



Joint statement of breeders on EDV

- UPOV Council -

- 28 October 2022 -

Dear Mr. President, dear members of the Council,

Today I speak once more on behalf of the entire breeding sector.

The breeding community is disappointed and deeply concerned about yesterday's decision of the Consultative Committee about the Draft Explanatory Notes on EDV.

We would like to repeat that the Draft Explanatory Notes is supported by the vast majority of the UPOV members, the growers and the entire breeding community, which is using a diverse range of breeding tools including genome editing. We could not imagine that a text which is providing recognition to the hard work of breeders, large and small, would not find approval by all UPOV members.

The Draft 3 is meant to restore the balance between breeders and companies, that develop their new varieties on the basis of only one protected initial variety.

The decision, not to adopt the Draft 3 and not to repeal the current EXN, which is evidently not fit for purpose, will harm the breeders, which since decades

create innovative new varieties and which are the starting point in the production of agricultural, vegetable and horticultural products.

It is particularly concerning that UPOV cannot agree on a document that is meant to strengthen the rights of breeders, and this after the important conference on Climate Change on Wednesday when all members agreed on the crucial role of continued plant breeding.

However, we breeders will continue to strive for a fair and balanced solution and will continue to contribute to the discussion. We look forward to an open and transparent procedure, that maintains the spirit of representation.

We have taken note that the breeders are not part of the newly established CC Working Group. We ask the Council to re-consider this and allow breeders to continue to be part of the WG.

We urge you to take into account that today the breeders' sector is extremely united on the need for a clear EXN on EDV in line with draft 3 to maintain a strong diversified breeding sector and to keep providing the best plant varieties to farmers and growers.

Finally, we would like to ask the UPOV Office to add this statement to the report of this meeting.

Thank you for your attention!