

[View this email in your browser](#)



**HeadsUp**  
A COMMENTARY  
ON INDUSTRY ISSUES

f t in  
croplife.org.au

Confidential

CropLife members only

[In this issue: IP Australia to review approach to Essentially Derived Varieties | CropLife personnel change | CropLife Instagram](#)

## **IP Australia to review approach to Essentially Derived Varieties**

Following a considered effort from CropLife Australia and industry partners like the Australian Seed Federation, IP Australia has determined that given the changes in breeding technology, taking the approach of assessing an Essentially Derived Varieties (EDV) based on it being 'predominately derived' from an initial variety is likely to provide more certainty for breeders than the current approach of assessing based on 'essential characteristics'. This decision stems from consultation regarding proposed changes to Explanatory Notes (EXN) on EDVs under the Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) Convention. IP Australia notified CropLife Australia of this through formal correspondence late last week.

IP Australia has determined that the case has been made to review the approach to EDVs and to explore using the approach in the proposed explanatory notes, should they be adopted by UPOV. Subject to Australian Government approval, this issue will be considered further as part of IP Australia's forward legislative agenda. This will also be important so that the Australian Government supports global efforts in this area and is aligned with like minded countries.

Australia's interpretation of EDV is currently very narrow and provides little protection for the breeders of initial varieties. The proposed changes will provide an opportunity for UPOV members to revise and align their Plant Breeder's Rights (PBR) systems and incentivise ongoing investment in global breeding efforts by providing more legal certainty for breeders pursuing EDV claims. Adequately resourcing fundamental breeding is critical to ensure continuing varietal improvements for field, horticultural and ornamental plant species, and to secure global food security and a stable income for millions of people in the plant breeding sector.

CropLife thanks the Crop Biotechnology Committee for its work in this area and will be continuing to work with industry partners to ensure this matter delivers to expected outcomes.

For more information, contact: Lucy Darragh | 0459 550 010 | [lucy.darragh@croplife.org.au](mailto:lucy.darragh@croplife.org.au)

## **CropLife Australia personnel change**

Our Manager of Crop Biotechnology Policy, Lucy Darragh, will be finishing her short-term contract with us at the end of this week to take up a permanent role in field research. We thank Lucy for her time and efforts during what is a busy period in biotech reform and wish her well for her return to her passion area

of field research. Dr Jana Phan has accepted to coordinate crop biotechnology policy in the interim, in addition to her current responsibilities as Director of Stewardship and Sustainability Policy. Jana's PhD is in this field so she will fill this role capably until Director of Crop Biotechnology Policy, Dr Anne-Sophie Dielen, returns from parental leave in January 2022. Both Lucy and Jana will be present at this week's Crop Biotechnology Committee meeting to ensure a smooth transition.

For more information, contact: Jana Phan | 0432 502 827 | [jana.phan@croplife.org.au](mailto:jana.phan@croplife.org.au)

## **CropLife Australia Instagram**

Are you following CropLife Australia on Instagram? CropLife uses a range of social media platforms to interact with audiences and share information on the importance of the plant science industry. We have recently bolstered our Instagram channel as another messaging platform to target different audiences. In building our account we will be adding posts that better suit the platform and the target audience. You can follow us on Instagram at [croplifeaustralia](https://www.instagram.com/croplifeaustralia).

For more information, contact: Katherine Delbridge | 0410 491 261 | [katherine.delbridge@croplife.org.au](mailto:katherine.delbridge@croplife.org.au)

*All previous Heads Up alerts can be found through the [member section of our website](#).*

---

### **Please note:**

As an employee of one of CropLife Australia's member companies, you currently receive CropLife Australia's Heads Up, a service by CropLife Australia providing a commentary on industry issues. To unsubscribe, please send an email to: [info@croplife.org.au](mailto:info@croplife.org.au) and write 'unsubscribe Heads Up' in the subject box.



