



# TAIEX-INTPA Regional Workshop on UPOV based Plant Variety Protection for the Caribbean region

Dr. Wendy Hollingsworth, 16 Nov 2022 (online)



CARIFORUM



This Project is funded by the European Union and implemented by the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO)

[caripi-hub.eu](http://caripi-hub.eu)

### Overall objective

To contribute to the integration of CARIFORUM into the World Economy, through strengthening the enabling framework that stimulates innovation and competitiveness of the private sector.

### Specific objective

To further upgrade and harmonise the systems for **IP creation, protection, administration and enforcement** in line with the CARIFORUM-EU EPA provisions, and to contribute **to regional integration** in IPR.



## 4 EXPECTED RESULTS (= CONTRACT)

Increased **awareness** of the **value of innovation and IPR** to economic and social development, among policy makers, private sector, and general public.

A network of **strengthened and more efficient IP institutions**, delivering high quality IPR administration and enforcement services, benefiting MSMEs in particular

Enhanced **legal and policy frameworks** in the area of TM, Designs and GIs, facilitating the participation in global protection systems in compliance with EPA provisions, and boosting regional harmonisation

**Improved capacity of the productive sector** to create, protect, utilize, commercialize and enforce their IP rights, thus stimulating innovation and new business models

### ART. 149 PLANT VARIETIES

The EC Party and the Signatory CARIFORUM States shall provide for the protection of plant varieties in accordance with the TRIPS Agreement. In this respect, they shall consider acceding to the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants — UPOV (Act of 1991).



# ACHIEVEMENTS

### Effective plant variety registrations in Dominican Republic

- Strengthening of the institutional framework together with capacity building and training in Plant Varieties Rights (PVR) is a priority for many IP Administrations of the CARIFORUM countries
- In 2020 technical assistance was provided to the DR resulting in a fully functional and UPOV compliant PV framework and office, with properly trained staff and DUS examiners
- The Minister of Agriculture hosted a virtual event to thank CarIPI for this assistance

## PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION IMPLEMENTED IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



As of April 2021

- 20 applications
- 15 grants of Plant Breeders Certificates
- 5 national companies



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EUROPEAN UNION  
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### Effective plant variety registrations Framework for SVG

- Following Saint Vincent and the Grenadines UPOV accession in 2021
- Technical assistance was provided to develop the national system to administer plant breeders' rights
- TA included drafting of implementing regulations to national legislation
- Development of PVR examination guidelines and forms in compliance with international / UPOV standards
- 8-9 November - training of staff and examiners of plant varieties

### Webinars and Workshops - in collaboration with CPVO and UPOV

#### Webinar on independence in the conduct of DUS examination and management of conflict of interest (Apr 2021)

- Main target audience were the Plant Varieties Offices, IPOs and technical bodies involved in R&D and DUS examination
- Target countries: Dominican Republic, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago, given their advanced situation regarding PVRs
- Others CS invited to attend

### Webinars and Workshops - in collaboration with CPVO and UPOV

#### New Plant Varieties Protection and UPOV Membership in the Caribbean: Experience Sharing (Apr 2021)

- Increase awareness of the importance of plant breeding activities in the region, and the need for efficient systems for granting registration of PVRs
- DR's Plant Varieties Office (OREVADO) and SVG's IPO shared their experience and results of the recent implementation of a functioning PVR framework



## Webinars and Workshops - in collaboration with CPVO, UPOV, CARICOM

### Key message

- Plant breeding plays a pivotal role in the development of innovative solutions in the field of plant health, quality products and climate change issues
- Reviving the plant breeding sector in CARIFORUM, supported by an efficient system of plant variety rights, would enhance internal trade among CARIFORUM States, and open trade possibilities with other countries, especially with the EU

### Webinar on Regional Plant Variety System (Sep 2021)

*Raised awareness and commitment of stakeholders to promote plant breeding research & innovation by establishing PVR frameworks and joining UPOV practices*



**Plant Variety Cooperation in CARIFORUM**

**PETER BITTON**  
Vice Secretary General of International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)

**HON. SABOTO CAESAR**  
Minister of Agriculture, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

**SR. JOSE RAFAEL PAULINO RODRIGUEZ**  
Vice Minister of Agriculture, Dominican Republic

**SRA. MARÍA AYALVIS GARCÍA MEDRANO**  
Director of the Office of Plant Variety Registration, Ministry of Agriculture, Dominican Republic

Logos: CARICOM, UPOV, CPVO, caripi, CARIFORUM, EUPO, and the European Union.

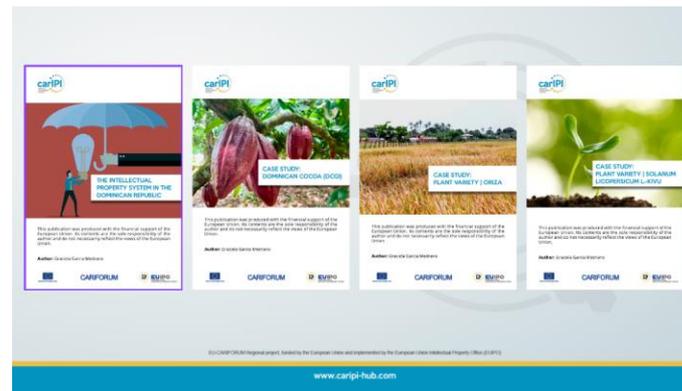
### In collaboration with CPVO, UPOV, CARICOM

- Policy Paper: Proposal for enhancing regional Cooperation on PVRs
- Survey on the policy paper sent to CS for feedback – 10 countries responded
- **A proposal was put forward to the Ministers of Agriculture at their meetings in the framework of the CWA 2021**
- **Adopted by Ministers of Agriculture during the COTED meeting held during CWA**
- Currently working with partners to conceptualise and implement an intervention which looks at developing a regional seed policy including breeding and commercialisation/licensing and continued training especially targeting SMEs

- In May 2022 CarIPI organised an in-person seminar on Regional Cooperation in PVR in the DR
- Including a study visit to some breeders' companies that benefit from the PVR system
- Targeted decision makers from agricultural ministries, IP offices and/or EPA coordinators.



- **Objective:** provide evidence on the impact of the use of IP, in particular plant variety rights
- DR companies who have received a plant breeders Certificate under the new plant varieties right system implemented during 2020
- The [Plant Variety Solanum](#) and [Plant Variety Oriza](#) case studies highlight the importance of plant breeders' rights and how these boost new agricultural research and increase productivity in the DR



[Case studies](#)  
[available on](#)  
[caripi-hub.com](http://caripi-hub.com)

- Continue collaborating with partners – CPVO, UPOV and CARICOM
- Support IP-related initiatives – seed policy, public policy, national PVRs framework; Legislation review and models systems and training





## CARIFORUM Intellectual Property Rights and Innovation

Innovation and creativity are the core drivers of sustainable economic development, and intellectual property rights are the key tools to generate value from intangible assets.

A strong enabling environment for IP creation, protection, administration and enforcement will boost the participation of CARIFORUM countries in the world economy, and stimulate innovation and competitiveness of the private sector.

Bringing together stakeholders from the CARIFORUM countries, from the European Union, and relevant international organisations, our main goal is to:

- create stronger IP offices offering high quality, state of the art services to users
- ensure availability of effective IPR enforcement mechanisms
- contribute to the development of a sustainable and innovative private sector
- make doing business between the EU and CARIFORUM, and particularly within the CARIFORUM region easier.

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# Thank you \* Gracias \* Merci \* Bedankt

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