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| Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques  and DNA-Profiling in Particular  Sixteenth Session La Rochelle, France, November 7 to 10, 2017 | BMT/16/14  Original: English  Date: October 12, 2017 |

THE USE OF REFERENCE VARIETY SIMILARITIES IN VARIETAL DISTINCTNESS II: REFERENCE VARIETY SELECTION

Document prepared by experts from Seed Association of the Americas (SAA)

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At the fourteenth session of the Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques   
and DNA-Profiling in Particular (BMT), Nelson et al. (2014) produced the idea of using genetic similarity coefficients with a set of reference varieties to determine varietal distinctness. At the fifteenth session of the BMT, Mr. Kees van Ettekoven (2016) expanded this idea to fit within the context of a UPOV characteristic.

Here we address reference variety selection, a key feature in application of the reference variety model, among a set of publicly available maize (Zea mays) inbred lines. Most of the maize lines studied have expired United States of America plant variety protection (PVP) certificates. We explore the problem of reference variety selection theoretically and empirically. Challenges and opportunities are addressed.

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