



BMT/11/3

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: August 15, 2008

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS
GENEVA

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

**Eleventh Session
Madrid, September 16 to 18, 2008**

**GUIDELINES FOR DNA-PROFILING: MOLECULAR MARKER SELECTION AND
DATABASE CONSTRUCTION "BMT GUIDELINES"**

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

1. At its eighth session held in Tsukuba, Japan, from September 3 to 5, 2003, the BMT concluded that there was an urgent need to harmonize methodologies for the generation of molecular data in order to ensure that the quality of the data produced would be universally acceptable for use in variety characterization. It was also noted that it would be useful to provide guidance on the planning of databases for molecular data based on different types of markers. On that basis, the BMT agreed that the Office of the Union should prepare a guidance document (BMT Guidelines).
2. At its forty-third session, held in Geneva, from March 26 to 28, 2007, the TC considered document BMT Guidelines (proj.8) and agreed to submit the BMT Guidelines to the Council for adoption.
3. At its seventy-fourth session, held in Geneva on October 24, 2007, the Consultative Committee made a preliminary examination of document BMT Guidelines (proj.9), proposed for adoption by the Council. The Consultative Committee made the following recommendations:

“[...]”

“(b) consideration be given to the status of documents TC/38/14-CAJ/45/5 and TC/38/14 Add.-CAJ/45/5 Add. with regard to their reference in the introduction of document BMT Guidelines (proj.9); and

“(c) in response to the comments made by some delegations concerning the need for editorial improvements, the Consultative Committee agreed that a circular be sent to the Consultative Committee, the Technical Committee (TC) and the CAJ providing an opportunity to comment within four weeks on documents TGP/4/1 Draft 10, TGP/9/1 Draft 10 and BMT Guidelines (proj.9). Based on the comments received, new drafts of those documents would be prepared for consideration by the [Enlarged] Editorial Committee (TC-EDC) at its meeting on January 8, 2008. Relevant drafts incorporating the comments by the TC-EDC would subsequently be presented to the TC, the CAJ, the Consultative Committee and the Council in April 2008.”

4. In accordance with the recommendations of the Consultative Committee, Circular E-606 was issued, inviting comments on document BMT Guidelines (proj.9) to be sent to the Office of the Union.

5. The Office of the Union received comments from China, Ukraine and the United States of America on document BMT Guidelines (proj.9). Those comments were incorporated in document BMT Guidelines (proj.10), which was considered by the TC-EDC, at its meeting on January 8, 2008. The TC-EDC noted a number of the comments received concerned technical aspects of the BMT Guidelines and concluded that those were matters which would need to be addressed by the TC in conjunction with the BMT, as considered appropriate.

6. At its forty-fourth session, held in Geneva from April 7 to 9, 2008, the TC noted the comments from China, Ukraine and the United States of America incorporated in document BMT Guidelines (proj.11). It noted that a number of the comments concerned technical aspects of the BMT Guidelines and concluded that, in the first instance, those were matters which would need to be addressed by the BMT. The TC agreed that the BMT should be invited to consider those matters in the form of a new draft of the BMT Guidelines at its eleventh session, to be held in Madrid, from September 16 to 18, 2008.

7. The TC noted the request of the Consultative Committee that consideration be given to the status of documents TC/38/14-CAJ/45/5 and TC/38/14 Add.-CAJ/45/5 Add. with regard to their reference in the introduction of document BMT Guidelines (proj.11). The TC noted that documents TC/38/14-CAJ/45/5 and TC/38/14 Add.-CAJ/45/5 Add. would need to be reviewed in conjunction with discussions on the approach presented in documents BMT/10/14 and BMT-TWA/Maize/2/11, as explained in document TC/44/7, paragraph 30. On that basis, it agreed that it would be appropriate to submit a revised version of documents TC/38/14-CAJ/45/5 and TC/38/14 Add.-CAJ/45/5 Add. to the Council in conjunction with the BMT Guidelines.

8. At its fifty-seventh session, held in Geneva on April 10, 2008, the CAJ considered document BMT Guidelines (proj.11), “Guidelines for DNA-Profiling: Molecular Marker Selection and Database Construction (‘BMT Guidelines’)”, and the oral report on the conclusions of the TC at its forty-fourth session. Based on that oral report of the conclusions of the TC at its forty-fourth session, the CAJ agreed that the BMT should be invited to consider a new draft of the BMT Guidelines at its eleventh session, to be held in Madrid from September 16 to 18, 2008. The CAJ noted that the TC had agreed that it would be appropriate to submit a revised version of documents TC/38/14-CAJ/45/5 and TC/38/14 Add.-CAJ/45/5 Add. to the Council in conjunction with the BMT Guidelines.