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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

GENEVA

COUNCIL

Twenty - third Ordinary Session
Geneva, October 17 to 18, 1989SECOND ADDENDUM TO THE
REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF WORK OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
AND THE TECHNICAL WORKING PARTIES,
REPORT ON THE WORKSHOPS ON VARIETY EXAMINATION HELD IN 1989prepared by the Office of the Union

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

1. The Technical Committee (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") held its twenty-fifth session on October 5 and 6, 1989, under the chairmanship of Dr. J.K. Doodson (United Kingdom). The detailed report on the session will appear in document TC/XXV/11. 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:

- TG/40/6 - Black Currant (Revision)
- TG/77/6 - Gerbera (Revision)
- TG/121/3 - Triticale
- TG/122/3 - Sorghum
- TG/123/3 - Banana
- TG/124/3 - Chestnut
- TG/125/3 - Walnut
- TG/129/3 - Protea.

Progress Reports and Questions Submitted to the Technical Committee by the 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.

Interactive Access to International Data

4. The Committee discussed the question of access to data held by the Offices of member States by authorities of other member States responsible for plant variety protection and testing. It noted the possible advantages but also saw the difficulties and risks involved, especially with respect to the access to technical data. The Committee will ask the Administrative and Legal Committee for its views on this matter. To facilitate implementation, the discussions might first concentrate on the access to data already published in the individual member States, namely information from the official gazettes, the lists of varieties under test and the descriptions of protected varieties.

Testing of Homogeneity in Self-Fertilized Plants

5. The Committee approved a document containing tables for different acceptance probabilities and population standards prepared by the Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs with the aim of facilitating the task of the Technical Working Parties in choosing the most appropriate levels for the testing of homogeneity for each species when establishing Test Guidelines.

Adoption of the Combined Over-Years Analysis

6. The Committee definitively approved a proposal that for grasses the present method of testing distinctness be replaced by the COY-analysis, including the Modified Joint Regression Analysis (MJRA) option, using a 1% significance level after two years of tests and the same significance level after three years of tests. To avoid a too dramatic change for some member States, a transitional period of three years was foreseen during which these States may apply the 5% rather than the 1% significance level.

7. The Committee further recommended to the Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops and the Technical Working Party for Vegetables that the COY-analysis be applied wherever possible to measured characteristics of agricultural and vegetable species.

Study of the Combined Over-Years Uniformity (COU) Criterion

8. The Committee encouraged the Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs to continue its study on the possible replacement of the present homogeneity criterion for cross-fertilized plants by the combined over-years uniformity criterion.

Testing of Bremia Lactucae in Lettuce

9. The Committee approved the transmission of a paper on the testing of Bremia lactucae in lettuce to the professional organizations for comments.

Cooperation with Breeders in the Testing of Varieties

10. The Committee noted the information on cooperation with breeders in the testing of varieties. It agreed that with the increase of the list of species for which varieties are eligible for protection, more centralized testing and more bilateral distribution of testing tasks was necessary, but that also deeper involvement of breeders in the growing tests was necessary. This could be especially helpful in smaller species with few applications.

States of Expression in Test Guidelines

11. The Committee agreed on appropriate treatment for several examples of cases of expressions arising frequently in certain Test Guidelines. These examples are intended to guide experts in the Technical Working Parties when revising or drafting Test Guidelines.

Revision of Several UPOV Forms

12. The Committee approved changes proposed to several Model Forms and asked the Office of UPOV to publish the following revised forms:

- (i) UPOV Report on Technical Examination
- (ii) UPOV Variety Description Form
- (iii) UPOV Interim Report on Technical Examination
- (iv) UPOV Request for Examination Results and Answer to the Above Request.

Proposal for a New Chairman for the Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops

13. The Committee agreed to propose to the Council that it elect Dr. M. Camlin (United Kingdom) as Chairman of the Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops to replace Mr. D. Feeley, Ireland, who has been transferred within his Ministry to other tasks and thus would no longer be able to attend and chair sessions of the Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops.

Proposal for a New Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Technical Committee

14. The Committee agreed to propose to the Council that it elect Dr. G. Fuchs (Federal Republic of Germany) as the new Chairman and Miss J. Rasmussen (Denmark) as the new Vice-Chairman of the Technical Committee for the coming three years.

New Methods, Techniques and Equipment in the Examination of Varieties

15. The Committee noted the information on new methods, techniques and equipment supplied for the session as well as during the different workshops on variety examination. It was of the view that a special session was needed to discuss all details and possible consequences.

Minimum Distances Between Varieties and Definition and Examination of Hybrid Varieties

16. The Committee noted the reports on the last workshops held on the examination of selected species as well as on new methods. As already mentioned in the preceding paragraph, it finally decided to recommend the convening of a separate session to discuss this question in view of its implications for the revision of the UPOV Convention, the introduction of dependency and the emerging importance of genotype as a main determinant of the definition of a variety. Such a special session could take place in the spring of 1990, immediately before the session of the Administrative and Legal Committee and could partly comprise a joint session with that Committee.

Program for the Next Autumn Session of the Committee

17. The following business is planned for the next autumn session of the Committee: to hear progress reports on the work of the Technical Working Parties; to hear a report on the stage of preparation of 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 of the spring session on new methods, techniques and equipment in the examination of varieties, on minimum distances between varieties and on the definition and examination of varieties.

18. The Council is invited to note and approve the above information and the program of the Committee, especially the adoption of revised Model Forms (paragraph 12) and the session of the Committee planned for the spring of 1990, partly as a joint session with the Administrative and Legal Committee (paragraph 16).

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