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In English only



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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

GENEVA

COUNCIL

Twenty-fourth Ordinary Session Geneva, October 18 and 19, 1990

SECOND ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF WORK OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AND THE TECHNICAL WORKING PARTIES

prepared by the Office of the Union

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

1. The Technical Committee (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") held its twenty-sixth session on October 11 and 12, 1990, under the chairmanship of Dr. G. Fuchs (Germany). The detailed report on the session will appear in document TC/26/5. The main results achieved during the session are set forth below.

Test Guidelines

2. During the session, the Committee adopted for publication the Test Guidelines for the following species:

Ryegrass/Ray-grass/Weidelgras (Revision)
Rose/Rosier/Rose (Revision)
Carnation/Oeillet/Nelke (Revision)
Bent/Agrostide/Straussgras (Revision)
Kentucky Bluegrass (Smooth-Stalked Meadow Grass)/
Pâturin des prés/Wiesenrispe (Revision)
Carrot/Carotte/Möhre (Revision)
Red and White Currant/Grosseillier à grappes/Rote und
Weisse Johannisbeere (Revision)
Brussels Sprouts/Chou de Bruxelles/Rosenkohl (Revision)
Lachenalia/Lachenalia/Lachenalia
Leucadendron/Leucadendron/Leucadendron
Leucospermum/Leucospermum/Leucospermum
Asparagus/Asperge/Spargel
Ornithogalum/Ornithogale/Milchstern
Safflower/Carthame/Saflor
Spathiphyllum/Spathiphyllum/Spathiphyllum.

<u>Progress Reports and Questions Submitted to the Technical Committee by the</u> Technical Working Parties

3. The Committee noted the usual reports on the progress of work of the Technical Working Parties, answered or addressed the various questions that individual Working Parties had submitted to it, and approved their programs for the coming year.

Report on the Stage of Preparation of the Revision of the UPOV Convention

4. The Committee noted the report on the stage of preparation of the Revision of the UPOV Convention, given by the Office of UPOV, and the reference to documents IOM/5/2 Rev. and IOM/5/3., as well as document TWA/XIX/8 Rev.

Similar Variety

5. The Committee finally accepted the addition in paragraph 6 of the Technical Questionnaire, revised last year, of a sentence to the effect that in the event of identical Notes for the states of expression of the candidate variety and a similar variety, the applicant should define the difference.

6. The Committee agreed that the indication of similar varieties in the variety description was meant, primarily, to be helpful in the testing of varieties. Therefore, a similar variety had to be selected from within the same group on the basis of grouping characteristics. A similar variety for a white mutant of a red variety would thus be, not the otherwise genetically closest red variety, but another white variety. That example also illustrated that the indication of a similar variety had nothing to do with possible essential derivation.

Access to International Data

7. The Committee considered that on-line access to published information stocked in the computers of other member States involved, at present, too many risks. It therefore asked the Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs to study the possibilities of an exchange of information between the member States in an electronic form via disquettes.

Combined Over-Years Analysis

8. The Committee noted a rather slow introduction of the COY-analysis and asked the Technical Working Parties to encourage their members to apply the new criteria. It reconfirmed its recommendation to invite experts from the Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs of the country hosting a Technical Working Party session to that session, in order to explain the method in more detail at the session and to subsequently present any problems that may have arisen to the Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs.

Combined Over-Years Uniformity Criterion (COU)

9. The Committee approved in principle the introduction of the Combined Over-Years Uniformity (COU) criterion, in the first instance for grasses, but, where possible, also for other cross-pollinated agricultural species. It hoped to be able to fix the significance levels for the acceptance and rejection of varieties during its next session.

Disease Resistance Characteristics

10. The Committee noted several problems connected with the testing of disease resistance and will have to come back on most of them during its next session.

Plant Material From Tissue Culture

11. The Committee noted several problems arising with the use of tissue culture in the production of plant material sent in for testing. It asked the Technical Working Parties to study the subject matter further and to report back on it. The study should include the different methods of propagation and their possible effects on the testing, as well as the possible effect of higher mutation rates which would require the use of larger sample sizes. At a later stage, the advice of the Legal and Administrative Committee will be sought.

Proposal for New Chairmen of the Technical Working Parties

12. The Committee agreed to propose to the Council that it elect the following chairmen for the different Technical Working Parties:

TWC: Mr. K. Kristensen (DK) TWF: Dr. B. Spellerberg (DE) TWO: Mrs. E. Buitendag (ZA) TWV: Mr. N.P.A. van Marrewijk (NL)

13. The Committee further proposed to prolong the chairmanship of Dr. M. Camlin (GB), who was elected last year for a period of three years, by one year to ensure that the terms of the chairmen of all Technical Working Parties end at the same time, i.e. at the end of the ordinary session of the Council in 1993.

New Methods, Techniques and Equipment in the Examination of Varieties

14. The Committee noted the information received concerning the studies on electrophoresis. It will await the results of the discussions in the different Technical Working Parties and their subgroups.

Cooperation with Breeders in the Testing of Varieties

15. The Committee noted that in the majority of cases, the Technical Working Parties emphasized the necessity to maintain the present reliability of the results. This may best be guaranteed by the national offices making the observations, even in the case of plants which are being grown on the premises of the applicant or breeder. The Committee planned a more detailed discussion on this subject during its coming session on the basis of updated information on the plans and studies in the individual member States.

Minimum Distances Between Varieties, Definition and Examination of Hybrid Varieties

16. Lack of time allowed the Committee to only note the information presented. For the definition of a hybrid variety the Committee expects for its next session more information from the Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops.

Program for the Next Session of the Committee

17. The following business is planned for the next session of the Committee: to hear progress reports on the work of the Technical Working Parties; to hear a report on the revision of the UPOV Convention; to discuss questions presented by the Technical Working Parties; to adopt Test Guidelines prepared by the Technical Working Parties; to continue discussions on new methods, techniques and equipment in the examination of varieties, on minimum distances between varieties and on the definition and examination of hybrid varieties. Because of the workload for the next session, the Committee asked the Council to approve the prolongation of the time allotted for the next session by one day.

> 18. The Council is invited to note and approve the above information and the program of the Committee, including the intention to hold its next session during three days.

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