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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

GENEVA

COUNCIL

Twenty-seventh Ordinary Session

Geneva, October 29, 1993

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AND
THE TECHNICAL WORKING PARTIESAddendum prepared by the Office of the UnionProgress Report on the Work of the Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops
(TWF)

1. The Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops held its twenty-fourth session in Wurzen, near Leipzig, Germany, from September 21 to 24, 1993, under the chairmanship of Dr. B. Spellerberg (Germany). The full report appears in document TWF/24/9 Prov. During the session, the TWF completed the Test Guidelines for Japanese Pear for submission to the professional organizations for comments.

2. It also (re)discussed working papers on Test Guidelines for Citrus (Revision) and Cherry (Revision). In addition to the discussions on Test Guidelines, the TWF discussed or rediscussed the following other subjects:

(i) It noted the plans for the setting-up of a UPOV Central Computerized Data Base and supported that idea.

(ii) It noted a report on the newly created Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques and DNA-Profiling in particular (BMT) and requested more involvement in the work of that Working Group and more information on it. In this connection, at least the Chairman of the TWF and the fruit crop experts of the country in which a BMT session took place should be invited to sessions of the BMT.

(iii) It noted the new document on the replacement of paragraph 28 of the General Introduction to the Test Guidelines. It needed more information on the population standard, however, before it could agree to indicate in all draft Test Guidelines discussed the population standard, the acceptance probability and the number of off-types tolerated with the indicated sample size.

(iv) It proposed to the Technical Committee that it recommend to the Council that Mrs. Elise Buitendag (South Africa) be elected Chairman of the Working Party for the coming three years.

3. The twenty-fifth session of the TWF is scheduled to be held in Napier, New Zealand, from September 19 to 25, 1994. During that session, the TWF plans to complete the Test Guidelines for Japanese Pear prior to their submission to the Technical Committee for final adoption. It will also (re)discuss working papers on Test Guidelines for Citrus (Revision), Cherry (Revision), Apple (Revision), Prunus Rootstocks, European Plum (Revision), Peach (Revision), Strawberry (Revision), Pear Rootstocks, Japanese Apricot and Loquat. The following other items are planned for discussion: color observations; (new) methods, techniques and equipment in the examination of varieties; statistical methods; UPOV Central Computerized Data Base; essentially derived varieties; electronic exchange of data. The Working Party's 1995 session is planned to be held in the United Kingdom. A Subgroup on Apple will meet in Faversham, United Kingdom, from December 13 to 15, 1993.

Progress Report on the Work of the Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees (TWO)

3. The Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees held its twenty-sixth session in Antibes, France, from October 4 to 8, 1993. The full report appears in document TWO/26/18 Prov. During the session, the TWO completed the Test Guidelines for African Violet (Revision), Weigela, Pyracantha, Gentiana and Nerine prior to their submission to the professional organizations for comments, and also (re)discussed working papers on Test Guidelines for Chrysanthemum (Revision), Limonium, Lavender and Lavendine, Kalanchoe (Revision) and Firelily. In addition to the discussions on Test Guidelines, the TWO discussed or rediscussed the following other subjects:

(i) It noted the plans for the setting-up of a UPOV Central Computerized Data Base and supported that idea, especially as at present the applications and the variety denominations for ornamental varieties outweigh the applications in other areas.

(ii) It noted a report on the newly created Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques and DNA-Profiling in particular (BMT). The experts requested more involvement in the work of that Working Group and more information on it. In this connection, at least the Chairman of the TWO should be invited to sessions of the BMT, as well as the experts from the country where the session takes place. As the program of the BMT did not include any ornamental species, the TWO would collect its own information on DNA research in its field.

(iii) It noted the new document on the replacement of paragraph 28 of the General Introduction to the Test Guidelines and agreed to further study the population standard, the acceptance probability and the number of off-types tolerated with the indicated sample size and in particular how to handle sample sizes below 20.

(iv) It will continue studying the question of homogeneity of varieties within one species which could be propagated vegetatively or by seed on the basis of some selected examples.

(v) It had a long discussion on the measuring of color. The study finally left several questions open. Because efforts were concentrated on other methods--such as image analysis--only a small number of States would continue their research.

(vi) It agreed on the grouping of the RHS Colour Chart into 50 groups, giving each group a color name.

(vii) It would continue its discussion on image analysis on the basis of a summary of research going on in several member States.

(viii) It noted the adoption by the EEC of several directives implementing the Council Directive of 93 concerning the marketing of plant material of ornamental varieties.

(ix) It proposed to the Technical Committee that it recommend to the Council that Mrs. Ulrike Löscher (Germany) be elected Chairman of the Working Party for the coming three years.

4. The twenty-seventh session of the TWO is scheduled to be held in Australia from September 26 to October 1, 1994. During that session, the TWO plans to complete the Test Guidelines for African Violet (Revision), Weigela, Pyracantha, Gentiana and Nerine prior to their submission to the Technical Committee for final adoption. It will also (re)discuss working papers on Test Guidelines for Iris, Kangaroo Paws, Chrysanthemum (Revision), Limonium, Lavender and Lavendine, Kalanchoe (Revision), Rhododendron (Revision), Firelily, Geraldton Wax Flower, Anthurium (Revision), Serruria, Thymus and Cymbidium. Discussion of the following items is also planned: new methods, techniques and equipment in the examination of varieties; single versus combined distinctness characteristics; central computerized data base; uniformity of vegetatively propagated species; color observations; list of species in which varieties are tested; cooperation with breeders in the testing of varieties. The Working Party's 1995 session is planned to be held in The Netherlands.

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