

UPOV Administrative and Legal Committee CAJ/67 on 21 March 2013

APBREBES Intervention on Agenda Item 4

**Explanatory Note on Acts in Respect of Essentially Derived Varieties (EDV) –
(Planned Seminar on EDV)**

Mr. Chairman,

Decision Para 23:

*We would like to comment on the content of the planned seminar on EDVs in October. The proposal shows that the discussions at UPOV are held between Breeders and Breeders and Governments. A main stakeholder is missing out: the farmers. The way how the concept of Essentially Derived Varieties is interpreted and implemented could have a major impact on farmers, food security and agrobiodiversity. **As we all know a lot of farmers are engaged in adaptation breeding, by selection. By this work they contributed – and they still do – to the adaptation of protected varieties to local circumstances, to food security, the sustainable use of plant genetic resources as defined by the FAO Seed Treaty and the grow of agrobiodiversity. But there are a lot of questions marks relating the impact of EDV to this work done by farmer-breeders. It's time that these issues are taken into account in discussions about EDVs inside UPOV.***

We therefore suggest that these questions should be considered by the EDV Seminar in October.

What is the impact of EDV and its interpretations on

- the possibility of farmers to adapt protected varieties to their local circumstances and changing climates,*
- on the dissemination of these adapted varieties*
- on food security, agrobiodiversity and sustainable use of genetic resources.*

*We should have specific dedicated sessions on these elements in the program and finally **involve farmer organizations in the presentations. We are ready to make proposals for speakers on this topic.***

Further it would be useful if the meeting is open to the public i.e. to all to participate. This would also ensure diversity of views in the discussion. Currently the discussion is limited to UPOV members and to observers.