

**Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques
and DNA-Profiling in Particular**

BMT/17/3

**Seventeenth Session
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COOPERATION BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this document is to report developments concerning cooperation between international organizations on molecular methodologies.
2. The BMT is invited to consider how to proceed on the possible joint initiatives with OECD and ISTA.
3. The following abbreviations are used in this document:

BMT:	Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques, and DNA-Profiling in Particular
TC:	Technical Committee
OECD:	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
ISO:	International Organization for Standardization
ISTA:	International Seed Testing Association

4. The structure of this document is as follows:

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BACKGROUND

5. The background to this matter is provided in document BMT/16/3 “International guidelines on molecular methodologies including cooperation between OECD, UPOV, ISTA and ISO”.
6. The BMT, at its sixteenth session, noted that the TC, at its fifty-third session, had agreed that possible future collaboration between UPOV, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) might include the harmonization of terms and methodologies used for different crops and the possible development of standards, after agreement by those organizations.
7. The BMT noted that practical workshops on “DNA Techniques and Variety Identification” had been held in Roelofarendsveen, Netherlands, from May 8 to 10, 2017 and from September 20 to 22, 2017.

8. The BMT recalled that the TC, at its fifty-first session, had agreed (see document TC/52/29 Rev. "Revised Report", paragraph 129):

- (a) to develop a joint document explaining the principal features of the systems of the OECD, UPOV and ISTA;
- (b) to develop an inventory on the use of molecular marker techniques, by crop, with a view to developing a joint OECD/UPOV/ISTA document containing that information, in a similar format to UPOV document UPOV/INF/16 "Exchangeable Software", subject to the approval of the Council and in coordination with OECD and ISTA; and
- (c) the proposal for the BMT, at its fifteenth session, to develop lists of possible joint initiatives with OECD and ISTA in relation to molecular techniques for consideration by the TC to be presented at the TC, at its fifty-third session.

9. The BMT noted that the TC had agreed that UPOV and OECD should consider making progress in the matters reported in this document if ISTA was unable to participate in the near future.

10. The BMT agreed that the initiatives above, and consideration of possible harmonization of terms and methodologies used for different crops and the possible development of standards, might be advanced through a further international practical workshop, to be jointly coordinated by OECD, UPOV and ISTA and supported by Naktuinbouw and/or another partner with the relevant facilities.

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2018

11. During the meeting of the ISTA Executive Committee, held in February, 2018, the possibility of a joint initiative, as set out in paragraph 8, was discussed. No final conclusion was reached. The topic will further be discussed with the Variety Technical Committee of ISTA. A joint discussion between the Chair of the ISTA Variety Technical Committee and the Office of the Union could be held in conjunction with the seventeenth session of the BMT.

12. The BMT is invited to consider how to proceed on the possible joint initiatives with OECD and ISTA.

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