



BMT/10/4

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: October 18, 2006

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS
GENEVA

**WORKING GROUP ON BIOCHEMICAL AND MOLECULAR
TECHNIQUES AND DNA PROFILING IN PARTICULAR**

Tenth Session
Seoul, November 21 to 23, 2006

**PRACTICAL EXERCISE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EXCHANGEABLE
DATABASE OF MOLECULAR DATA OF PLANT VARIETIES**

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

1. At the twenty-third session of the Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs (TWC) and at the ninth session of the BMT, Mr. Sylvain Grégoire (France), drafter of Section 6 “Databases” of BMT Guidelines (proj.6), suggested that it would be useful to move forward with a practical exercise, involving a small number of crops, in the development of an exchangeable database. He noted that, from an IT perspective, such an exercise would be straightforward, but that it would require all participating partners to identify the markers to be used and to clarify and agree on the status of the information to be included in the database and the accessibility of that data, e.g. to contributing partners or to all interested experts from members of the Union. The representative of the International Seed Federation (ISF) considered that UPOV was the appropriate body to take the matter forward.

2. At the ninth session of the BMT, Mr. Michael Sussman, National Science Laboratory (NSL), United States Department of Agriculture, explained that NSL would be able to participate in ring tests and a pilot database project involving any crops of interest. The relevant experts from the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, involved in the projects presented in documents BMT/9/8 “Research project co-financed by the Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO): Management of winter oilseed rape reference collections”, BMT/9/12 “Analysis of a database of DNA profiles of 734 hybrid tea rose (*Rosa hybrida*)

varieties” and involved in the project to characterize all the varieties in the Common Catalogue of the European Union by 2007 (see document BMT/9/14, paragraph 24), indicated their willingness to participate in a pilot database project. It was agreed that the matter should be considered by the relevant Crop Subgroups and the Technical Committee (TC).

3. At its forty-second session, the TC agreed to investigate the possibility of a practical exercise, involving a small number of crops, in the development of an exchangeable database, as set out in paragraphs 1 and 2, above. It agreed that it would be necessary to set clear terms of reference for that work and agreed that such terms of reference should be considered at its forty-third session. In the meantime, it agreed to invite the BMT, at its tenth session, to suggest suitable crops where such a practical exercise might be appropriate.

[End of document]