



TWO/49/3 Add.
ORIGINAL: English
DATE: June 29, 2016

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS
Geneva

TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY FOR ORNAMENTAL PLANTS AND FOREST TREES

Forty-Ninth Session
Gimcheon City, Republic of Korea, June 13 to 17, 2016

ADDENDUM TO

TGP DOCUMENTS

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

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1. The purpose of this document is to report the comments on TGP documents made by the Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs (TWC), at its thirty-fourth session, held in Shanghai, China, from June 7 to 10, 2016.

2. The structure of this document is as follows:

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3. The TWC considered the TGP documents below on the basis of document TWC/34/3 (see document TWC/34/32 "Report", paragraph 15).

Program for the development of TGP documents

4. The TWC noted the program for the development of TGP documents, as set out in Annex III to document TWC/34/3.

5. The TWC agreed to request the expert from China to prepare a proposal for reorganizing document TGP/8 to facilitate searches and use by DUS examiners to be reported at the thirty-fifth session of the TWC for consideration (see document TWC/34/32 "Report", paragraphs 21 and 22).

TGP/7: Development of Test Guidelines

Revision of document TGP/7: Drafter's Kit for Test Guidelines

6. The TWC considered document TWC/34/9 and received a presentation by electronic means from the Office of the Union on the web-based application for drafting of Test Guidelines (web-based TG Template).

7. The TWC noted the issues addressed in response to the comments by Leading and Interested Experts that participated in the testing of the prototype of the web-based TG Template, as set out in document TWC/34/9, paragraphs 21 and 22. The TWC noted that further comments by users of the web-based TG Template could be sent to the Office of the Union.

8. The TWC noted that the system specifications of the web-based TG Template allowed the future development of a web-service application to allow data extraction from the web-based TG Template to other databases, which could offer possibilities to support the development of authorities' own test guidelines. The TWC noted that such a functionality could be developed in the future if data mapping of their own databases was done by the authorities (see document TWC/34/32 "Report", paragraphs 23 to 29).

TGP/8: Trial Design and Techniques Used in the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability

Revision of document TGP/8: Part II: Section 9: the Combined-Over-Years Uniformity Criterion (COYU)

9. The TWC considered document TWC/34/10.

10. The TWC noted that the TC, at its fifty-second session, had agreed to request members of the Union to provide larger data sets to the United Kingdom for developing probability levels for the new method that would match results obtained using the previous probability levels, as set out in document TWC/34/10, paragraph 20.

11. The TWC noted that the Office of the Union had issued UPOV Circular E-16/098 to invite UPOV members' experts to provide to the United Kingdom, by May 27, 2016, data sets including at least 100 candidate varieties, with a possibility that data for those 100 varieties could be derived from several years.

12. The TWC noted the report by an expert of the United Kingdom that a data set on red fescue had been submitted by Slovakia and that Denmark had agreed to submit a data set on spring and winter canola later in 2016.

13. The TWC welcomed the offers from China and France to submit data sets on maize and fescue, respectively. The TWC noted the invitation for submission of other data sets with 100 candidates from as many crops as possible for developing probability levels for the new method. The TWC agreed to invite the expert from the United Kingdom to report on progress during the thirty-fifth session of the TWC (see document TWC/34/32 "Report", paragraphs 30 to 34).

Revision of document TGP/8: Part II: New Section: Examining DUS in Bulk Samples

14. The TWC considered document TWC/34/11.

15. The TWC noted that guidance for examining DUS in bulk samples would be developed on the basis of the criteria set out in document TWC/34/11, paragraph 22, and agreed with the proposal by the expert from the Netherlands to use the approach "Control of the characteristic before it is accepted in the relevant guideline".

16. The TWC also agreed that approaches "subplots" and "plant number" would be acceptable on the basis of examples and discussions in the relevant Technical Working Parties, as proposed in the Annex to document TWC/34/11.

17. The TWC agreed that DNA analysis could be used to assess characteristics on the basis of the existence of a reliable link between the marker and the characteristic and there was no need to develop guidance in this regard under a general guidance for characteristics observed on the basis of bulk samples (see document TWC/34/32 "Report", paragraphs 35 to 38).

Revision of document TGP/8: Part II: New Section: Data Processing for the Assessment of Distinctness and for Producing Variety Descriptions

18. The TWC considered documents TWC/34/12 and TWC/34/12 Add.

19. The TWC agreed to request the expert from France to continue developing the study on the comparison of methods used for producing variety descriptions to provide further information to explain the results obtained in the practical exercise.

20. The TWC agreed to invite the experts from France, Germany, Italy and Japan to provide a short description of their methods to transform measurements into notes and to provide examples where the methods would not be appropriate using a similar structure to the information submitted by the United Kingdom, as presented in document TWC/34/12 Add.. The TWC agreed that the description of the methods and example situations where they could or should not be used could form the basis for future guidance.

21. The TWC received an oral presentation by an expert from the United Kingdom and noted that the method used for peas used a combination of delineating example varieties and crop expert judgement. The TWC noted the explanation that example varieties were not used when the range of values was not continuous, to avoid distortion in the division of the scale of notes into equally spaced states ("notes stretching").

22. The TWC noted that in China some quantitative characteristics without normal distribution were transformed (e.g. log) before dividing the range of expression into equally spaced states for the conversion of observations into notes (see document TWC/34/32 "Report", paragraphs 39 to 43).

TGP/10: Examining Uniformity

Revision of document TGP/10: New Section: Assessing uniformity by off-types on basis of more than one growing cycle or on the basis of sub-samples

23. The TWC considered documents TWC/34/13 and TWC/34/27.

24. The TWC noted that the TWA had agreed to request a video link with experts from the TWC to discuss the new proposed "Approach 3: Combining the results of two growing cycles" at its forty-fifth session, to be held in 2016.

25. The TWC considered the draft guidance as presented in document TWC/34/13, Annexes I and II, for inclusion in a future revision of document TGP/10, and agreed that cost of trials, consistency of results, time required for decisions and technical aspects of each approach could influence the selection of the most suitable approach for each situation..

26. The TWC agreed that the future guidance should provide parameters for decisions on the most suitable approach based on experience from members and agreed to invite examples of different types of crops and the criteria for selecting the approach used for the assessment of off-types. The TWC welcomed the offers from Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom to provide examples to be presented at its thirty-fifth session.

27. The TWC noted the importance of identifying whether differences in number of off-types between cycles was due to biological reasons or sampling variation and agreed that the relevant part of approach 2 and 3 of the draft guidance should be amended to read as follows, respectively:

"Care is needed when considering results that are very different in each of the growing cycles, such as when a type of off-type is observed at a high level in one growing cycle and is absent in another growing cycle. A statistical test for consistency should be applied when appropriate."

“Care is needed when considering results that are very different in each of the growing cycles, such as when a type of off-type is observed at a high level in one growing cycle and is absent in another growing cycle. A statistical test for consistency ~~is possible~~ should be applied when appropriate.”

28. The TWC considered document TWC/34/27 “Practical experience of assessing uniformity by off-types on oilseed rape and cauliflower” and received a presentation by an expert from France, a copy of which is reproduced in the Annex to document TWC/34/27.

29. The TWC noted the simulation of decisions using approaches 1 and 3 on different crops and agreed on the usefulness of the worked examples. The TWC noted that cases of diverging results between 2 growing cycles are not common as most varieties would either meet or fail to meet requirements in both cycles.

30. The TWC noted the explanation of the notion of “independent growing cycle” by an expert from France and the preference for a third growing cycle to increase reliability of observations (see document TWC/34/32 “Report”, paragraphs 44 to 51).

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