

No. 896

A c t

on the promotion of plant breeding

Promulgated in Helsinki, 8th December, 1977.

It is hereby decreed, in accordance with the decision of ^{the/} Parliament:

§ 1

The measures decreed in this act shall be undertaken in order to promote plant breeding.

§ 2

The plant breeding fee must be paid to the State ^{for} on the seed of the plant species mentioned below, used for arable farming and lawns, which can be sold or transferred for sowing purposes after it has been inspected in accordance with the seed trade act (669/75).

The plant breeding fee by plant species group for each full one hundred kilos, including the weight of the packaging, is as follows:

	marks 1977	marks 1983
cereals and legumes	1,70	3,00
herbage and lawn grasses	12,00	20,00
oil and fibre plants	30,00	50,00
potato	0,35	1,20

§ 3

The State Seed Testing Station is responsible for setting, debiting and collecting the plant breeding fee for each seed lot.

§ 4

Obligation to pay the plant breeding fee begins on the day of issue of the first certificate conferring the right to the sale, issued

on the basis of inspection. In instances involving imported seed, which the State Seed Testing Station approves in accordance with § 11 of the seed trade act on the basis of a foreign inspection, the obligation to pay the fee begins on the day that the State Seed Testing Station approves the foreign inspection certificate.

Whoever requests performance of inspection is obliged to pay the plant breeding fee or, if the obligation to make payment begins when the seed is imported, the importer of the seed is responsible for paying the plant breeding fee.

§ 5

A decision of the State Seed Testing Station, concerning determination of the plant breeding fee can be appealed to the Board of Agriculture in accordance with the procedure on appeal set forth in the acts on administrative matters. A decision of the Board of Agriculture cannot be appealed.

§ 6

Each year the State budget must include an appropriation for the promotion of plant breeding corresponding to the plant breeding fees estimated to accrue during the year in question under this act from seed varieties not bred by the Agricultural Research Centre.

§ 7

A plant breeding subsidy corresponding to the amount of the payments levied on the varieties developed by the breeder is paid out of the appropriation referred to in § 6 above, to plant breeders other than the Agricultural Research Centre. A plant breeding subsidy can also be paid to a foreign plant breeder, providing that a Finnish plant breeder has the reciprocal right to receive a similar subsidy in the country of the foreign breeder.

That part of the funds collected in the form of plant breeding fees for the seed of varieties not developed by the Agricultural Research Centre, which is not used in accordance with paragraph 1, shall be used for the promotion of domestic plant breeding and the related research.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry distributes the appropriate

§ 8

An unpaid plant breeding fee is collected by distraint, in accordance with the decreed procedure for distraint of taxes.

§ 9

Deliberate provision of false information or notification about the quantity or variety of the seed under inspection referred to in § 2, paragraph 1, is punishable by fine unless a more severe punishment is laid down elsewhere in the law.

Notification to the authorities of a violation referred to in paragraph 1, with a view to possible prosecution is made by the State Seed Testing Station on behalf of the State. In the event that the violation can be considered minor, the State Seed Testing Station shall determine whether notification of the violation is to be made to the authorities with a view to possible prosecution.

§ 10

More precise regulations on the implementation of this act will be issued by statute, if necessary.

§ 11

This act will take effect on 1st July, 1978.

President of the Republic

URHO KEKKONEN

Minister of Agriculture and Forestry

Johannes Virolainen