



C/30/10 Add.
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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS
GENEVA

COUNCIL

Thirtieth Ordinary Session
Geneva, October 23, 1996

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
AND THE TECHNICAL WORKING PARTIES

Addendum prepared by the Office of the Union

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

1. The Technical Committee (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") held its thirty-third session in Geneva, from October 16 to 18, 1996, the week immediately before the ordinary session of the Council. The detailed report on that session will appear in document TC/33/11. The main results achieved during that session are set forth below.

Progress Reports on the Work of the Technical Working Parties

2. The Committee noted the usual reports on the progress of the work of the Technical Working Parties and approved their programs for the coming year.

Questions Presented by the Technical Working Parties

3. The Committee endeavored to answer the various questions that the individual Technical Working Parties had submitted to it as reproduced in document TC/33/3.

New Methods, Techniques and Equipment in the Examination of Varieties, Including the Progress Report on the Work of the Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques and DNA Profiling in Particular

4. The Committee recalled that the Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques and DNA Profiling in Particular (BMT) had not met since its last session and that its next session was scheduled to be held in Cambridge, United Kingdom, from March 11 to 13, 1997. It noted a preliminary list of agenda items to be discussed. For more details reference should be made to document C/30/10, paragraph 17.

COYD and COYU Analysis

5. The Committee approved a revised version of the Combined-Over-Years Distinctness criterion (COYD) - and the Combined-Over-Years Uniformity criterion (COYU) as contained in document TC/33/7 which replaces the version as contained in document TC/30/4.

General Introduction to Test Guidelines

6. The Committee decided to start revising the General Introduction to Test Guidelines (TG/1/2) and appointed a small group consisting of the Editorial Committee, the Chairmen of the Technical Working Parties and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Technical Committee to prepare a draft for a revised version. At the same time the group will study how to improve the standardization of technical terms, the use of states of expressions and the attribution of Notes to characteristics in the Test Guidelines.

“Genetically modified” (GM) Varieties

7. The Committee reconfirmed its decision to include, subject to the approval by the Administrative and Legal Committee (CAJ), in the Technical Questionnaire of the Test Guidelines for Rape Seed and in future in other relevant Technical Questionnaires, a broad question whether the variety would “require authorization for release under legislation concerning especially the protection of the environment, human and animal health in the country in which the application is made” and whether such authorization had been obtained. The question was not intended to be limited to GM varieties but to elicit information where appropriate on other restrictions on release.

Diffusion of UPOV Documents in Electronic Form

8. The Committee agreed to the proposals of the different Technical Working Parties to make UPOV documents available in electronic form on a larger scale. Initially a limited range of documents would be made available and only on request (e.g. technical reports). The Office of UPOV should, however, consider making the Test Guidelines and other important technical documents available in electronic form in due course. In the long run all Test Guidelines should be made available on diskette or possibly even on the UPOV-ROM.

Test Guidelines

9. During the session, the Committee adopted the following Test Guidelines after having agreed on changes proposed orally by the Editorial Committee.

TG/36/5(proj.)	Rape Seed/Colza/Raps/Colza
TG/55/5(proj.)	Spinach/Epinard/Spinat/Espinaca
TG/60/5(proj.)	Beetroot/Betterave rouge/Rote Rübe/Remolacha de mesa
TG/153/2(proj.)	Ginger/Gingembre/Ingwer/Jengibre
TG/154/2(proj.)	Leaf Chicory/Chicorée à feuille/Blattzichorie/Achicoria de hoja
TG/155/2(proj.)	Pumpkin/Potiron, Giraumon/Riesenkürbis/Calabaza, Zapallo
TG/156/2(proj.)	Firelily/Cyrtanthus/Cyrtanthus/Cyrtanthus/Cyrtanthus
TG/157/2(proj.)	Serruria/Serruria/Serruria/Serruria/Serruria
TC/33/4	African Violet/Saintpaulia/Usambaraveilchen/Saintpaulia (Corrections/corrections/Verbesserungen/correcciones)
TC/33/6	Barley/Orge/Gerste/Cebada, Maize/Mais/Mais/Maíz, Wheat/Blé/Weizen/Trigo (Changes of alleles/Changement des alleles/Änderungen der Allele/Cambio de alelos).

The Committee also agreed to delete the proposal concerning Test Guidelines for Maize in document TC/33/6.

Chairmanship

10. As the terms of office of the individual Chairmen of the Technical Working Parties were to end at the close of the forthcoming ordinary session of the Council, the Technical Committee, on the recommendation of the individual Technical Working Parties, proposed the following experts as Chairmen of the Technical Working Parties for the coming three years:

TWA:	Mr. Aubrey Bould, United Kingdom
TWC:	Mr. John Law, United Kingdom
TWF:	Mr. Chris Barnaby, New Zealand
TWO:	Mr. Joost Barendrecht, Netherlands
TWV:	Mr. Baruch Bar-Tel, Israel

11. As no proposal had yet been made by the BMT concerning its future chairmanship, the Committee proposed to extend the chairmanship of the BMT of Mr. Joel Guiard, France, for a further year.

Program for the Thirty-Fourth Session

12. In 1997 several sessions of the Technical Working Parties are scheduled late in the year. Since this had happened several times before, the Committee proposed in future to meet in the

spring and not in the autumn. The thirty-fourth session of the Committee is therefore proposed to take place in Geneva in April 1998 either in the week immediately before the sessions of the Consultative Committee and/or the Administrative and Legal Committee or in the same week of those sessions. It is planned that the following items be discussed during the session: Progress reports and questions presented by the Technical Working Parties, revision of the General Introduction to Test Guidelines and harmonization of states of expression and their Notes, new methods, techniques and equipment in the examination of varieties. In addition, the Committee will take decisions on the Test Guidelines which will be submitted by the Technical Working Parties for final adoption.

13. *The Council is invited to*

(i) note and approve the above information and the program of the Technical Committee;

(ii) note and approve the information and the program of the Technical Working Parties reported upon in document C/30/10;

(iii) note and approve the proposals for the new Chairmen as specified in paragraphs 10 and 11 above.

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