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**UPOV**

TC/XX/11

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

GENEVA

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE****Twentieth Session****Geneva, November 6 and 7, 1984**

UNIFORMITY REQUIREMENTS IN FIELD BEANS

Document prepared by the Office of UPOV

The Annex to this document contains a letter from the Secretary General of ASSINSEL dated October 25, 1984, and addressed to the Technical Committee of UPOV. It is proposed to discuss that letter under item 5 of the draft agenda.

[Annex follows]

**ASSINSEL**

ANNEX

Association Internationale des Sélectionneurs pour la Protection des Obtentions Végétales  
 International Association of Plant Breeders for the Protection of Plant Varieties  
 Internationaler Verband der Pflanzenzüchter für den Schutz von Pflanzenzüchtungen



Nyon, 25th October 1984

To the Technical Committee  
 charged with Field Bean Revision  
 c/o UPOV  
 34, Chemin des Colombettes  
 1200 GENEVE 20

Dear Sirs,

Re.: Uniformity requirements in field beans

It has come to our attention that UPOV may be in favour of introducing stricter uniformity requirements for hilum and testa characters in field beans.


ASSINSEL is reluctant to accept this, given the serious consequences inherent in such a decision, which can only damage the field bean breeding industry in general with no definable or measurable compensatory benefit in return.

In short, the introduction of such standards (if indeed they are necessary) would :-

- (1) not help in distinguishing between cultivars;
- (2) apart from being unnecessary, place an emphasis on characters of no economic importance with adverse effects on the breeder's choice of plants and lines for making composite cultivars and thus constituting a concomitant restriction on the development of new improved varieties and inevitable added expense resulting from difficult to achieve isolation.
- (3) prove impracticable, if not totally unworkable, given that they would compel breeders to work in future with separated trial fields for separate groups of material, uniform for hilum and testa colours.
- (4) impose additional restrictions on bean breeders in general, possibly resulting in a large sector of the industry giving up.

The above claims are founded upon scientific principles (which take account particularly of the basic genetics of the species and its reproductive system) and upon the recognition of established breeding practice. Furthermore, ASSINSEL is not alone in signalling the dangers to be avoided. Meetings of EEC field bean breeders in 1982 (July) and 1983 (September) have successively reached the conclusion that "in a partially outcrossing species such as field beans, stricter standards of uniformity for hilum colour, testa colour, or any other discontinuous characters of no known economic or agricultural value would impose severe constraints on breeders".

The case submitted here, is a composite of claims which can be verified by scientists who are practicing plant breeding. ASSINSEL will unhesitatingly furnish evidence in support of its claims upon request, although it has every reason to believe that UPOV will with due consideration of the dangers described above, renounce its support for such an action.

Yours sincerely,   
 H.H. Leenders, Secretary General