



TC/43/10

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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS
GENEVA

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Forty-Third Session
Geneva, March 26 to 28, 2007

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 forty-second session, held in Geneva, from April 3 to 5, 2006, the TC agreed to the program for 2006, as set out in document TC/42/10. The purpose of this document is to provide a report on the preparatory workshops held in 2006 and set out the proposals for 2007.

2. The following abbreviations are used in this document:

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

Report on the Preparatory Workshops and associated activities held in 2006

3. The preparatory workshops were in general 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)
 - including a summary of the key findings of the “UPOV Report on the Impact of Plant Variety Protection”
2. Introduction to the UPOV Technical Working Parties
3. Overview of the General Introduction (document TG/1/3 and TGP documents)
4. Guidance on drafting Test Guidelines (document TGP/7)
 - (a) Introduction
 - (b) Guidance on drafting characteristics
 - (c) Asterisked, grouping and TQ characteristics
 - (d) Example varieties

[Guidance on drafting Test Guidelines replaced by:

TWC - UPOV databases;

BMT - Situation in UPOV concerning the possible use of molecular markers in DUS examination.]

5. The UPOV website
 6. Agenda for the TWP meeting
 7. Feedback from participants
4. In the case of the TWA, TWC, TWF and TWO, the preparatory workshop took the form of a half-day event.
5. In the case of the TWO, immediately prior to the preparatory workshop and the TWO session, a “Workshop on the Use of Molecular Techniques in Plant Variety Protection for Vegetatively Propagated Perennial Crops” was organized by the National Service for Plant Variety Protection, Intellectual Property Department, Secretariat of Rural Development and Cooperativism, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply, Brazil, in cooperation with UPOV.
6. The preparatory workshop for the TWV was extended to a whole day and was used to provide more information concerning characteristics and arrangements and organization of DUS testing.
7. In the case of the BMT, the preparatory workshop was extended to a whole day in conjunction with a technical workshop, a key feature of which was presentations by UPOV members on experiences and outlooks on the use of molecular techniques in plant variety

protection. On the day following the BMT, a “Symposium on the Application of Molecular Techniques for Plant Breeding and in Plant Variety Protection” was organized jointly by the Korean Society for Seed Science and Industry (KOSID) and the National Seed Management Office (NSMO), Republic of Korea, in cooperation with UPOV.

8. The table below summarizes the participation in the preparatory workshops from 2002 to 2006. The participants include experts who made presentations at the preparatory workshop.

	Participants				
	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Members of the Union	35 (15 members)	55 (23 members)	69 (20 members)	130 (25 members)	136 (19 members)
Observer States / Authorities	1 (1 State)	10 (9 States / Authorities)	2 (1 State)	3 (3 States)	-
Observer Organizations (Orgs)	8	3	2	5 (3 Orgs)	2 (2 Orgs*)

* International Seed Federation (ISF),
International Seed Testing Association (ISTA)

9. With regard to the individual preparatory workshops held in 2006, the numbers of participants were as follows:

TWA (China):	23 participants
TWC (Kenya):	11 “
TWF (Brazil):	12 “
TWO (Brazil):	16 “
TWV (Mexico):	48 “
BMT (Republic of Korea)	28 “

Program for the Preparatory Workshops in 2007

10. It is proposed that preparatory workshops will be held in association with all TWP meetings in 2007, based on the same items as in 2006 (see paragraph 3). With regard to item 4 “Guidance on drafting Test Guidelines”, it is proposed that an explanation of the procedure for preparing Test Guidelines for consideration by the TWPs and by the TC be included, because that procedure is not always clear for new drafters (see also document TC/43/3, paragraph 13).

Activities planned in association with the Preparatory Workshops in 2007

11. To coincide with the forty-first session of the TWV, to be held in Nairobi from June 11 to 15, 2007, and the preparatory workshop on June 10, it is planned to hold a regional seminar on plant variety protection under the UPOV Convention on June 5, and a workshop on DUS examination and data management, from June 6 to 8, 2007. The seminar and workshop will be organized by UPOV, in cooperation with the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services (KEPHIS), with financial support from the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

12. The TC is invited to note the report of the preparatory workshops held in 2006 and the proposals for the proposed program for 2007 and to comment if appropriate.

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