



TC/42/10

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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS
GENEVA

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Forty-Second Session
Geneva, April 3 to 5, 2006

PREPARATORY WORKSHOPS

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

1. At its thirty-eighth session, held in Geneva from April 15 to 17, 2002, the Technical Committee (TC) agreed, on the basis of document TC/38/12, to the holding of a preparatory workshop before each Technical Working Party (TWP) meeting, with the aim of helping some of the delegates to participate more actively at the meeting. At its forty-first session, held in Geneva from April 4 to 6, 2005, the TC agreed to the program for 2005, as set out in document TC/41/10. The purpose of this document is to provide a report on the preparatory workshops held in 2005 and set out the proposals for 2006.

2. The following abbreviations are used in this document:

TWA:	Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops
TWC:	Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs
TWF:	Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops
TWO:	Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees
TWV:	Technical Working Party for Vegetables
BMT:	Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques, and DNA-Profiling in Particular
TWP:	Technical Working Party

Report on the Preparatory Workshops held in 2005

3. The preparatory workshops were held on the day preceding the first day of the TWP and were organized in a similar way for each TWP, covering the following items:

1. Introduction to the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)
2. Introduction to the UPOV Technical Working Parties
3. Overview of the General Introduction (document TG/1/3 and TGP documents)
4. Guidance on drafting Test Guidelines (document TGP/7)
replaced by:
UPOV databases (for the TWC); and
Situation in UPOV concerning the possible use of molecular markers in DUS examination (for the BMT)
5. The UPOV website
6. Agenda for the TWP meeting
7. Feedback from participants

4. In the case of the TWA, the TWC and the BMT, the preparatory workshop took the form of a half-day event. In the case of the TWF, the TWO and the TWV, the preparatory workshop was extended to a whole day and was used to provide more information concerning characteristics and arrangements and organization of DUS testing.

5. The table below summarizes the participation in the preparatory workshops during 2005. The participants include experts who made presentations at the preparatory workshop.

Participants					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	
Members of the Union	35 (15 members)	55 (23 members)	69 (20 members)	130 (25 members)	
Observer States / Authorities	1 (1 State)	10 (9 States / Authorities)	2 (1 State)	3 (3 States)	Philippines, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe
Observer Organizations (Orgs)	8	3	2	5 (3 Orgs)	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Community of Breeders of Asexually Reproduced Ornamental and Fruit-Tree Varieties (CIOPORA), International Seed Federation (ISF)

6. With regard to participation at individual preparatory workshops, the numbers of participants were as follows:

TWA (New Zealand):	9	participants
TWC (Canada):	7	“
TWF (Japan):	26	“
TWO (Republic of Korea):	44	“
TWV (Slovakia):	28	“
BMT (United States of America)	24	“

Future Program

7. It is proposed that preparatory workshops will be held in association with all TWP meetings in 2006, based on the same items as in 2005 (see paragraph 3).

8. In the case of the fortieth session of the TWV, to be held in Guanajuato, Guanajuato State, Mexico, from June 12 to 16, 2006, the preparatory workshop will be extended to a whole day event on June 11. Participants will be able to decide whether to attend for the whole day or just the morning or afternoon session. To coincide with the twenty-fourth session of the TWC, to be held in Nairobi from June 19 to 22, 2006, and the preparatory workshop on June 18, it is planned to hold a regional seminar on plant variety protection under the UPOV Convention and a workshop on DUS examination and data management. In the case of the thirty-seventh session of the TWF, to be held in Salvador, Bahia State, Brazil, from August 21 to 25, 2006, it is planned to hold a seminar on molecular techniques on the morning preceding the preparatory workshop, which will be held on August 20, 2006. In conjunction with the tenth session of the BMT, to be held in Seoul, from November 21 to 23, 2006, and the preparatory workshop on November 20, it is planned to organize a workshop on molecular techniques.

9. The TC is invited to note the report of the preparatory workshops held in 2005 and the proposals for the proposed program for 2006 and to comment if appropriate.

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