

Mr. Steve Hutton  
President  
Mr. Edgar Krieger  
Secretary General  
International Community of Breeders of Asexually  
Reproduced Ornamental and Fruit Plants  
(CIOPORA)  
Deichstrasse 29  
20459 Hamburg  
Germany

March 30, 2020

Dear Mr. Hutton and Mr. Krieger,

Thank you for your letter of March 27, 2020, and for your kind concern for the UPOV staff and our families. I hope that you and all the CIOPORA colleagues and families are keeping safe and well.

I understand the serious impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the horticultural sector and ornamentals in particular. This important sector supports the livelihoods of millions of people around the world and I hope that the CIOPORA breeding community and all those involved in the sector will be able to withstand the challenges and to rebuild rapidly once things return to a more normal situation.

Under the circumstances, I had no hesitation in forwarding to UPOV members your request for support in the form of measures related to plant breeders' rights procedures. In the communication, we have invited UPOV members to inform CIOPORA of any measures that have been taken, or are planned, to assist breeders to address the current situation.

I wish CIOPORA and all its members success in responding to this formidable challenge.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Button  
Vice Secretary-General

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