



BMT-TWA/Wheat/2/3

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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS
GENEVA

**AD HOC CROP SUBGROUP ON MOLECULAR TECHNIQUES
FOR
WHEAT**

**Second Session
Poznań, Poland, June 28, 2004**

REPORT

adopted by the Ad hoc Crop Subgroup on Molecular Techniques for Wheat

Opening of the Session

1. The *Ad hoc* Crop Subgroup on Molecular Techniques for Wheat (hereinafter referred to as “the Crop Subgroup for Wheat”) held its second session in Poznań, Poland, on June 28, 2004. The list of participants is reproduced in the Annex to this report.
2. The Crop Subgroup for Wheat noted that Mr. Michael Camlin had taken on its Chairmanship on a temporary basis and that the TWA had agreed to propose to the Technical Committee that Mr. Robert J. Cooke (United Kingdom) be appointed as Chairman of the Crop Subgroup for Wheat, Mr. Cooke being able to take up that role for its second session.

Adoption of the Agenda

3. The Crop Subgroup for Wheat adopted the agenda as reproduced in document BMT-TWA/Wheat/2/1 Rev.

Developments in UPOV concerning the use of molecular techniques in DUS testing

4. The Crop Subgroup for Wheat noted the information in document TWA/33/2.

A review of UK research on the use of molecular markers for wheat DUS testing

5. Mr. Robert J. Cooke (United Kingdom) introduced document BMT-TWA/Wheat/2/2, which explored the possibility of an option 2 approach for wheat using the “PREDIP” software.

6. In reply to a question raised by the expert from Australia, Mr. Cooke clarified that most of the primers used were freely available.

7. The expert from Denmark explained that he would have variety descriptions available for around 800 varieties, which might help in the development of the work. An expert from France explained that a requirement of PREDIP software was to work with descriptions obtained in a single location.

8. The expert from France suggested that it would be interesting to observe the level of uniformity for molecular markers in breeding lines which had not already been found to be distinct, uniform and stable. He also noted that, irrespective of the level of uniformity for molecular markers, farmers would continue to require uniformity of morphological characteristics. Finally, he explained that the PREDIP software would be offered to members of the Union.

BMT Guidelines

9. The Technical Director introduced document BMT Guidelines (proj.2).

10. The Chairman requested the Crop Subgroup for Wheat, when making comments on the document, to consider the way in which the BMT Guidelines could be of help to specialized experts in their work with molecular markers for DUS testing purposes. The following comments were made on the document:

	A. Introduction
Option 3	The possibility of clarifying the situation with regard to option 3 was discussed and it was agreed that the matter should be discussed by the Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops.
	B. General Principles
General	the terms “system” and “method” should be standardized in the document.
1.2	to be deleted
1.3	document to consider the AFLP technique, but explain that it is of limited use because of the lack of co-dominance.

2.1 (c)	to retain the section in square brackets
2.1 (d)	definition to be provided by Mr. Cooke (United Kingdom)
2.2	first remark (France) and remark in 2.2.1 (Australia) to be incorporated into section 1.3, explaining the advantages and disadvantages of different methods.
2.2.1.1	“stuttering” and “echo” to be explained
2.2.1.2	to refer to detection “equipment” rather than “platforms” and ensure that the wording applies to all relevant systems. Section on recommended detection platforms and an allele-ladder to be deleted.
2.2.1.3	to refer to “assured” suppliers rather than “single” suppliers.
2.2.2	section to provide only a brief explanation of SNPs.
3.1	first sentence to be deleted
3.3	to introduce requirement for samples to be representative of the variety
3.3.1	to delete “accessions”
3.3.2/3	sections to be modified to explain the criteria for deciding whether to use single plants or bulks.
4.	to explain that any suitable method can be used, but it must use a standardized methodology and must be validated by some form of ring-test. It was noted that a full “ISTA-type” ring-test might not be possible if there is only a very small number of laboratories working on the crop.
4.2.1	to be modified to be less specific to microsatellites
4.3	new section on the number of primers to clarify in relation to the evaluation phase and the use phase. It should specify that the number of primers will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
4.3.2	first sentence to read “An appropriate number of varieties based on the genetic variability within the varieties concerned, should be selected ...”
4.3.3	clarification to be sought from experts from Australia with regard to the meaning of “duplicate samples” and, in particular, what is duplicated.
4.4.1	to be elaborated
5.	it was agreed that the experts from France should elaborate the section. The section would be in the form of general principles with examples and it should, in particular, specify the minimum information which should be exchanged and included in the databases
7.	to be reviewed to address all relevant methods, rather than just microsatellites

11. The Crop Subgroup for Wheat considered that the document should be redrafted by an expert/experts with suitable knowledge and experience of the use of molecular techniques. On that basis, it agreed that Mr. Cooke should undertake the redrafting, with the assistance of Mrs. Françoise Blouet (France) in connection with section 5.

12. This report has been adopted by correspondence.

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

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[End of Annex and of document]