



TC/40/8

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: December 22, 2003

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS
GENEVA

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Fortieth Session
Geneva, March 29 to 31, 2004

PREPARATORY WORKSHOPS

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

1. At its thirty-eighth session, held in Geneva from April 15 to 17, 2002, the Technical Committee (TC) agreed, on the basis of document TC/38/12, to the holding of a preparatory workshop before each Technical Working Party (TWP) meeting, with the aim of helping some of the delegates to participate more actively at the meeting. At its thirty-ninth session held in Geneva from April 7 to 9, 2003, the TC noted that the preparatory workshops which took place in 2002 had proved useful and agreed that preparatory workshops should be organized in conjunction with the TWP meetings to be held in 2003. The purpose of this document is to provide a report on the preparatory workshops held in 2003 and explain proposals for 2004.

Abbreviations: Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops (TWA)
Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs (TWC)
Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops (TWF)
Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees (TWO)
Technical Working Party for Vegetables (TWV)
Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques, and
DNA-Profiling in Particular (BMT)

Report on the Preparatory Workshops held in 2003

2. The preparatory workshops were organized in a similar way for each TWP and covered the following items, including an item on the UPOV Website which was a suggestion made by some participants in 2002:

1. Introduction to the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)
2. Introduction to the UPOV TWPs
3. Overview of the General Introduction and TGP documents
4. Introduction to UPOV Test Guidelines (TGs)
 - (a) Procedure for development and approval of TGs
 - (b) Basic features of TGs including, in particular:
 - (i) standard wording;
 - (ii) example varieties.
5. The UPOV Website
6. Agenda for the TWP meeting
7. Feedback from participants

3. The table below summarizes the participation in the preparatory workshops during 2003.

| | Number of Participants | | Comprising (2003) |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| | 2002 | 2003 | |
| Members of the Union | 35 (15 countries) | 55 (23 countries) | Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom |
| Observer States / Authorities | 1 | 10 (9 States / Authorities) | Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mauritius, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam, Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) |
| Observer Organizations | 8 | 3 | International Community of Breeders of Asexually Reproduced Ornamental and Fruit-Tree Varieties (CIOPORA), International Seed Federation (ISF) |

4. It should be noted in relation to the figures in the table that, in 2002, preparatory workshops were not organized for the TWC and the BMT. In 2003, preparatory workshops were held in association with all TWPs and the BMT. With regard to participation at individual preparatory workshops, the numbers of participants were as follows:

| | | |
|--------------------|----|--------------|
| TWA (Japan): | 11 | participants |
| TWC (Denmark): | 12 | “ |
| TWF (Canada): | 4 | “ |
| TWO (Canada): | 11 | “ |
| TWV (Netherlands): | 9 | “ |
| BMT (Japan): | 21 | “ |

Future program

5. It is proposed that preparatory workshops be held in association with all TWP meetings in 2004, with the following draft agenda:

1. Introduction to UPOV [*if first-time participants*]
2. Introduction to the UPOV TWPs [*if first-time participants*]
3. Overview of the General Introduction and TGP documents
4. Test Guidelines
 - (a) Introduction
 - (b) Guidance on drafting characteristics
5. The UPOV Website
6. Agenda for the TWP meeting
7. Feedback from participants

6. The TC is invited to comment on the report of the preparatory workshops held in 2003 and on the proposals for the proposed program for 2004.

[End of document]