DEVELOPMENT AND SYSTEM OF PLANT VARIETY REGISTRATION IN HUNGARY

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Abstract

Geographical presentation of Hungary (location, neighbouring countries)
Introduction to the terrain, soil, climatic and precipitation conditions of Hungary
Brief story of the Hungarian plant variety experimentation from 1892 till our days
Registration system of plant varieties
pre-trial – application - DUS test - VCU test (value for cultivation and use) - process of state registration (presentation of the work of the National Council for the Registration of Agricultural Varieties) - qualifying certificate - National List of Varieties
Method of practical assistance provided for producers
• experimental system of already registered varieties (field crops, vegetables)
• presentation of the descriptive variety list by more important plant species
• importance and role of the recommended variety list
Role of the “EU variety list” after Hungary’s accession to the EU
• process of the inclusion in the common variety list of the EU
• possibilities for the prohibition of distribution
Presentation of bilateral co-operations carried out with concrete countries

Key words: plant variety testing, registration, variety list

Introduction

Even centuries ago it was characteristic of Hungarian agricultural production that besides ensuring the national supply, more and more goods were exported abroad.

Among the most important agricultural products special mention is made of seed, as in the case of seed and vegetatively reproduced plants (vine, fruit, ornamentals, forest trees) the production and trade of the reproductive materials are strictly regulated by law and by ministerial decrees.

In Hungary only seeds and propagation materials of species and varieties included in the National Catalogue of Varieties or licenced for temporary propagation or temporary utilization shall be produced with commercial purpose, and marketed or used for production in accordance with separate relevant legal rules.

Strict adherence to the provisions of this Act of Parliament guarantees the possibility of producing high quality plant products in Hungary.

General information
Area: 93,000 km²
Population: 10,374,000; 8 % of the active population is engaged in agriculture

Capital: Budapest
Population density: 111 inhabitants / km²
Time zone: Central European Time (CET)
Climate: continental, four seasons (spring, summer, autumn, winter) alternate with each other.
The coldest month is January (average temperature - 2°C), the warmest month July (average temperature 23°C).
Annual rainfall: 550 mm
Number of sunny hours: 2,100 hrs /year
Height above sea level: 80-1050 m 60 % of the area is flatland, 35 % hill-country.
Percentage of area above 800 m: 5 %
Soil type: brown forest soil, meadow soil, sand

67 % of Hungary’s territory is suitable for agricultural production. As the data illustrate, the natural endowments, the configuration of the terrain, the number of sunny hours and the good fertility of the soils make it possible to grow most cultivated plants successfully. Owing to the favourable conditions, for instance, the chemical composition, flavour and aroma of Hungarian fruit and vegetables are outstanding.

Due to the favourable natural and economic geographical potential (the vicinity of large markets), agriculture and the food industry are very important sectors of the national economy.

Therefore, in Hungary the food economy is of somewhat greater importance within the total national economy than in other countries with similar economic development, as regards production, employment and exports.

Professional history and the institutional background

Before presenting the plant registration system in Hungary, I should like to sum up briefly the history of this very important technical field.

The short history of the Hungarian plant variety registration:

1891 establishment of the Hungarian Royal Plant Production Testing Station in Magyaróvár
1892 beginning of the Hungarian plant variety experimentation
1903 development of the plant variety testing network and system in Hungary
1915 issue of decree about official registration of bred plant varieties
1916 registration of Elemér Székács wheat varieties
1920 expansion of the wheat varieties comparative testing (breeding by Baross, Surányi, Villax, Hankóczy, Manninger),
1940 experimentation with other cereals, maize, sugarbeet, soybean and peas
1941 fusion of the Plant Production Institute and the Plant Breeding Institute in Magyaróvár, introduction of the state registration by varieties country-wide national trials