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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

Geneva

**WORKING GROUP ON BIOCHEMICAL AND MOLECULAR
TECHNIQUES AND DNA PROFILING IN PARTICULAR****Fourteenth Session****Seoul, Republic of Korea, from November 10 to 13, 2014**

VARIETY DESCRIPTION DATABASES

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1. This document reports on developments concerning a practical exercise in the development of an exchangeable database in the context of Section 6 "Databases" of the UPOV Guidelines for DNA-profiling: molecular marker selection and database construction (BMT Guidelines).
2. The developments between 2005 and 2011 on this matter are provided in document BMT/13/4 "Variety Description Databases".
3. At its forty-sixth session, held near the city of Venlo, Netherlands, from June 11 to 15, 2012, the Technical Working Party for Vegetables (TWV) noted the information contained in document TWV/46/6 "Variety Description Databases" and in the presentation provided by an expert from France, which would be included in an addendum to document TWV/46/6. The expert from France presented a method to evaluate different grouping characteristics for Pea. The TWV congratulated the expert from France for his work and the useful results contained in the presentation. The TWV agreed that the work on the project for the Pea database should be continued and that it would be a good example for the development of similar databases for other crops. It also agreed that it would be a good basis for future revision of the Test Guidelines for Pea in respect of grouping characteristics (see document TWV/46/41 "Report", paragraph 86).
4. At its forty-sixth session, held in Melbourne, Australia, from April 22 to 26, 2013, the Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees (TWO) requested an expert from Australia to lead an initial study on the viability of the development of a database for a crop of interest to the TWO, in a similar way to the database being developed for Pea, which would be presented at the forty-seventh session of the TWO. The TWO recognized the need to clearly define the scope and objectives in developing such a database. Experts from the European Union and the Netherlands would participate in the initial study (see document TWO/46/29 "Report", paragraph 92).
5. At its forty-fourth session, held in Napier, New Zealand, from April 29 to May 3, 2013, the Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops (TWF) noted and that an expert from the European Union would prepare a document on the development of a database for Peach, in a similar way to the database being developed for Pea, which would be presented at the forty-fifth session of the TWF in 2014. The TWF noted that it would be necessary to clarify in the study the different objectives of creating databases, in order to identify the characteristics for which information was required, with a view to limiting costs and work load (see document TWF/44/31 "Report", paragraph 97).

6. At its thirty-first session, held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from June 4 to 7, 2013, the technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs (TWC) received a presentation from experts from China on the research on the construction of DNA fingerprint database in Maize and suggested that the information be made available to the Working Group on Molecular Techniques and DNA Profiling in Particular (BMT). A copy of the presentation is provided in document TWC/31/2 Add. (see document TWC/31/32 "Report", paragraph 64).
7. At its fiftieth session, held in Geneva, from April 7 to 9, 2014, the Technical Committee (TC) noted that the TWV, at its forty-seventh session, held in Nagasaki, Japan, from May 20 to 24, 2013, had requested an expert from France to make a presentation, at its forty-eighth session, on the GEMMA software being used by the Group for Study and Control of Varieties and Seeds (GEVES) in a Community Plant Variety Office of the European Union (CPVO) Research and Development project. In that regard, the TC noted the report from France that the presentation would not be possible for 2014 (see document TC/50/36, "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 104).
8. At its forty-seventh session, held in Naivasha, Kenya, from May 19 to 23, 2014, the TWO agreed on the relevance of the database for Pea varieties, and agreed that it would not be appropriate to develop a database for an ornamental species at this time (see document TWO/47/28 "Report", paragraph 97).
9. At its forty-fifth session, held in Marrakesh, Morocco, from May 26 to 30, 2014, the TWF considered the proposal of the expert from Australia, not to develop a database at the moment (see document TWF/45/32 "Report", paragraph 111).
10. At its thirty-second session, held in Helsinki, Finland, from June 3 to 6, 2014, the TWC received a presentation from China on PVP Database in China, as set out in Annex II to document TWC/32/6. The TWC noted that the new software included modules for the management of applications, variety description database, data analysis and image analysis. The TWC agreed to request that the experts from China to make a presentation on the particular features of the software, including image analysis, during the next session of the TWC (see document TWC/32/28 "Report", paragraph 82).

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