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**INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS**  
GENEVA

**COUNCIL**

**Thirty-third Ordinary Session**  
**Geneva, October 20, 1999**

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

*Document prepared by the Office of the Union*

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

1. The Technical Committee (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) held its thirty-fifth session in Geneva from March 22 to 24, 1999. The detailed report on the Committee’s session appears in document TC/35/12 Prov.
2. The main results achieved by the Committee during that session are set forth below:
  - (a) It noted the usual reports on the progress of the work of the Technical Working Parties and approved their programs for the coming year.
  - (b) It endeavored to answer the various questions that the individual Technical Working Parties had submitted to it as reproduced in document TC/35/3.
  - (c) During the session, the Committee adopted the following Test Guidelines after having agreed on changes proposed orally by the Editorial Committee:

- TG/46/5(proj.): Onion, Shallot/Oignon, Échalote/Zwiebel, Schalotte/Cebolla, Chalota  
 TG/50/7(proj.): Grapevine/Vigne/Rebe/Vid  
 TG/58/5(proj.): Rye/Seigle/Roggen/Centeno  
 TG/62/5 (proj.): Rhubarb/Rhubarbe/Rhabarber/Ruibarbo  
 TG/63/5(proj.): Black Radish/Radis d'été, d'automne et d'hiver/Rettich/Rábano negro, Rabanito  
 TG/64/5(proj.): Radish/Radis de tous les mois/Radieschen/Rábano, Rabanito  
 TG/85/5(proj.): Leek/Poireau/Porree/Puerro  
 TG/125/5(proj.): Walnut/Noyer/Walnuß/Nogal  
 TG/163/2(proj.): Apple Rootstock/Porte-greffes du pommier/Apfel-Unterlagen/Portainjerto de manzano  
 TG/164/2(proj.): Cymbidium/Cymbidium/Cymbidie/Cymbidium  
 TG/165/2(proj.): Dill/Aneth/Dill/Eneldo  
 TG/166/2(proj.): Opium/Seed Poppy/Pavot/Mohn/Adormidera, Amapola  
 TG/167/2(proj.): Okra/Gombo/Okra/Okra  
 TG/168/2(proj.): Statice/Limonium, Statice/Statice/Limonium  
 TG/169/2(proj.): Pyrus Rootstocks/Porte-greffe de pyrus/Pyrus-Unterlagen/Portainjerto de pyrus  
 TG/171/2(proj.): Weeping Fig/Ficus benjamina/Birkenfeige/Ficus benjamina

(d) It noted the corrections to the revised version of the document on the testing of uniformity of self-fertilized and vegetatively propagated species as contained in document TC/34/5 Rev.

(e) It confirmed that the broad application of the COYD and COYU analysis as contained in document TC/33/7 was in the first instance for cross-fertilized species.

(f) It noted the plans presented by the Editorial Committee and the chairmen of the Technical Working Parties on the revision of the General Introduction to Test Guidelines (TG/1/2) and also the fact that, immediately after the closing of the thirty-fifth session of the Technical Committee, two days of meetings were planned to advance the revision.

(g) It had a long discussion on the proper prescreening of varieties before the layout of field or glasshouse trials and requested all Technical Working Parties to rediscuss the subject on the basis of concrete examples.

(h) It noted that in October 1998 the Council had elected Mrs. Elise Buitendag (South Africa) as Chairman of the Technical Committee, Mr. Michael Camlin (United Kingdom) as Vice-Chairman. The Council had also elected Mr. Camlin as Chairman of the BMT and Mrs. Françoise Blouet (France) as Chairman of the TWA.

(i) It reconfirmed its decision that a difference caused by an endophyte alone should not be sufficient for distinctness.

(j) It proposed to the member States that they carefully study the problems connected with applications based on material selected in the wild.

(k) Most members of the Technical Committee were against the use of electrophoresis to determine characteristics in cross-fertilized species, but agreed that more information should be collected.

(l) It agreed that all Test Guidelines would have a new paragraph 8 on the status of the variety under legislation on the protection of the environment and on human and animal health.

(m) It would have to study further the question of assessment of uniformity in characteristics observed from bulk samples.

(n) It appreciated the use of information available on the UPOV website [www.upov.int](http://www.upov.int) and the information collected especially for matters of the TWC by the United Kingdom on: <http://www.bioss.sari.ac.uk/links/upov>.

(o) It welcomed the yearly updating of document TC/35/4 on species on which practical knowledge has been acquired.

#### Election of new Chairmen

3. The Technical Committee noted that the Technical Working Parties had proposed candidates for their future Chairmen. On the basis of those proposals the Technical Committee proposed to the Council to elect the following persons as Chairmen for the coming three years:

TWC: Mr. Wieslaw Pilarczyk, Poland

TWF: Mr. Josef Harsanyi, Hungary

TWO: Ms. Elizabeth Scott, United Kingdom

TWV: Mrs. Julia Borys, Poland.

#### Program for the Thirty-Sixth Session of the Committee

4. The thirty-sixth session of the Committee is to take place in Geneva from March 29 to 31, 2000. It is planned that the following items will be discussed during the session: Progress reports and questions presented by the Technical Working Parties, revision of the General Introduction to Test Guidelines and new methods, techniques and equipment in the examination of varieties. In addition, the Committee will take decisions on the Test Guidelines that will be submitted by the Technical Working Parties for final adoption.

#### **PROGRESS REPORTS ON THE WORK OF THE TECHNICAL WORKING PARTIES, INCLUDING THE BMT**

#### Progress Report on the Work of the Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops (TWA)

5. The Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops held its twenty-eighth session in Ottawa, Canada, from June 22 to 25, 1999, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Françoise Blouet

(France) and the Subgroup meeting on Cotton and Rice in the same place on June 21, 1999. The draft report of that session will appear in document TWA/28/22 Prov.

6. During its session, the TWA completed the draft Test Guidelines for Sunflower to be presented to the Technical Committee for adoption. The TWA also discussed, and completed for submission to the professional organizations for comments, draft Test Guidelines for *Bromus*, Cotton, Fodder Radish, Red Clover, Rice, Subterranean Clover and White Mustard. With regard to the Test Guidelines for Rice, it noted the need for further contributions from Asian countries. It also discussed Working Papers on the Test Guidelines for Cocksfoot, Lotus and Meadow Fescue, Tall Fescue, which will be discussed again during the next session.

7. In addition to its discussions on Test Guidelines, the TWA did the following:

(a) It discussed the inclusion of technical information in the UPOV-ROM and proposed to include grouping characteristics or information from the Technical Questionnaire other than the information on the pedigrees and formulas of hybrids.

(b) It selected oilseed rape and wheat as the priority species for further discussion in the Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques and DNA Profiling in Particular (BMT), at the same time emphasizing that studies on other species would be also needed.

(c) It discussed a working document for the preparation of a New General Introduction for DUS Tests, and made the following main points:

i) The New General Introduction should be discussed in the Administrative and Legal Committee and be finally adopted by the Council;

ii) The main document should comprise basic principles, while open questions and details should be dealt with in a separate collection of complementary documents;

iii) The two main objectives of Test Guidelines, i.e. harmonization of variety description and standardization of the assessment of DUS, should be balanced.

(d) It discussed the use of electrophoresis in DUS testing, and noted that the different views especially on its use as supporting evidence might be due to different decision-making systems. It therefore decided to prepare for discussion at the next session a document concerning the general procedure for establishing distinctness, covering supporting evidence and the use of electrophoresis characteristics.

(e) It decided to prepare for the next session a document concerning the envelope protection problem. The document will discuss situations where, after the introduction of new characteristics, existing protected varieties contain two or more subgroups with different expressions of the new characteristics.

(f) It heard presentations on the method of pre-screening and the method for reducing the size of plantings of reference collections. It decided to prepare for the next session a general document entitled "Management of reference collections," which would contain general guidance on pre-screening and efficient management of reference collections. It also

agreed to conduct an empirical survey of pre-screening so as to analyze differences in pre-screening or grouping methods among member States.

(g) It heard the proposal for the preparation of future UPOV Test Guidelines, and discussed how to select example varieties for UPOV Test Guidelines, given that UPOV membership was expanding worldwide.

(h) It heard the result of the analyses of the degree of uniformity of oilseed rape varieties in Germany and France, where different uniformity standards are applied for oilseed rape.

(i) It discussed general principles and procedures for establishing distinctness (and uniformity and stability) with the help of the parent formula.

8. The twenty-ninth session of the TWA will be held in Uppsala, Sweden, from June 27 to 30, 2000. At that session, the TWA plans to discuss draft Test Guidelines for *Bromus*, Cotton, Fodder Radish, Red Clover, Rice, Subterranean Clover, Swede and White Mustard and working papers on Test Guidelines for Cocksfoot, Lotus, Meadow Fescue, Sugarcane, Tall Fescue, Tobacco, Turnip Rape. In addition to Test Guidelines, discussions are planned on the new General Introduction, the management of reference collections, the survey on pre-screening, the decision on distinctness, envelope protection of varieties, the relative tolerance for uniformity and matters arising from the session of the Technical Committee.

#### Progress Report on the Work of the Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs (TWC)

9. The Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs held its seventeenth session in Helsinki, Finland, from June 29 to July 2, 1999, under the chairmanship of Mr. J. Law (United Kingdom). The full report on that session appears in document TWC/17/13 Prov. The main points made by the TWC arising from the session are as described below:

(a) It made several proposals for the revision of the General Introduction to the Test Guidelines, and distributed tasks for the preparation of complementary documents.

(b) It noted the progress made with the UPOV-ROM and insisted on the need for a UPOV Code; it discussed the inclusion of technical information but expressed different opinions.

(c) It noted the difficulty of obtaining data for the study of methods for the BMT, and will approach breeders to ask whether they could supply some data.

(d) It noted studies on the possible advantages of incomplete block designs in DUS testing.

(e) It noted several possibilities for reducing the number of reference varieties to be grown every year.

(f) It discussed a threshold model which could be used to check characteristics and their states intended for inclusion in Test Guidelines.

(g) It studied the possibilities for reaching decisions earlier on DUS (e.g. after two years instead of the present three).

(h) It saw the need to agree on terms to be used by crop experts and statisticians (e.g. on qualitative and quantitative characteristics).

(i) It noted the updating, by experts from the United Kingdom, of the Internet website <http://www.bioss.sari.ac.uk/links/upov>, with information on database management systems in use in UPOV member States, exchangeable software, e-mail addresses of UPOV technical experts and documents prepared by the TWC.

(j) It noted that the Windows version of the DUSTNT program developed by the United Kingdom experts was now available from the expert from the United Kingdom (e-mail: [sally.watson@dani.gov.uk](mailto:sally.watson@dani.gov.uk)); it encouraged more States to make use of that freely available software, which would facilitate further harmonization among member States.

(k) It noted that the bulletin board for varieties and seed matters would be discontinued as it was not attracting sufficient interest.

10. The eighteenth session of the TWC will be held in Kyiv, Ukraine, from June 12 to 15, 2000. The Working Party also considered the possibility of having a workshop on data handling at the same place, on June 9 and 10, prior to the next meeting for the countries of the region. At that session, the TWC plans to discuss or rediscuss the following items: report on subjects of special interest to the Working Party raised during the thirty-sixth session of the Technical Committee; questions raised by other Technical Working Parties; report on new developments in member States; UPOV-ROM Plant Variety Database; revision of the General Introduction to Test Guidelines; summarized paper on image analysis; spatial dependency and plant resources; long-term alpha design trial on sugar beet; update paper on alpha design; one year of alpha design compared with the two-year and three-year approaches; incomplete block design on peas; alpha design considering variety grouping; new document on the result of the simulation study in ryegrass; use of the COYD and COYU approach in more than one location in forage crops; items resulting from the sixth session of the Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques and DNA Profiling in Particular (BMT); telecommunications, exchangeable software and contacts; developments on the World Wide Web; list of statistical documents prepared by the TWC; list of statistical documents containing recommendations or methods of possible interest to the Technical Working Parties.

#### Progress Report on the Work of the Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops (TWF)

11. The Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops (TWF) held its twenty-ninth session in Caloundra, Australia, from November 9 to 14, 1998, under the chairmanship of Mr. Chris Barnaby (New Zealand). The full report is reproduced in document TWF/29/14. At the session, the TWF completed the Test Guidelines for Apple Rootstocks, Grapevine, *Pyrus* Rootstocks and Walnut prior to their submission to the Committee for final adoption. It also completed Test Guidelines for Pear (Revision) for submission to the professional organizations for comments and (re)discussed working papers on Test Guidelines for Citrus

(Revision) and Kiwifruit. In addition to the discussions on Test Guidelines, the TWF did the following:

(a) It expressed appreciation for the recent developments in the UPOV-ROM Centralized Database and its bi-monthly updating.

(b) It noted that the distribution of lists of varieties under test was discontinued because the information could be obtained from UPOV-ROM.

(c) It proposed once again to make UPOV documents available in electronic form. It noted that all Test Guidelines might be available in electronic form in the near future, but pointed out that other important documents should also be made available on the Internet or on CD-ROM.

(d) It appreciated the updating of the Internet website by experts from the United Kingdom with a quantity of documents and information on the work of the TWC, including a list of e-mail addresses of all technical experts involved in UPOV work.

(e) It noted that a Windows version of the freely available DUSTW software for DUS testing would be available at the end of 1998 and would contribute to the harmonization of testing.

(f) It regretted that the Committee had not sufficiently considered the views of the horticultural Technical Working Parties and had tried to impose the use of COY against the general opinion of the crop experts.

(g) It noted the adoption of document TC/34/5 Rev., containing a revised version of the testing of uniformity in vegetatively propagated and self-fertilized varieties.

(h) It declared itself in favor of a long list of characteristics without asterisks from which each State would choose those appropriate to its circumstances, rather than a short list to which every State would add characteristics, with the attendant risk of different states of expression and wording for similar or identical facts.

(i) At the request of the BMT it selected peach and citrus as fruit species on which research on new methods should be concentrated.

(j) It stressed again that new methods so far not used for the testing of distinctness should not be used for the screening of varieties for the layout of trials unless there was a strong correlation between certain results and a morphological or physiological characteristic used in the Test Guidelines.

(k) It studied the General Introduction to Test Guidelines and made numerous proposals for changes to the present text.

(l) It discussed proposals for the harmonization of the wording, states of expression and drawings for the Table of Characteristics and made numerous proposals for improvement.

(m) It noted the new definition of off-types.

(n) As the last Committee session before the ordinary session of the Council in 1999 was planned to be held from March 22 to 24, 1999, it already made a proposal to the Committee that it recommend to the Council the election in 1999 of Mr. Josef Harsanyi (Hungary) as new chairman of the TWF as from October 1999.

12. The thirtieth session of the TWF is scheduled to be held in Nitra, Slovakia, from September 6 to 10, 1999. At that session, the TWF plans to complete discussions on Test Guidelines for Pear (Revision) for presentation to the Committee for final adoption. It plans moreover to discuss or rediscuss working papers on Test Guidelines for Apricot (Revision) Citrus (Revision), European Plum (Revision), Fig, Kiwifruit (Revision), Passion fruit, Persimmon, *Prunus* Rootstocks and Walnut Rootstocks. In addition, the following other items were planned for discussion: Short reports on new developments in member States in plant variety protection in fruit species; questions on the testing of varieties of fruit species; important decisions taken during the previous sessions of the Working Party and the Committee; updated report from the Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs (TWC) on the testing of uniformity; new methods, techniques and equipment in the examination of varieties; testing of rootstock varieties; revision of the General Introduction to Test Guidelines; standardization of Test Guidelines; harmonization of shapes.

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

13. The Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees (TWO) held its thirty-first session in Christchurch, New Zealand, from November 16 to 21, 1998, under the chairmanship of Mr. Joost Barendrecht (Netherlands). The full report is reproduced in document TWO/31/19. During the session, the TWO completed the Test Guidelines for Cymbidium, *Limonium* and Weeping Fig prior to their submission to the Committee for final adoption. It also completed Test Guidelines for Iris, Kangaroo Paw, *Osteospermum* and Gerbera (Revision) prior to their submission to the professional organizations for comments. It furthermore discussed or rediscussed several working papers on Test Guidelines in subgroups. In addition to the discussions on Test Guidelines, the TWO also did the following:

(a) It expressed appreciation for the recent developments concerning the UPOV-ROM Centralized Database and its bi-monthly updating and made some proposals for improvements.

(b) It noted that the distribution of lists of varieties under test was discontinued because the information could be obtained from UPOV-ROM.

(c) It proposed again to make UPOV documents available in electronic form. It noted that all Test Guidelines might be available in electronic form in the near future, but pointed out that other important documents should also be made available on the Internet or on CD-ROM.

(d) It appreciated the updating of the Internet website by experts from the United Kingdom with a quantity of documents and information on the work of the TWC, including a list of e-mail addresses of all technical experts involved in UPOV work.



(e) It noted that a Windows version of the freely available DUSTW software for DUS testing would be available at the end of the 1998 and would contribute to the harmonization of testing.

(f) It regretted that the Committee had not sufficiently considered the views of the horticultural Technical Working Parties who were all opposed to the use of COY and that it had made a method of solving certain special problems in some grass species into one that was imposed on all Working Parties, despite their stated opinion that it was inappropriate, not applicable, not needed and not even wanted [corrected by the TC].

(g) It noted the adoption of document TC/34/5 Rev., containing a revised version of the testing of uniformity in vegetatively propagated and self-fertilized varieties.

(h) It expressed its concern regarding the discussions on the use of new methods for prescreening varieties. It repeated that such methods were superfluous and not needed when good grouping characteristics were available. The methods should not be used for the screening of varieties for the layout of trials unless there was a strong correlation between certain results and a morphological or physiological characteristic used in the Test Guidelines.

(i) At the request of the BMT it selected roses and chrysanthemum as ornamental species on which research on new methods might be concentrated. At the same time, however, it declared that such methods were superfluous, not needed when there were much better methods such as image analysis or surface of pollen, and not even desired.

(j) It declared itself in favor of a long list of characteristics without asterisks from which each State would choose those appropriate to its circumstances, rather than a short list to which every State would add characteristics, with the attendant risk of different states of expression and wording for similar or identical facts.

(k) It discussed proposals for the harmonization of the wording, states of expression and drawings for the Table of Characteristics and made numerous proposals for improvement.

(l) It studied the General Introduction to Test Guidelines and made numerous proposals for changes to the present text.

(m) It proposed a change in the Technical Questionnaire with respect to the release requirements for environmental or health reasons.

(n) It noted that in Germany protection had been granted to three varieties that resulted from changes caused by endophytes as the German lawyers involved could not follow the reasoning underlying the Committee's view that such varieties should not be accepted as separate varieties.

(o) It noted the new definition of off-types, but discussed also the possibility of an improved wording.

(p) It noted that so far little progress had been made in the study of image analysis and agreed to reserve the first morning of its next session exclusively for image analysis.

(q) As the last Committee session before the ordinary session of the Council in 1999 was planned to be held in Geneva from March 22 to 24, 1999, it already made a proposal to

the Committee that it recommend to the Council the election in 1999 of Mrs. Elizabeth Scott (United Kingdom) as new chairman of the TWO.

14. The thirty-second session of the TWO is scheduled to be held in Pruhonice, near Prague, Czech Republic, from September 13 to 18, 1999. At that session, the TWO plans to complete the Test Guidelines for Calluna, Gerbera (Revision), Iris, Kangaroo Paw and *Osteospermum* for submission to the Committee for final adoption. It will also discuss or rediscuss Test Guidelines for Chrysanthemum (Revision), Celosia, Cupressus, *Dendrobium*, *Eucalyptus gunnii*, *Eustoma*, Germalton Wax Flower, Guzmania, *Hippeastrum*, *Impatiens*, Lavender and Lavendine, *Leptospermum*, *Nerium*, Ornamental Apple (Revision), Pentas, Petunia, *Poinsettia* (Revision), *Tagetes*, *Telopia*, Thyme, and Calla Lilly. Discussion of the following items is also planned: short reports on special developments in plant variety protection in ornamental plants and forest trees; important decisions taken during the last session of the Working Party and the Committee; testing of seed-propagated varieties of ornamental species; special cases in new species; revision of the General Introduction to the Test Guidelines; harmonization of Test Guidelines; use of shapes in Test Guidelines.

#### Progress Report on the Work of the Technical Working Party for Vegetables (TWV)

15. The Technical Working Party for Vegetables held its thirty-third session in Hanover, Germany, from June 5 to 9, 1999, under the chairmanship of Mr. Baruch Bar-Tel (Israel). The draft report of that session will be reproduced in document TWV/33/15 Prov.

16. During its session, the TWV completed, for presentation to the Technical Committee for adoption, draft Test Guidelines for Industrial Chicory and Witloof, Chicory. The TWV also discussed and completed for submission to the professional organizations for comments draft Test Guidelines for Curly Kale, Fennel, Garlic, Globe Artichoke, Swede, Tomato and Turnip. In addition, it discussed draft Test Guidelines for Thyme, which will also be discussed at the forthcoming session of the Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees (TWO).

17. In addition to the discussions on Test Guidelines, the TWV did the following in particular:

- (a) It reconfirmed the need for international cooperation for disease resistance tests.
- (b) It noted the discussion in the Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) concerning the influence of commercialization of hybrids on the novelty of the parent lines and decided to ask the Technical Committee for advice.
- (c) It noted that a guideline on variety denominations was being drawn up for the Community Plant Variety Right and EC Common Catalogue. It decided to ask the expert from the CPVO to submit the proposed guideline to an appropriate UPOV forum for discussion.
- (d) It discussed the proposed questionnaire concerning the handling of genetically modified varieties in DUS tests.

(e) It rediscussed the duration of DUS tests and noted the difficulty in deciding on one uniform rule because of differences between national practices.

(f) It rediscussed the problems involved in the use of bulk samples, and decided to ask the Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs (TWC) to consider a statistical method for estimating the uniformity of a variety on several bulk samples.

(g) It discussed the inclusion of technical information in the UPOV-ROM and proposed that each member State should provide at least information on the grouping characteristics of protected varieties, but could also provide additional information on protected varieties.

(h) It made several proposals for the revision of the General Introduction to DUS tests.

18. The thirty-fourth session of the TWV will be held in Angers, France, from September 10 to 15, 2000. At that session, the TWV plans to discuss draft Test Guidelines for Curly Kale, Fennel, Garlic, Globe Artichoke, Swede, Tomato, Turnip and Thyme (subject to completion in the Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees) and working papers on Test Guidelines for Basil, Broad Bean, Celeriac and Celery (Revision), Chinese Cabbage (Revision), Horse Radish, Husk Tomato, Kohlrabi (Revision), Lentil, Lettuce (Revision), Rosemary and Squash. In addition to Test Guidelines, there are plans to discuss the new General Introduction, international cooperation in disease resistance tests, GM varieties, plant number in the field and sample size for the assessment of distinctness and uniformity and matters resulting from the session of the Technical Committee.

#### Progress Report on the Work of the Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques and DNA-Profiling in Particular (BMT)

19. The Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques and DNA-Profiling in Particular (BMT) held its fifth session at Beltsville, Maryland, United States of America, from September 28 to 30, 1998, under the chairmanship of Mr. Joël Guiard (France). The draft report on the session is reproduced in document BMT/5/17. The Council has already been informed on that session in document C/32/10 Add.

20. It is recalled that at the invitation of the Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO), the sixth session of the BMT is to take place in Angers, France, from March 1 to 3, 2000. At that session, discussions are planned on the following subjects: (a) a short presentation of biochemical and molecular techniques: new techniques, advantages and limits of different techniques; (b) the assessment of variability within varieties and between varieties, in particular, uniformity and stability in molecular markers; (c) statistical methods: confidence intervals and improvement of precision of distance estimates; graphic representation of genetic distances; comparison of genetic distances with phenotypic distances; combination of information from diverse data types (AFLP, SSR, morphological data, etc.); (d) construction and standardization of databases of DNA profiles of varieties; (e) possibilities and consequences of the introduction of DNA profiling methods for DUS testing; (f) position of breeders vis-à-vis DNA profiling; (g) use of DNA profiling methods by expert witnesses in disputes on essential derivation; (h) use of DNA profiling (combined with morphological characteristics) as a possible tool for prescreening in DUS testing.

21. *The Council is invited to*

*(a) note and approve the above information and the program of the Committee and the Technical Working Parties;*

*(b) note and approve the information and the program of the TWF and TWO to be reported upon orally or in an addendum to this document;*

*(c) take a decision on the proposal of the Committee as contained in paragraph 3 (election of new Chairmen).*

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