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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

GENEVA

COUNCIL

Thirty-Fourth Ordinary Session Geneva, October 26, 2000

ADDENDUM TO DOCUMENT C/34/10 PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY FOR VEGETABLES

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

1. The Technical Working Party for Vegetables (hereinafter referred to as “the TWV”) held its thirty-fourth session in Angers, France, from September 11 to 15, 2000, under the chairmanship of Ms. Julia Borys (Poland). The full report is reproduced in document TWV/34/15 Prov.

Discussions on Test Guidelines

2. During the session, the TWV completed the draft Test Guidelines for Curly Kale (Revision), Fennel, Garlic, Globe Artichoke, Horse Radish, Swede (Revision), Tomato (Revision), Thyme and Turnip (Revision), for submission to the professional organizations for comments. The revised draft Test Guidelines will then be submitted to the Technical Committee for final adoption subject to no major comments from the professional organizations. It also discussed the Working Paper on the Test Guidelines for Squash, which will be discussed again during the next session.

3. It noted the substantial changes made, and the further clarification requested, in the Editorial Committee and the Technical Committee concerning the draft Test Guidelines for Industrial Chicory and Witloof Chicory. It discussed the problem of using a bulk sample

method for assessment of the inulin content characteristic in Industrial Chicory. The decision was taken to resubmit the Test Guideline to the Technical Committee with a request for advice on how to address the use of important characteristics in UPOV Test Guidelines where these could only be assessed, in practice, by using a bulk sample methodology.

Reports on the Work in the Technical Committee and other Technical Working Parties

4. Brief reports were made to the TWV on discussions in Technical Committee and in the Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs (TWC). A presentation was also made by an expert from France on the use of statistics for uniformity assessment.

New General Introduction to DUS Testing

5. The TWV noted the schedule for the final adoption of the New General Introduction document and discussed in brief the following selected items:

- (a) Varieties of common knowledge (TC/36/7(TGP/3 draft));
- (b) Management of reference collections (TC/36/7(TGP/4(A) draft));
- (c) Example varieties (TWA/29/20);
- (d) Disease resistance characteristics (TC/36/7(TGP/12(D))).

Process for Establishing Distinctness

6. In the course of the discussions on the New General Introduction, the TWV reviewed the process for establishing distinctness: starting from varieties of common knowledge, consideration of the reference collection, narrowing down comparable varieties for a candidate variety and then conducting a comparative growing trial, on the basis of document TWA/29/8 and the presentation made by the Office of the Union.

Handling of Different Types within the same Species or Genus in UPOV Test Guidelines

7. The TWV discussed how to handle, in the context of the UPOV Test Guidelines, different “types” of variety (e.g. pumpkin, zucchini ...) in the same species which require, at least in part, different characteristics or ranges of expression. It also discussed potential problems in the use of such “types”, which, as a result, automatically distinguish all the varieties of one type from all the varieties of the other types without comparison of individual varieties across different types.

Nomenclature of Plant Genera and Species

8. The TWV identified the problem presented by different interpretations of the subject matter of Test Guidelines in cases where different interpretation of the coverage of Latin names might occur and requested the Office of the Union to contact relevant organizations for plant nomenclature and to propose a standard reference of plant nomenclature for UPOV Test Guidelines.

Basic Rules of UPOV Test Guidelines

9. The TWV noted some divergence of opinion on the criteria and objectives of grouping characteristics, asterisk characteristics and characteristics to be included in the Technical Questionnaire. It was concluded that clearer criteria for grouping and asterisk characteristics would be needed in the New General Introduction or the relevant TGP document (TGP/7). It also discussed document TWV/34/11 concerning the required amount of plant material in UPOV Test Guidelines and found the proposed formula useful as the basic rule for determining the required amount in preparation of Test Guidelines.

Procedure for the Preparation, Revision and Updating of Test Guidelines

10. The TWV discussed possible procedures for speeding up the preparation or revision of Test Guidelines and for updating specific characteristics within Test Guidelines without their entire revision. It also noted a proposal for establishing a data-pool of characteristics not included in UPOV Test Guidelines for the purpose of communicating developments and further harmonizing descriptions between member States. It decided to put forward these proposals for discussion in the Technical Committee.

Chairman of the Ad hoc Subgroup for Molecular Techniques

11. The TWV noted the progress of the work in the Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques and DNA Profiling in Particular (BMT) and the proposal of the BMT, approved by the Technical Committee, to establish *Ad hoc* crop subgroups on molecular techniques for each of the five selected species. It agreed to nominate Mr. Richard Brand (France) as Chairman of the Subgroup for Tomato.

Future Program

12. The thirty-fifth session of the TWV is scheduled to be held in Salerno, Italy, from June 25 to 29, 2001. At that session, the TWV plans to complete discussions on the draft Test Guidelines for Squash to allow presentation, for adoption, by the Technical Committee. It also plans to discuss working papers on Test Guidelines for Basil, Chinese Cabbage, Chives, Egg Plant (Revision), Husk Tomato, Kohlrabi (Revision), Lentil, Lettuce (Revision), Melon (Revision), and Rosemary. In addition, the following items are planned for discussion: short report on special problems or difficulties encountered in vegetables; report on the latest session of the Technical Committee and recommendations resulting from that session; New General Introduction (main document and associated documents).

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