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## INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

GENEVA

## COUNCIL

Seventeenth Ordinary Session  
Geneva, October 12 to 14, 1983ADDENDUM TO THE PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AND THE TECHNICAL WORKING PARTIESprepared by the Office of the Union

1. This Addendum gives a short summary of discussions held during the recent sessions of the Technical Committee, the Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops and the Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees.

## TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

2. The Technical Committee (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") held its nineteenth session on October 3 and 4, 1983, under the chairmanship of Mr. C. Hutin (France). The detailed report on that session will be reproduced in document TC/XIX/5 Prov. The main results achieved during the session are the following:

Test Guidelines

3. The Committee adopted, on the basis of drafts prepared by the competent Technical Working Parties, the following seven Test Guidelines:

- TG/17/3 - African Violet (revision);
- TG/25/5 - Carnation (revision);
- TG/80/3 - Soya Bean;
- TG/81/3 - Sunflower;
- TG/85/3 - Leek;
- TG/86/2 - Anthurium;
- TG/87/2 - Narcissi.

Color Charts and Connected Questions

4. The Committee agreed that the authorities of Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Israel, Japan, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom would test the RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) Colour Chart in its present form, the Japanese color chart due to be issued in January 1984 and the project for a segment of a color chart prepared by the Farbatelier Volk. The Danish authorities would include a colorimeter in the same test. In the light of the outcome of that examination, the Committee would reconsider the matter at one of its future sessions. Pending such reconsideration, no assurance could be given that any of the color charts concerned would be used or retained as an international standard for color assessment by plant variety rights offices.

Observations Made by the International Organizations for the Meeting on November 9 and 10, 1983

5. The Committee noted the comments received from the Association of Plant Breeders of the European Economic Community (COMASSO) and from the International Community of Breeders of Asexually Reproduced Fruit Tree and Ornamental Varieties (CIOPORA) on the items to be raised at the meeting with international organizations. It had no special remarks to make on the comments from CIOPORA (document IOM/I/6) and only a few on the comments from COMASSO (document IOM/I/7), notably that for certain species characteristics obtained by sophisticated methods might very well be important characteristics, as in the case of lavender.

Names of Species to be Stabilized by ISTA

6. The Committee noted with approval that a list of all the names of species of which varieties were eligible for protection in at least one member State and which had not yet been stabilized had been sent to ISTA for stabilization.

List of Reference Books or Other Documents Useful in Connection With the Testing of Varieties

7. The Committee noted with approval the plans of the various Technical Working Parties to enlarge the list of reference books or other documents useful in connection with the testing of varieties and expected to receive an enlarged list of those books for its coming session.

Questions Presented by the Technical Working Parties

8. The Committee discussed the following questions presented to it by the Technical Working Parties:

- tolerances for inbred plants,
- important characteristics and criteria for inclusion in the Test Guidelines,
- proposals to change the UPOV criteria for distinctness and homogeneity for measured quantitative characteristics,
- elimination of differences in the Technical Notes in Test Guidelines prepared by various Technical Working Parties,
- homogeneity requirements for species for which varieties can be produced vegetatively or by seed,
- characteristics with a wide range of states of expression in global terms but a very narrow range in national or regional terms,
- problems arising from the fact of some countries not testing resistance to certain diseases,
- homogeneity requirements in varieties of broad bean and field bean,
- qualitative characteristics in which a variety expression differs according to latitude,
- maintenance by national authorities of excellent example varieties that are no longer used by the trade,
- establishment of close contacts between the Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs and the other Technical Working Parties,
- observation of color on waxy leaves,
- separation of characteristics relating to fruit varieties, to ornamental varieties and to rootstock varieties in Test Guidelines,
- cooperation with international bodies working on fruit species,
- improvement of Test Guidelines through the provision of more detailed information on each characteristic,
- need for testing authorities to be informed of commercial synonyms.

Electrophoretic Methods

9. The Committee noted the information received by the Office of UPOV in response to a questionnaire on various electrophoretic methods, together with information on the holding of a symposium on electrophoresis by ISTA and the starting of an experiment in five member States during which certain characteristics contained in the UPOV Test Guidelines for Wheat would be tested on selected wheat varieties and compared with the results of a number of electrophoretic methods applied to the same varieties.

Recommendation to the Council

10. The Committee noted that several Technical Working Parties had expressed dissatisfaction with the sometimes very slow and incomplete implementation of decisions of UPOV bodies at the national level. It therefore asked the Council to recommend faster implementation of UPOV decisions at the national level and also the utilization of forms and documents adopted by UPOV. The Council should discourage States from introducing deviations from these adopted forms or documents except where absolutely necessary, especially in cases where a State undertook examinations for other member States.

Twentieth Session

11. The Committee agreed to the proposal that its next session be held from November 5 to 7, 1984. During that session the Committee intended to receive progress reports on the work of the Technical Working Parties, to adopt whatever Test Guidelines had been submitted to it for approval, to continue discussions on color charts, to study an enlarged list of reference books or other documents useful in connection with the testing of varieties, and to note any questions presented to it by the Technical Working Parties and the results of the experiment on electrophoretic methods.

TECHNICAL WORKING PARTIES

12. The Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops held its fourteenth session under the chairmanship of Dr. G.S. Bredell (South Africa) in Rome (Italy) from September 21 to 23, 1983. On September 20, 1983, Subgroups on Apple (revision), on Strawberry (revision), on Mango and on Kiwi met in order to advance discussions on the working papers on Test Guidelines for those four species. During the session, the Working Party completed its work on Test Guidelines for Strawberry (revision) and for Persimmon prior to their submission to the professional organizations for comments. It also discussed or rediscussed working papers on Test Guidelines for Kiwi, for Mango, for Quince and for Apple (revision), which however would require further discussion at its next session. In addition to the work on Test Guidelines, it discussed several general items with the following results (subjects which gave rise to discussion in the Technical Committee are not repeated, or are only reported when additional information was given):

(i) It would in future enlarge its Test Guidelines with detailed information on each characteristic in a manner similar to that adopted by the International Vine and Wine Office (IWO) for their List of Characteristics for Vitis, making a start at the time of the revision of the Test Guidelines for Strawberry.

(ii) It noted that the question of tolerances for inbred plants was not relevant to its work, because fruit varieties were mainly vegetatively propagated.

(iii) It noted that color charts used in UPOV might have to be completed with a system of names of colors specifying the code numbers of the colors on the chart that should be covered by a given color name.

(iv) It expressed its dissatisfaction with the present low degree of UPOV contact and cooperation with international bodies working on fruit varieties, and asked the Technical Committee to waive the ban on inviting representatives of those bodies to sessions of the Working Parties.

13. The Working Party's fifteenth session will be held in Valencia (Spain) from September 26 to 28, 1984, with Subgroup meetings in the same place on September 25, 1984. The Subgroups will advance discussions on working papers on Test Guidelines for Banana, for Chestnut, for Guava, for Mango, for Olive and for Rubus. During the session the Working Party will, in addition to the working papers to be discussed by the Subgroups, discuss or rediscuss working papers on Test Guidelines for Avocado, for Apple (revision), for Kiwi, for Persimmon, for Quince and for Strawberry (revision). In addition to the discussions on Test Guidelines, the following further items will be discussed:

comparison of the UPOV Test Guidelines for Vine with the List of Characteristics for Vitis drawn up by the International Vine and Wine Office (IWO); criteria for the inclusion of characteristics in the Test Guidelines; improvement of the Test Guidelines with detailed information on each characteristic; list of standard reference books and documents; improvement of contacts and co-operation with international bodies working on fruit species; comparison of national technical questionnaires, test reports and variety descriptions.

14. The Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees held its sixteenth session under the chairmanship of Mrs. Löscher (Federal Republic of Germany) at Conthey (Switzerland) from September 27 to 29, 1983. During the session the Working Party completed its work on several Test Guidelines prior to their submission to the Technical Committee for final adoption (for details see paragraph 3 of the present document) and also on Test Guidelines for Chrysanthemum (revision), for Crown of Thorns and for Freesia (revision) prior to their submission to the professional organizations for comments. It also discussed a working paper on Test Guidelines for Apple, which however would require further discussion at its next session. In addition to the discussions on Test Guidelines, it discussed several general items which were all discussed further by the Technical Committee during its nineteenth session (see paragraphs 4, 6, 7 and 8 of this document).

15. The Working Party's seventeenth session will be held at Hanover (Federal Republic of Germany) from August 7 to 9, 1984, with Subgroups on Willow, on Norway Spruce, on Calluna, on Hydrangea, on Lagerstroemia and on Streptocarpus to meet in the same place on August 6, 1984. During the session, the Working Party will, in addition to the working papers on Test Guidelines to be discussed by the Subgroups, discuss or rediscuss working papers on Test Guidelines for Apple, for Cactus, for Chrysanthemum (revision), for Crown of Thorns, for Elatior Begonia (revision) and for Freesia (revision). In addition to the discussions on Test Guidelines, the following further items will be discussed: color assessment; list of standard books and documents; harmonization of test reports, variety descriptions and technical questionnaires; proposals for presentation to the Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs. On August 10, 1984, in the same place, a meeting on Elatior Begonia is planned, to which breeders and growers of that species will also be invited.

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