filled in, adjust if necessary Either print application forms sent by mail or email the e-signed copies of the file

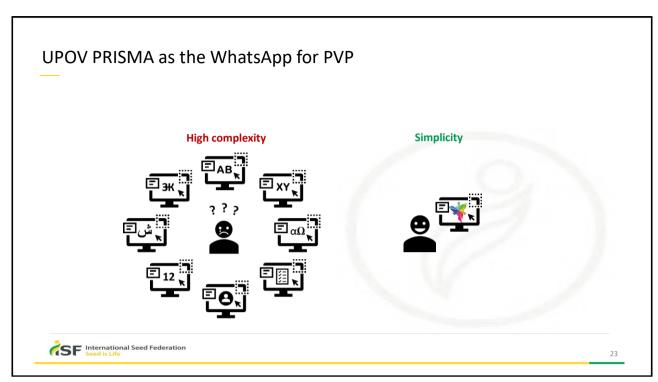
# Paper application • Compile the various printed parts in the right order into one single file • Affix a wet signature to each application form (3 at least) • Send the files by mail or e-mail if the authorities accept it • Wait for the PVP office to receive the applications, check them and inform you of the application date and application number • Proceed with payment within the limits defined by the PVP office

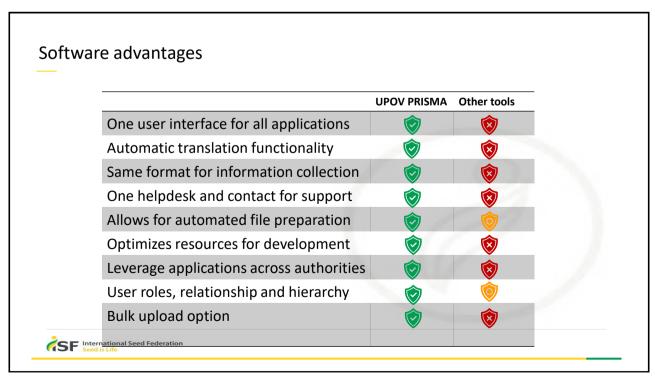
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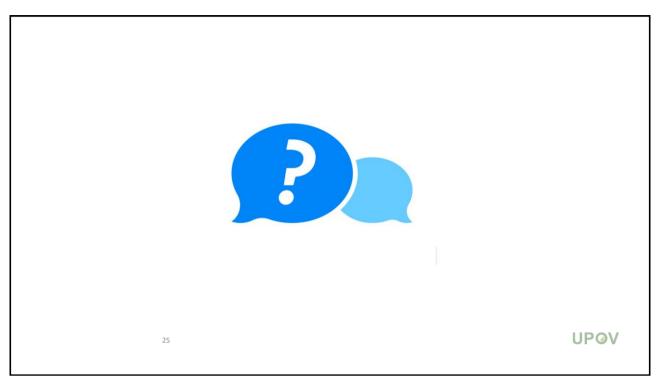
### Advantages of applying for PVP electronically

- Time efficient: The process of filing the forms, mailing, receiving, and processing physical documents adds significant delays which can sometimes be crucial (novelty requirement)
- No risk of loss or damage: Physical documents can be lost or damaged during transit, which can lead to delays or the need to resubmit the application
- Lower costs: There are additional costs associated with printing, packaging, and postage. If any documents need
  to be resubmitted, these costs can add up
- Tracking information: it is possible to track all steps of the application, with instant filling receipt
- · Lower environmental impact: Using paper and physical mail contributes to environmental waste









#### **UPOV PRISMA Bulk Upload**

Advantages over the manual typing web-forms:

- 1. Configuration of a template the user downloads, completes and uploads
- 2. Simplification: ability to submit multiple applications in one click
- Gain in time: after compiling the information, the file is ready to be submitted. Further gain in time can be obtained by the implementation of business intelligence tools by the breeders to retrieve the information
- 4. Error reduction: there is no risk of typos or pasting the information in the incorrect form



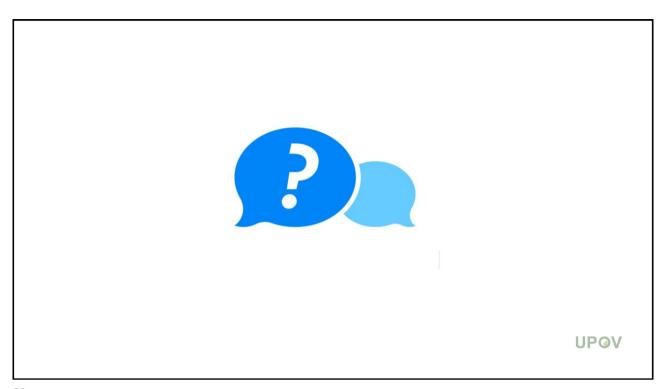
#### Celebration

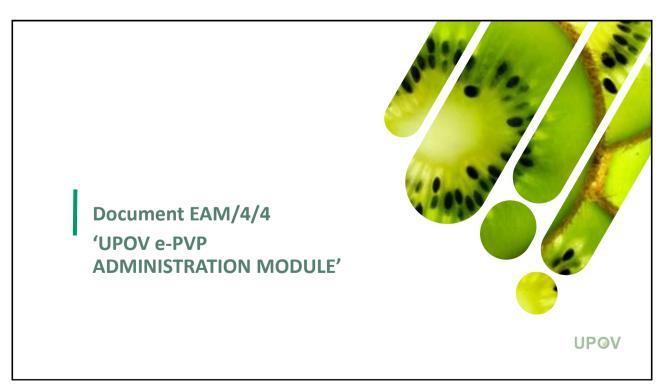
- ✓ UPOV's outstanding and responsive IT team
- Prisma bulk upload deployed in 2021 together with the CPVO
- ✓ Bulk invoice on demand, deployed in October 2024
- ✓ Welcome the contribution from UPOV members that use UPOV PRISMA and e-PVP without additional requests
- ✓ Appreciate that UPOV PRISMA and e-PVP PVP will help UPOV to evolve toward a harmonized PVP application, and facilitate exchange of DUS data, and relying on each other's DUS data



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- Joining requirements
- Future developments



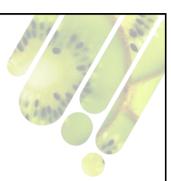
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# Joining requirements

- Available for all UPOV members.
- Available for non-UPOV members: to be discussed in the CC
  - Trial period of three years
  - Requirement: Positive advice from the UPOV Council on the conformity of their (draft) law with the UPOV Convention.

- Joining requirements
- Future developments

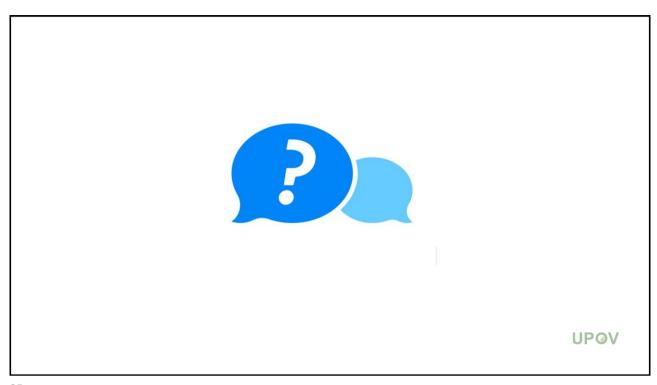


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# **Future developments**

- Viet Nam: 01-Jan-2025
  - Migration of all data
  - Start using the UPOV e-PVP admin for all applications
- United Kingdom (2025)
  - Migration of all data
  - Customization project





#### **Background**

In 2023, as part of APHA's Plant and Bee Health Transformation Programme a discovery into Plant Varieties & Seeds Services was completed. As an outcome, UPOV e-PVP was recommended as a solution that will streamline processes, improve customer service delivering effectively and efficiently.

This project now being under the wider APHA Delivering Sustainable Futures Programme is aligning with the agency's strategic outcomes.



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### **Milestones**

The UK offered UPOV PRISMA for UK Plant Breeders' Rights applications in 2018.

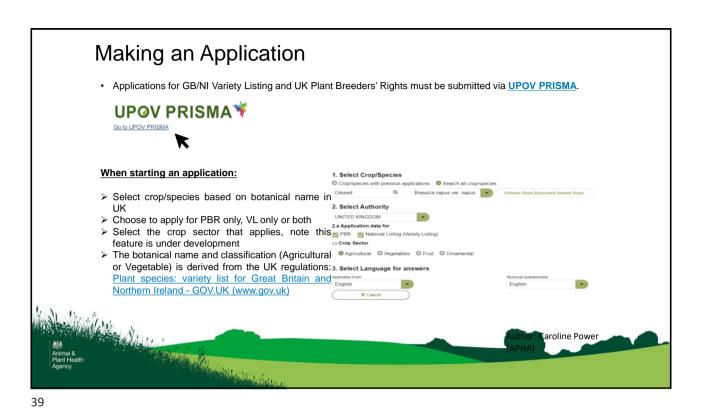
Mandatory since 2021 for UK Plant Breeders' Rights and GB/NI Variety Listing applications. Prior to the official launch in January 2021 to now, the UK has been working with UPOV and users to improve functionalities and user friendliness.

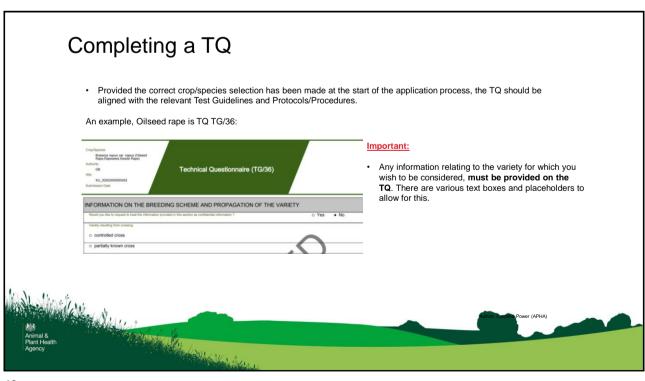
Further updates, that will aid office side and applicant side are underway. UK signs terms of use for e-PVP and DUS exchange in 2024. Specific project underway to customise UPOV e-PVP admin module to facilitate UK operational and legislative needs. Automation in work-flows to make effiencies

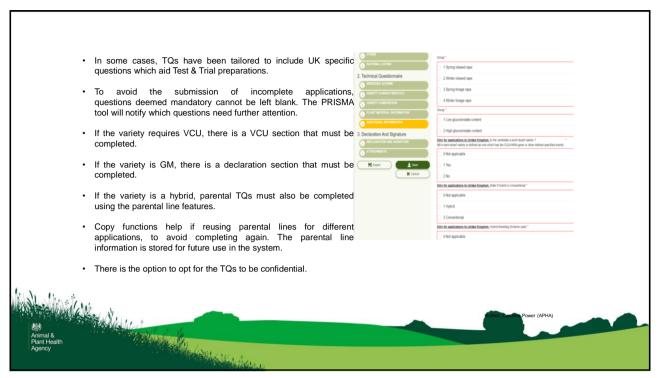
Accessibility compliance.

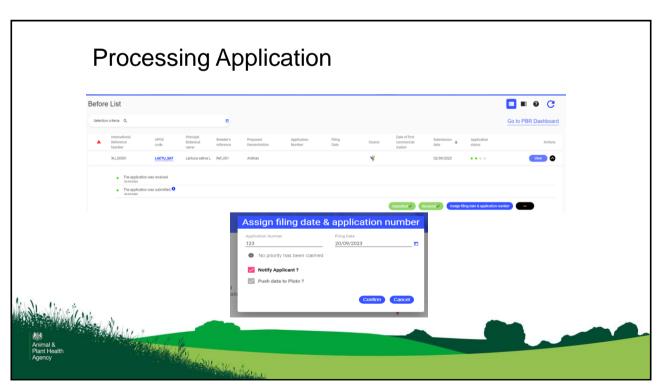
User testing

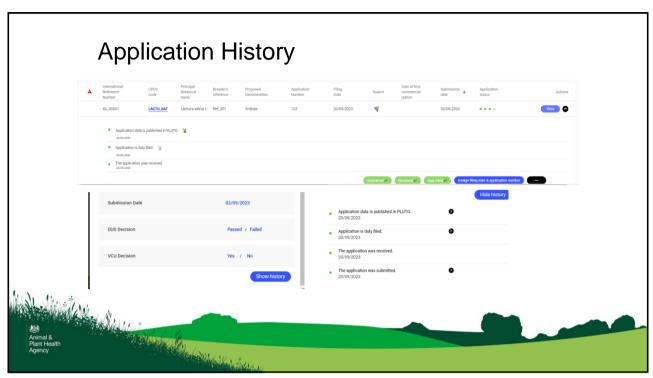
Onboarding and training as part of the change management process













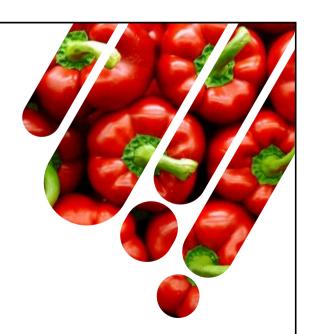
#### **Highlights**

- Configuration to accommodate specific cases
- Facilitating test & trial planning, sowing lists
- Language functions
- Integration
- Analytics show that users utilise the copy functionality, novelty and priority notifications for PBR

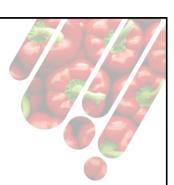
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Document EAM/4/5
'UPOV e-PVP DUS Report Exchange MODULE'



- Developments since EAM/3
- Why to join?
- Future developments



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# Developments since EAM/3

Test Campaign (May 15 to June 7, 2024): 13 authorities.



Feedback received from Brazil, Canada, China, Japan, New Zealand and the European Union.



Main changes in the next release:

- Support of new browser's languages
   Support of regional authorities (European Union) in addition to countries.

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# Why to join?



Streamline and centralise the sales of report



Connect with UPOV members to take over or commission DUS reports



Designate a focal point per authority to which requests are addressed



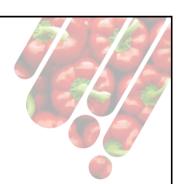
Advertise information about available reports

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#### **PREVIEW**

- Developments since EAM/3
- Why to join?
- Future Developments

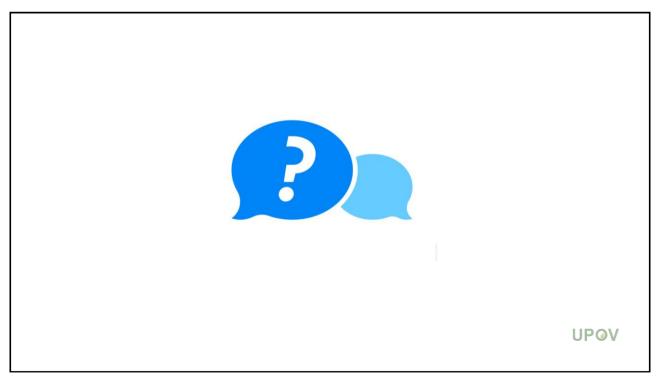


# Future work

- Customization is needed:
  - CPVO
  - United Kingdom

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# For further information on UPOV e-PVP:







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# Next EAM/5 Meeting:

Monday March 17, 2025