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THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE DUTCH SYSTEM

Some facts regarding plant breeding in the Netherlands. The Dutch Breeding sector is a world market leader for: vegetables, ornamentals, potatoes, 24% of value of world export of seeds and propagating material is from the Netherlands, 47% of European use of seeds and propagating material is from the Netherlands. Annually there are circa 1600 applications for new varieties, around 350 breeding companies - turnover approx 2.5 billion Euro (3 Billion \$), many of them Small and Medium Sized Enterprises, 15 - 20% of their annual turnover is spent on R&D. Annual private investment is € 250-350 million or \$ 350-475 million.

Rise of the Dutch system of plant variety protection (PVP). *The road from an informal to a formal seed system:*

a) In 1910 - classical private plant breeding started (crossing and selection), especially in cereals and potato;

b) In 1931 - a financial reward was constituted for breeders of new varieties. This reward was granted by the seed certification and inspection services;

c) In 1931 - 1940: a study by the Dutch government: how to organise protection for new varieties?

d) In 1941 - Breeders Decree: as a result of the aforementioned study, new varieties were protected by the Breeders Decree. It was the first sui generis IP system for breeders of new varieties of plants in the world. Only the breeders of new varieties of agricultural crops could get a remuneration from the breeders compensation fund;

e) In 1945 and on: after the Second World War - plant breeding developed into highly sophisticated business. Specialized companies, especially in vegetables and ornamentals, started serious plant breeding. As a result there were ever improving results like adaptation to the environment, resistance, yield improvement, taste and colours;

f) In 1966: first Seed and Plant Material Act in the Netherlands. The Act complied with UPOV 1961 Act. For the first time three key issues were regulated: 1. - rules on identification and registering of new varieties - rules on marketing and inspection of seeds - rules on PVP. The Act featured an unrestricted farmer's privilege;

g) In 1998: an amendment of the Seed and Plant Material Act. From now on the Act was applicable to a) all species of the plant kingdom; b) it featured restricted farmer's privilege.

Nowadays, Holland has a thriving plant breeding industry, but this was a gradual process which lasted for more than 100 years.

Board for Plant Varieties. The Board for Plant Varieties is established by the 'Seeds and Planting Materials Act 2005'. The main duties and powers of the Board for Plant Varieties under the law follow:

Tasks of the Board for Plant Varieties

- a) Granting national plant breeders rights;
- b) Listing and registering plant varieties and forestry uprisings in the National Plant Variety Register (agricultural, forestry and vegetable crops);
- c) Designation of maintainers (agricultural- and vegetable crops);
- d) Establishment of denominations.

Cooperation between the Board for Plant Varieties and Naktuinbouw

In Holland there are two key players regarding PVP and listing of plant varieties: the Board for Plant Varieties and Naktuinbouw.

Both the Board for Plant Varieties and Naktuinbouw are Autonomous Public Authorities (APA). The Board is the only authority in the Netherlands responsible for plant breeders' rights and registering plant varieties and forest uprisings in the National Plant Variety Register. The Board is supported by the Plant Variety Office, which is part of Naktuinbouw.

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HISTORY OF HUNGARIAN PLANT VARIETY REGISTRATION

The role of agriculture in Hungarian national economy is very important. Territory of Hungary is 93030 km², 79% of which is production area, from this 58% agricultural land and 21% forest. 8,2% of the population are employed in the Agriculture.

The quality of agricultural product is important for a long time. In early XIX century of the agriculture development, the plant breeding evolved and the seed control and some local variety trials started in parallel. The official, science-based variety protection occurred in 1892 on the initiative of farmers. The Nationwide Hungarian Royal Plant Production Research Station was established in Magyaróvár (West-North of Hungary). Thereafter the Nationwide Farmer Congress requested to the Government applying the Law Against Falsification for the plant variety in 1911. After implement of the request in 1914 the Plant-Breeder Committee of Nationwide Hungarian Economic Society made a proposal on elaborating the qualification and protection system of plant varieties. In 1915 the Nationwide Hungarian Royal Plant-breeder Institute was established. The Nationwide Hungarian Royal Plant-breeder Institute launched the plant variety register. (1.)

Since 1916 the Examination Office started to keep the handwritten registers. Now those registers remain in the Office Library in the Main Building of the Office in Budapest.