

2023 Caribbean Week of Agriculture

Plant Variety Protection  
under the UPOV Convention  
for Developing Agriculture

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*October 10, 2023*



International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants

# Summary

1. Importance of new plant varieties
2. Enabling environment: governments
3. Leveraging on plant variety protection: users

Best Vehicle to Deliver Solutions  
to Address Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Food Security:

**New Plant Varieties**



**UPOV: INDEPENDENT INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION**

The International **Convention** for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants

established in 1961

The International **Union** for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants

**Union internationale pour la protection des obtentions végétales**

UPOV

7

Partnerships  
Professional seed value chains



UPOV

**Best Vehicle to Deliver Solutions  
to Address Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Food Security:**

**New Plant Varieties**





WORLD FARMERS'  
ORGANISATION

# WORLD FARMERS' ORGANISATION

The Biggest Independent  
Global Farmers' Voice

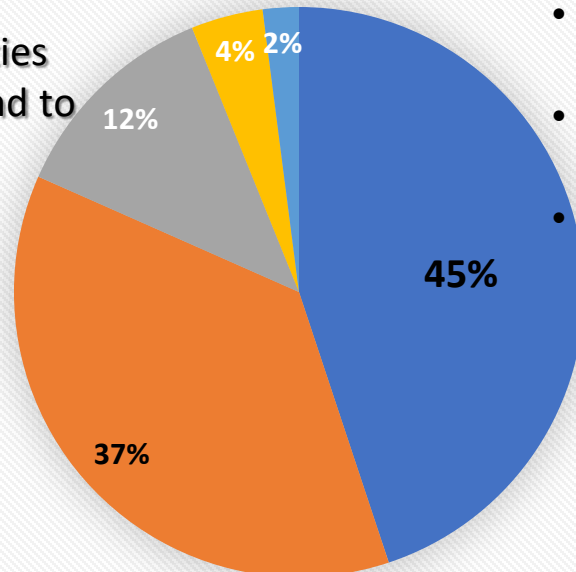
UPOV - 11 October 2022

Arianna Giuliadori  
Secretary General  
World Farmers' Organisation

# FROM THE SURVEY: New improved plant varieties and climate change

Consider New Improved Plant Varieties important to **respond to climate change**  
Rank 1 (not important) to 5 (very important)

**82%**  
said that  
New Improved Plant Varieties  
are very important to respond to  
climate change!



Some «reasons why»

- “I believe they can influence the way we deal with diseases and adaptation to climate change”
- “Both in mitigation and adaptation, this will be crucial for the future”
- “With drought and rapid temperature extremes, I think we're going to have to have plants that can adapt to these realities.



# Plant variety protection to maximize impact of plant breeding

Open Access  $\neq$  wide dissemination and use



(Photo: iStockphoto.com/luoman)



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## MISSION STATEMENT

To provide and promote  
an effective system of plant variety protection, with the aim of  
**encouraging the development of new varieties of plants,**  
for the benefit of society



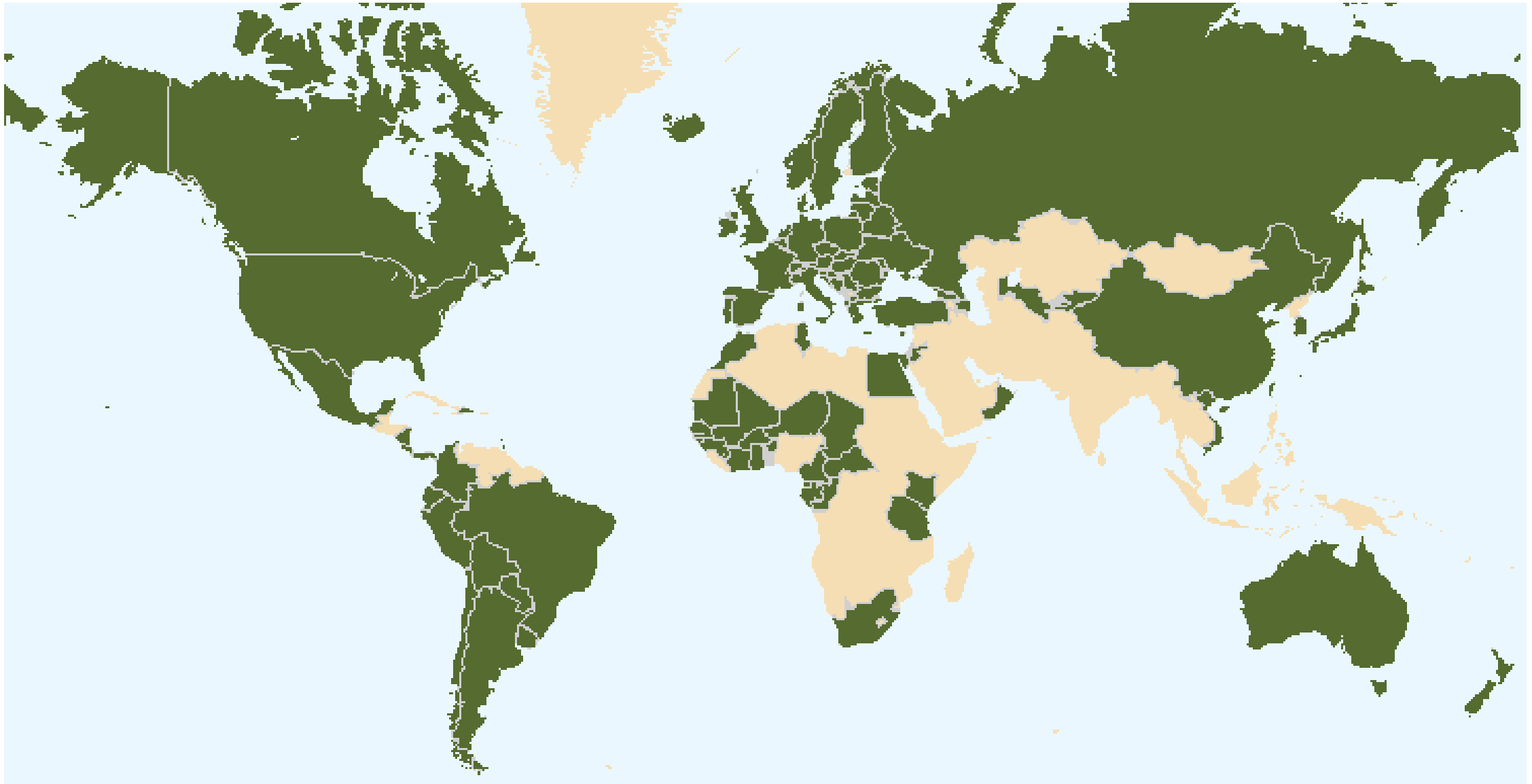
## Authorization of breeder required for:

- Production or reproduction (multiplication)
- Conditioning for the purpose of propagation
- Offering for sale
- Selling or marketing
- Exporting
- Importing
- Stocking for any of the above purposes

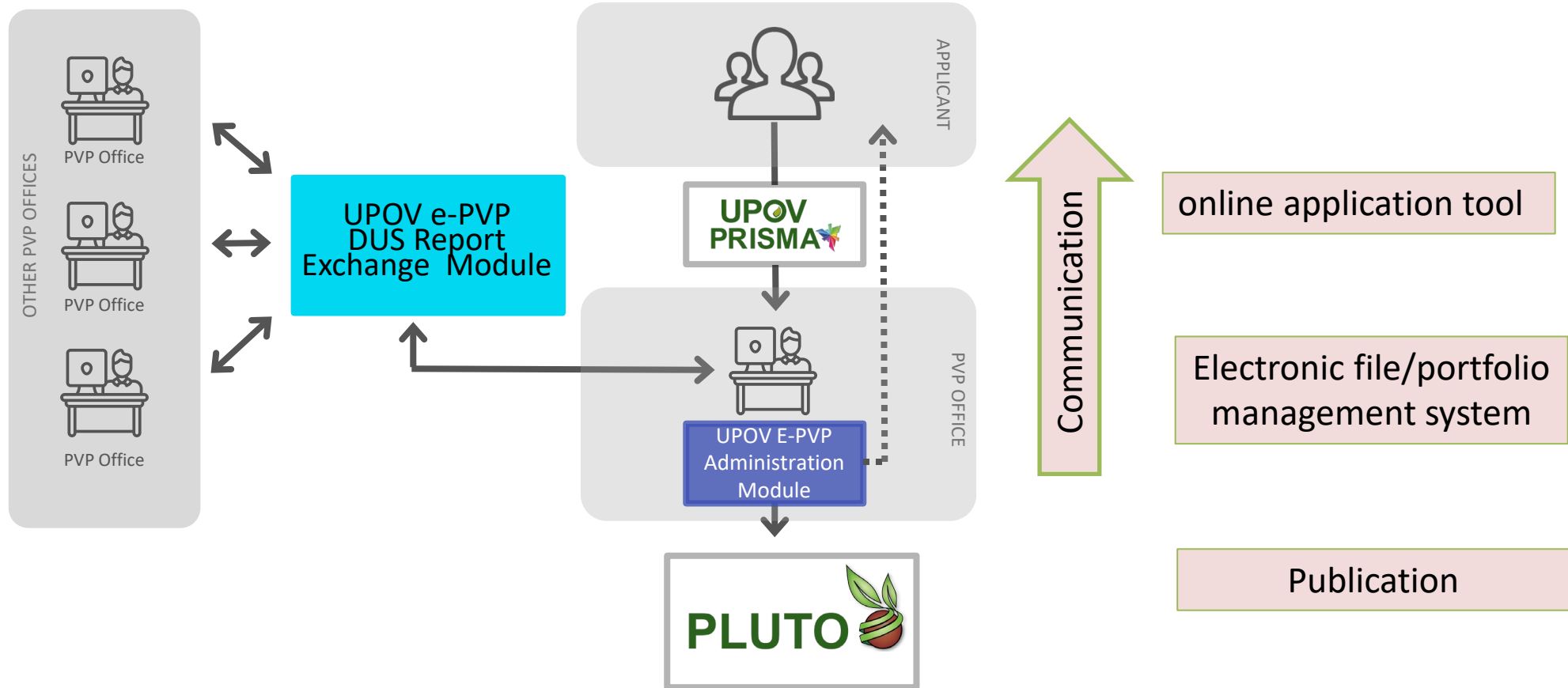
Conditions and  
Limitations

*.... for any protected variety*

# UPOV members



# UPOV e-PVP: efficient and cost effective system



# Becoming a UPOV member

## Requirements

Have a law which conforms with the UPOV Convention  
(1991 Act)



# Partnerships Professional seed value chains





NEW VARIETIES OF COMMON

# BEANS

(PHASEOLUS VULGARIS)

IMPACT ACHIEVED BY EMBRAPA

THROUGH PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION

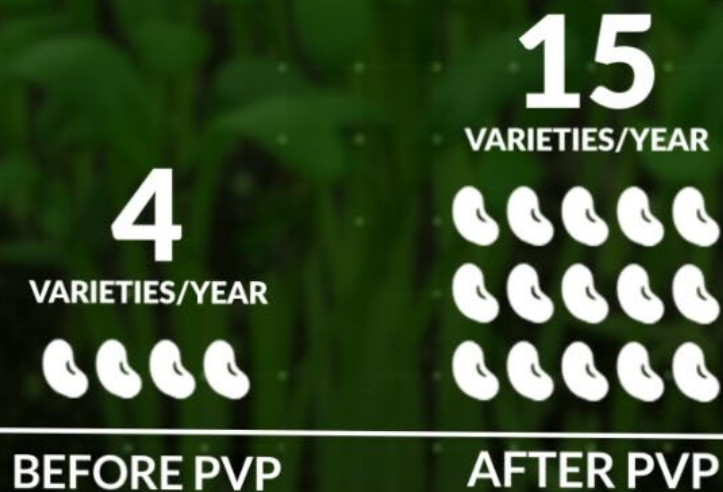
OF NEW VARIETIES IN BRAZIL

Watch the video online!  
[www.upov.int](http://www.upov.int)



# NUMBER OF NEW BEAN VARIETIES RELEASED

## ANNUAL AVERAGE

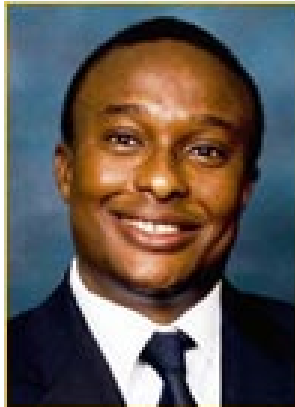


After plant variety protection was introduced, 15 new varieties were released per year



The role of the Agricultural Research Council in delivering high performance varieties to subsistence or smallholder farmers

## Vuyisile Phehane



- Local licensing agreement with a South African company
  - for the commercialization of some of the ARC's citrus varieties.
  - A condition of the license: ensure the participation of smallholder citrus producers in the commercialization value-chain.
- Facilitated partnership with the Citrus Growers' Association to access ARC

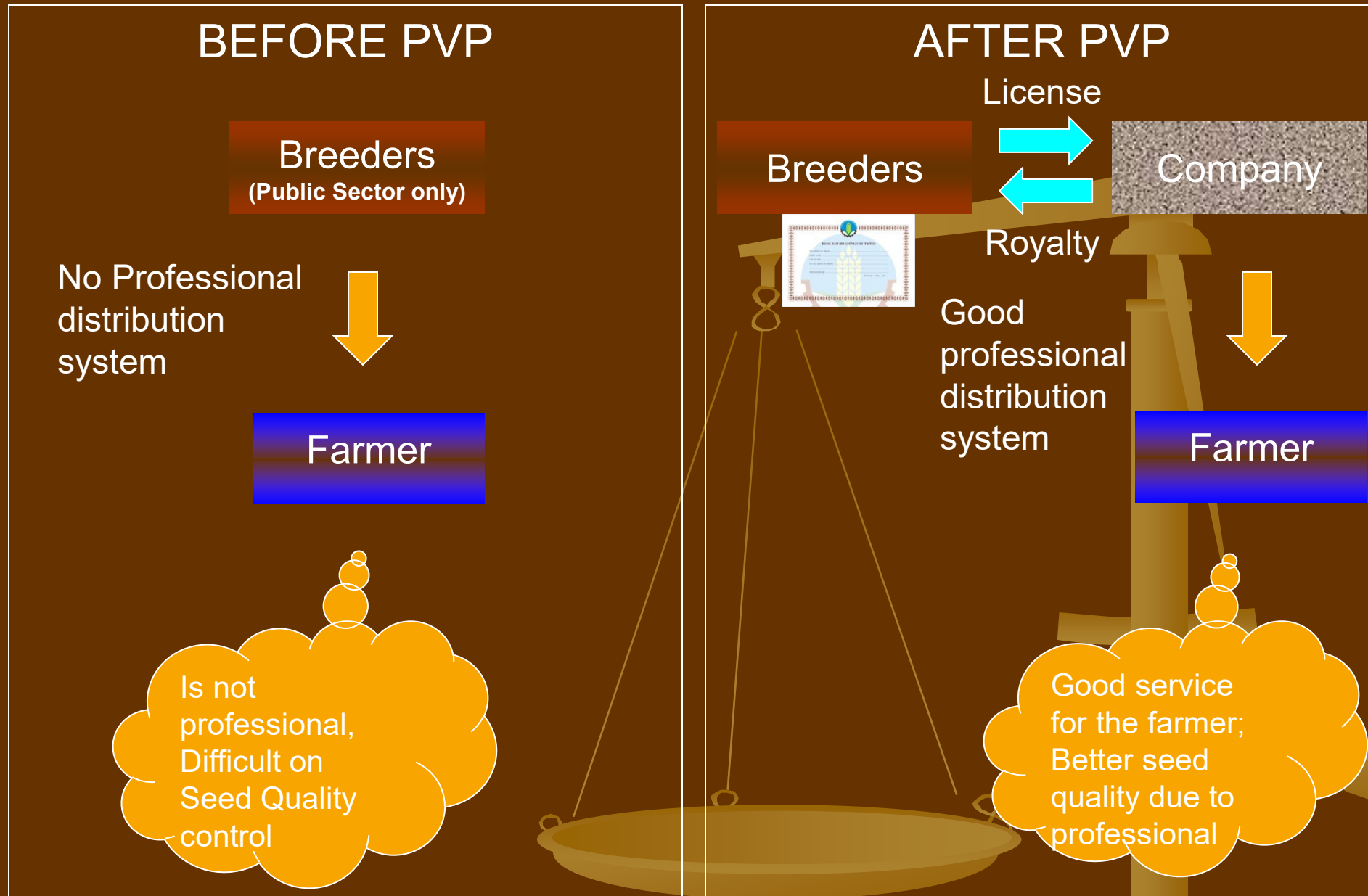




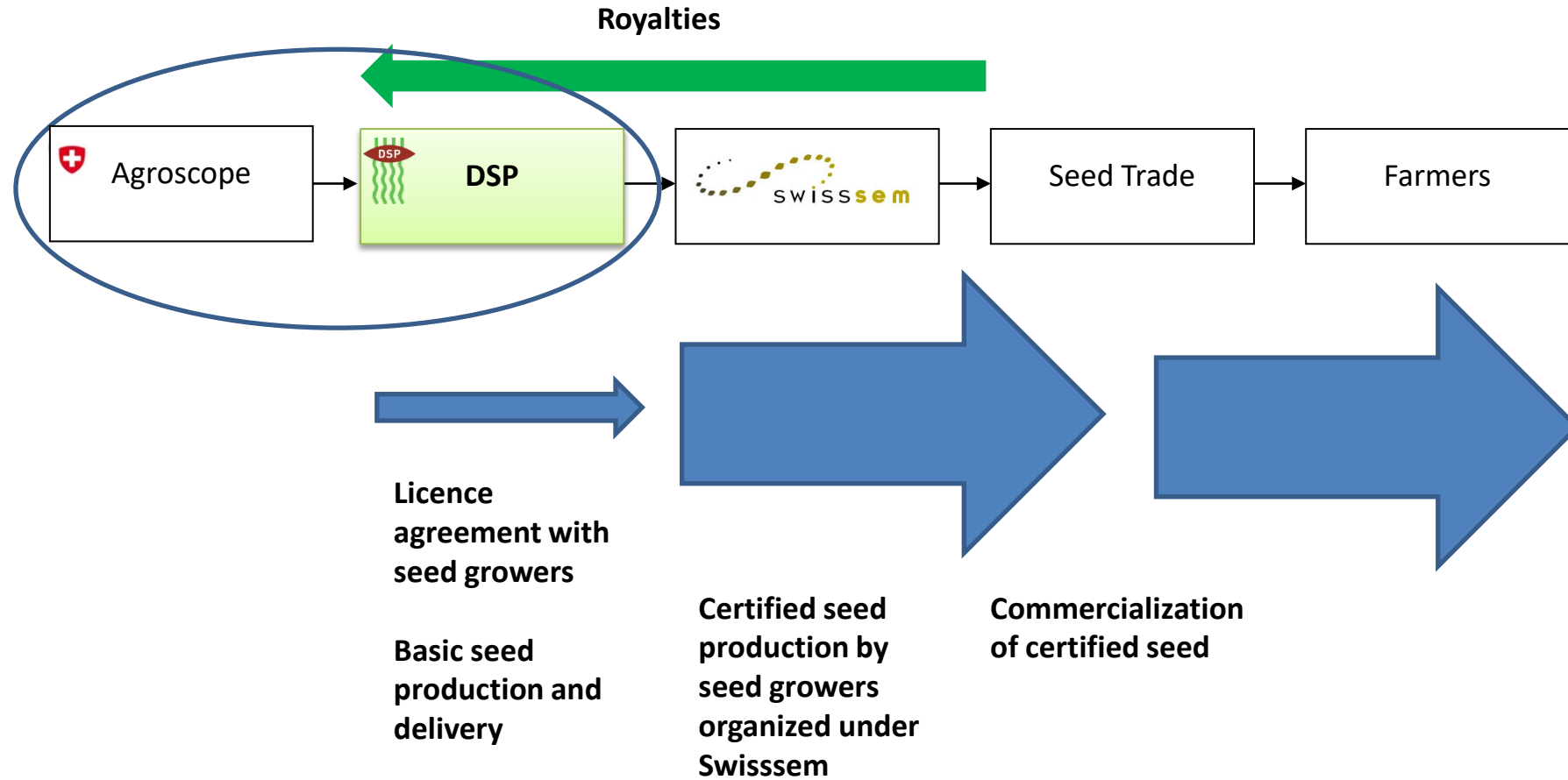
# IMPACT OF UPOV MEMBERSHIP IN VIETNAM

NGUYEN THANH MINH, VSTA - VIETNAM  
UPOV Communicating, March - 2022

# Seed Quality and Service is improved by a new system



# AGROSCOPE (Switzerland)







## Using the UPOV System to benefit custodians of native wild germplasm in Argentina



“The royalties derived from commercialization of the variety are shared between the breeder and **the provinces that contributed the native plant genetic resource.**”



# WIPO Seminar on Intellectual Property, Innovation, and Exports: A Look at the Cocoa Industry in Trinidad and Tobago

Port of Spain - August 2, 2017

## Best Practices of Plant Variety Protection (case study)

Michael D. Carriere, Ph.D.  
UC Davis InnovationAccess



Connecting research to market

The World

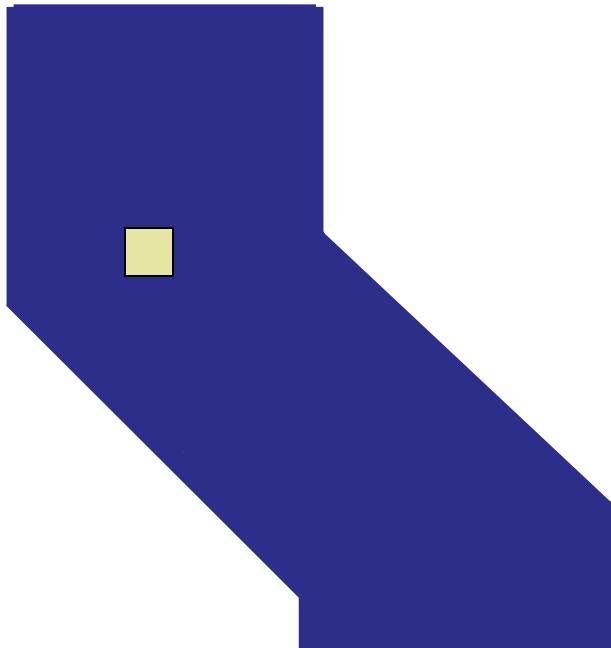
\$16.50/1000 plants royalty<sup>1</sup>

United States

\$9.00/1000 plants royalty

California

\$8.00/1000 plants royalty



<sup>1</sup>royalty shared between UC and master licensees

# UPOV Plant Breeders' Rights (PBR) Filings for UC Davis Strawberry Varieties 'Benicia' and 'Mojave'

Argentina	PBR
Australia	PBR
Belarus	PBR
Brazil	PBR
Canada	PBR
Chile	PBR
China	PBR
Columbia	PBR
Ecuador	PBR
EU	PBR
India	wait for UPOV PBR availability
Israel	PBR
Japan	PBR
Jordan	PBR
Lebanon	wait for UPOV PBR availability
Mexico	PBR
Morocco	PBR
New Zealand	PBR
Peru	PBR
Republic of Korea	PBR
Saudi Arabia	wait for UPOV PBR availability
South Africa	PBR
Switzerland	PBR
Tunisia	PBR
Turkey	PBR
Uruguay	PBR



“The new varieties were brought into cultivation around the world and used to compete with farmers who had paid for their development.”

# What next?

1. How can plant variety protection support your objectives?
2. Enabling environment





**UPOV**

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