To be sold in Argentina, varieties must be registered at the National Registry of Cultivars (Registro Nacional de Cultivares - RNC in Spanish) of the National Seed Institute (Instituto Nacional de Semillas - INASE in Spanish), and they must comply with the following conditions:

- **DISTINCTIVE**
  Regarding morphology (color, form, size), physiology (days to flowering, growth habits), cytology (number of chromosomes, cellular traits) or chemical aspects (content of proteins, lipids, anti-nutritional components), among others. In some countries they can be distinguished by using molecular markers.

- **HOMOGENEOUS**
  The individuals forming the variety must be homogeneous in their characteristics: height, leaf and stem color, flower size and shape, flowering date, etc. (there can be small variations, but at a very low frequency).

- **STABLE**
  Its characteristics must be constant over time (in subsequent generations). For example, if one year the variety flowered at 120 days after planting, the next year flowering should happen in that range and cannot occur at 150 days.

**CHARACTERISTICS OF A NEW VARIETY**

- **Homogeneous Variety**
- **Non-Homogeneous Variety**

**Stable Variety**
The characteristics do not vary from one generation to the next.

**Unstable Variety**
The characteristics change from one generation to the next. The set of plants does not maintain the expression of traits of the original variety – example: fruit color.
RNC (National Register of Cultivars)
Enables the trade of a variety, and documents its morphological, physiological, phenological, phytosanitary, and industrial quality characteristics. **There is no fee for this registration.**

RNCP (THE NATIONAL REGISTRY OF CULTIVAR OWNERSHIP)
Protects new varieties (ownership title), but on its own it does not enable their trade. **The plant breeder must pay an annual fee for this registration.**

“**IF PLANT BREEDING IS NOT ECONOMICALLY VIABLE, IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO INVEST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW VARIETIES**”

**AGRONOMIST EDUARDO PECCI (DIRECTOR OF THE REGISTRY OF VARIETIES, INASE MAGAZINE N°4, 2018)**