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**WORKING GROUP ON BIOCHEMICAL AND MOLECULAR
TECHNIQUES AND DNA PROFILING IN PARTICULAR****Fifteenth Session****Moscow, Russian Federation, May 24 to 27, 2016**

VARIETY DESCRIPTION DATABASES

*Document prepared by the Office of the Union**Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance*

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. Developments prior to 2014 on this matter are provided in document BMT/14/4 "Variety Description Databases".

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2015

Technical Committee

3. The TC at its fifty-first session, held in Geneva from March 23 to 25, 2015, considered document TC/51/9 "Variety description databases" and noted the developments on variety description databases and, in particular, that (see document TC/51/39 "Report", paragraphs 211 to 213):
 - (a) the TWO had agreed that it would not be appropriate to develop a database for an ornamental species at this time; and
 - (b) the TWC had invited an expert from China to present the analysis of variance for the interaction "variety x location" (environment) of the QN characteristics considered in the study using the statistical module of the new software "DUSTC" developed by China for presentation at its thirty-third session.
4. The TC noted the importance of databases for UPOV members and agreed that it would be useful to include a discussion item on facilitating the development of databases at the fifty-second session of the Technical Committee.

Technical Working Parties

5. At their sessions in 2015, the TWV, TWC, TWA, TWF and TWO considered documents TWV/49/6, TWC/33/6, TWA/44/6, TWF/46/6 and TWO/48/6 "Variety description databases", respectively (see documents TWV/49/32 "Report", paragraphs 124 to 126; TWC/33/30 "Report", paragraphs 92 to 95;

TWA/44/23 “Report”, paragraphs 100 to 102; TWF/46/29 Rev. “Revised Report”, paragraphs 122 to 125; and TWO/48/26 “Report”, paragraphs 120 and 122).

6. The TWV, TWA, TWF and TWO noted that the TWC had invited an expert from China to present the analysis of variance for the interaction “variety x location” (environment) of the QN characteristics considered in the study using the statistical module of the new software “DUSTC” developed by China for presentation at its thirty-third session.

7. The TWV, TWC, TWA, TWF and TWO noted that the TC had agreed to include a discussion item on facilitating the development of databases at its fifty-second session.

8. The TWC considered a presentation by an expert from China on the analysis of variance for the interaction “variety x location” (environment) of the QN characteristics. A copy of the presentation is provided in document TWC/33/27 Rev. “Revised Analysis of Variance for “Variety x Location” (Environment) Interaction of QN Characteristics”.

9. The TWC noted the demonstration of the DUSTC software, made by an expert from China.

10. The TWF noted the experiences of members on management and use of databases and agreed that databases for fruit crops containing morphological and/or molecular data could be useful for grouping varieties and organizing the growing trials and for the analysis of distinctness. The TWF noted the variation due to different locations on the expression of characteristics and agreed that this variation should be taken into consideration when using variety descriptions.

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2016

11. The TC, at its fifty-second session, held in Geneva, from March 14 to 16, 2016, received the following presentations on facilitating development of databases (in order of presentation) (see documents TC/52/PRESENTATION/1 “Facilitating development of databases for DUS examination” and TC/52/PRESENTATION/6 “Facilitating development of databases”, reproduced on the UPOV website, http://www.upov.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=38785):

Facilitating development of databases for DUS examination	France (Mr. Richard Brand)
Facilitating development of databases	Netherlands (Mr. Kees van Ettekoven)

12. The TC considered discussions on facilitating the development of databases and agreed to invite members of the Union to make presentations at the next session of the BMT on how databases containing molecular data might be developed in UPOV. It noted that the outcome of those discussions would be reported to the TC at its fifty-third session, to be held in April, 2017, under the agenda item “Variety description databases” (see document TC/52/29 Rev. “Report”, paragraph 206).

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