



# INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

GENEVA

## SEMINAR ON DUS TESTING

**Geneva, March 18 to 20, 2010**

Conclusions of the  
Chairman of the Technical Committee in conjunction with the Office of the Union

- UPOV members have used a range of approaches for DUS testing, as envisaged within the UPOV Convention, in order to provide an efficient and effective system for breeders according to their circumstances.
- Cooperation is crucial for all UPOV members and will need to intensify in future to meet the expansion of the UPOV system. There is a need to:
  - continue to work on guidance documents (TGP documents, Test Guidelines) and exchangeable software (COY, GAIA etc.) to promote harmonization;
  - enhance efficiency of cooperation, through
    - maintaining standard forms, agreed fee for DUS reports, etc.;
    - the use and further development of tools, such as the GENIE database;
    - increasing exchange of information between UPOV members on their newly acquired experience;
    - exchanging variety descriptions; and
    - coordinating resources offered by members of the Union (e.g. training, helpdesks, *ad hoc* expert advice).
- The Technical Committee and Technical Working Parties are an important means of training and exchanging information in an expert forum, and additional benefits can be achieved through preparatory workshops and associated training events.
- It is important to continue to explore methods to address the management of variety collections, e.g. the potential role for molecular techniques.
- The organization of such seminars, from time-to-time, provides a valuable means of sharing broad overviews and new developments and also of indentifying areas for possible future guidance (e.g. treatment of data for distinctness and descriptions, understanding of “similar varieties”, status of the variety descriptions).
- UPOV encourages breeders’ organizations to contribute to UPOV’s technical work and encourages a constructive dialogue on relevant issues at an early stage.
- Participation by experts of potential future members of the Union in the Technical Committee and Technical Working Parties, as observers, was encouraged as a principal means of achieving harmonization with the UPOV system and facilitation of future cooperation on becoming UPOV members.

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