



TC/41/10

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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS
GENEVA

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Forty-First Session
Geneva, April 4 to 6, 2005

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 fortieth session, held in Geneva from March 29 to 31, 2004, the TC agreed to the program for 2004, as set out in document TC/40/8. The purpose of this document is to provide a report on the preparatory workshops held in 2004 and set out the proposals for 2005.

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 2004

2. The preparatory workshops were held on the day preceding the first day of the TWP and were organized in a similar way for each TWP, covering the following items:

1. Introduction to the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) *[if first-time participants]*
2. Introduction to the UPOV Technical Working Parties *[if first-time participants]*
3. Overview of the General Introduction (document TG/1/3 and TGP documents)
4. Test Guidelines (document TGP/7)
 - (a) Introduction
 - (b) Guidance on drafting characteristics
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 2004.

	Number of Participants			Comprising (2004)
	2002	2003	2004	
Members of the Union	35 (15 countries)	55 (23 countries)	69 (20 countries)	Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Ukraine
Observer States / Authorities	1	10 (9 States / Authorities)	2 (1 State)	Albania
Observer Organizations	8	3	2	International Seed Federation (ISF), International Tropical Fruits Network (TFNet)

4. With regard to participation at individual preparatory workshops, the numbers of participants were as follows:

TWA (Poland):	45 participants
TWC (Japan):	5 “
TWF (Germany):	7 “
TWO (Germany):	11 “
TWV (Republic of Korea):	6 “
BMT	no meeting

5. To coincide with the TWC, held in Japan, a workshop on data handling was held in Beijing, China, from June 9 to 11, 2004, in cooperation with the State Forestry Administration of China, the Ministry of Agriculture of China and the State Intellectual Property Office of China and with the financial assistance of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan. Lecturers for that workshop were provided by Denmark, Germany, Japan and the United Kingdom. Participants were from China (30), Japan (1), Kenya (1), Mongolia (1), Singapore (2) and Viet Nam (3). The papers from the meeting have been posted on the UPOV website in an unrestricted area (http://www.upov.int/en/publications/workshop_on_data_handling.htm)

6. In conjunction with the TWV, held in the Republic of Korea, a national technical workshop was organized on the day before the preparatory workshop. Lecturers for the national technical workshop were provided by France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom and it was attended by some 80 participants from the Republic of Korea.

Future program

7. It is proposed that preparatory workshops be held in association with all TWP meetings in 2005, based on 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 [*not for BMT*]
 - (a) Introduction
 - (b) Guidance on drafting characteristics
5. The UPOV website
6. Agenda for the TWP meeting
7. Feedback from participants

8. To coincide with the TWC meeting to be held from June 13 to 16, 2005, in Ottawa, Canada, and the BMT meeting to be held from June 21 to 23, 2005, in Washington, D.C., United States of America, a seminar on UPOV plant variety protection and the use of molecular techniques, to be held in Ottawa, Canada, is being organized by the Plant Breeder's Rights Office of Canada. In the case of the TWF session, to be held from September 5 to 9, 2005, in Kôfu, Japan, the TWO session to be held from September 12 to 16, 2005, in Seoul, Republic of Korea, and the TWV session to be held from June 6 to 10, 2005, in Nitra, Slovakia, it is anticipated that the preparatory workshop may be expanded into a full-day workshop. The morning session would be a general introduction to UPOV and the DUS examination. The afternoon session would be an introduction to the UPOV Technical Working Parties and the drafting of Test Guidelines. The TWP experts could decide whether to attend the whole day or just for the normal half day.

9. The TC is invited to comment on the report of the preparatory workshops held in 2004 and on the proposals for the proposed program for 2005.

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