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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 THE TECHNICAL WORKING PARTIES

Addendum prepared by the Office of the Union

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

1. The Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops (TWF) held its thirtieth session in Nitra, Slovakia, from September 6 to 10, 1999, under the chairmanship of Mr. Chris Barnaby (New Zealand). The full report will be reproduced in document TWF/30/14 Prov. At the session, the TWF completed the Test Guidelines for Pear (Revision) prior to its submission to the professional organizations for comments and in case of no essential comments to the Committee for final adoption. It also (re)discussed working papers on Test Guidelines for Actinidia (Kiwifruit) (Revision), Citrus (Revision), European Plum (Revision), Persimmon, *Prunus* Rootstocks. In addition to the discussions on Test Guidelines, the TWF did the following:

(a) It noted that a new short and precise definition for “maturity” was needed, but that it was difficult to work it out for the time being. It was decided to leave it as it was until an appropriate suggestion could be made.

(b) It noted the interest of many experts in new interspecific hybrids (e.g. “plum-cot”) and decided to keep this item for the agenda of the next session.

(c) It confirmed its interest in obtaining more documents in electronic form. It noted that the Office of UPOV planned to set aside an open and restricted area on its homepage for the reproduction of certain documents. States having a web-site were invited to provide the UPOV Office with authorization to establish direct links with them and the UPOV web-site.

(d) It agreed to select the species apple for an inventory on the actually used characteristics for DUS testing in a given species and to ask all member States to submit to the Office of UPOV the list of characteristics they actually used for the testing.

(e) It discussed possibilities on how the UPOV-ROM could be improved and what information could be added. It concluded in that all characteristics of the Technical Questionnaire and chapters 5 and 6, excluding any confidential information, are the most appropriate to be included in the UPOV-ROM.

(f) It noted document TWF/30/6 on the "Identification of Molecular Markers for Peach Variety Distinctness" and document TWF/30/7 on the "Identification of Peach Varieties Using Molecular Markers" and recommended the Chairman of the BMT to include them in the agenda for the next session in 2000.

(g) It noted a new draft for a revision of the General Introduction to the Test Guidelines and proposed numerous changes to the Editorial Committee and chairmen meeting on October 1, 1999.

2. The thirty-first session of the TWF is scheduled to be held in Budapest, Hungary, from June 3 to 7, 2000. At that session, the TWF plans to complete discussions on Test Guidelines for Actinidia (Kiwifruit) (revision) for presentation to the Committee for final adoption. It plans moreover to discuss or rediscuss working papers on Test Guidelines for Apricot (Revision), Avocado, Citrus (Revision), Mango, Passion Fruit, Persimmon, Prickly Pear (*Opuntia*), European Plum (Revision), Quince, Raspberry, Fig, *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; discussion on new multi- and interspecific hybrids, crop inventory, new methods, techniques and equipment in the examination of varieties; testing of rootstock varieties; revision of the General Introduction including complementary documents.

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 (TWO) held its thirty-second session in Pruhonice, near Prague, Czech Republic, from September 13 to 18, 1999, under the chairmanship of Mr. Joost Barendrecht (Netherlands). The full report will be reproduced in document TWO/32/9 Prov. During the session, the TWO completed the Test Guidelines for Gerbera (Revision), Iris, Kangaroo Paw and *Osteospermum* prior to their submission to the Committee for final adoption. It also completed Test Guidelines for *Calluna*, *Guzmania*, *Hippeastrum*, *Zantedeschia*, prior to their submission to the professional organizations for comments. It furthermore discussed or rediscussed working papers on Test Guidelines for Cupressus, *Dendrobium*, *Eustoma*, Waxflower, Lavandula, and Thyme. In addition to the discussions on Test Guidelines, the TWO also discussed the following topics:

(a) It noted the reports on Image Analysis, and on FLORES™ Image Data Base for Ornamentals and will await reports on the standardization of submitting image information and trial to be continued on bilateral agreement basis.

(b) It discussed the testing of seed-propagated varieties of ornamental species and noted that the key problem was the difference concerning uniformity in case of seed propagation and in case of vegetative (clone) propagation.

(c) It noted the special cases in new species and decided that a clear definition was necessary on what was considered discovery and what development was needed to grant right for a new variety discovered in the wild.

(d) It discussed document TC/35/15 Prov. for the preparation of a new General Introduction to Test Guidelines and made some proposals for changes of the present text to the Editorial Committee. A number of experts volunteered to submit documents mentioned in the Annex of TC/35/15 Prov. for further discussion during the meetings of the Editorial Committee and the Working Party.

(e) It noted the report made by experts from CIOPORA and discussed the questions of phytoplasma in Poinsettia and Phytoplasm. It will propose to the Technical Committee that in Poinsettia phytoplasma free plant material will be tested in parallel with material with phytoplasma.

4. The thirty-third session of the TWO is scheduled to be held in Budapest, Hungary, from June 26 to 30, 2000. At that session, the TWO plans to complete the Test Guidelines for *Calluna*, *Guzmania*, *Hippeastrum*, *Zantedeschia* for submission to the Committee for final adoption. It will also discuss or rediscuss Test Guidelines for *Bracteantha*, *Celosia*, *Chrysanthemum* (Revision), *Clematis*, *Cupressus*, *Dendrobium*, *Eucalyptus gunnii*, *Eustoma*, *Impatiens*, *Lavandula*, *Leptospermum*, *Nerium*, *Ornamental Apple* (Revision), *Pentas*, *Petunia*, *Poinsettia* (Revision), *Tagetes*, *Thyme*, *Waxflower*. 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 including complementary documents.

5. *The Council is invited to note and approve the above information and the program of the Technical Working Parties.*

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