



TC/44/10

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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS
GENEVA

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Forty-Fourth Session
Geneva, April 7 to 9, 2008

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-third session, held in Geneva, from March 26 to 28, 2007, the TC agreed to the program for 2007, as set out in document TC/43/10. The purpose of this document is to provide a report on the preparatory workshops held in 2007 and set out the proposals for 2008.

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 2007

3. The preparatory workshops were in general held on the day preceding the first day of the TWP session 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)
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 Technical Questionnaire characteristics
 - (d) Method of observation (V/M; G/S)
 - (e) Example varieties
 - (f) The process for developing Test Guidelines

[For the TWC, “Guidance on drafting Test Guidelines” was replaced by “UPOV databases”]

5. The UPOV website
6. Agenda for the TWP meeting
7. Feedback from participants

4. In the case of the TWA, TWC, TWO and TWV, the preparatory workshop took the form of a half-day event.

5. In the case of the thirty-eighth session of the TWF, held in Jeju, Republic of Korea, the preparatory workshop was extended to a whole day in conjunction with a technical workshop on “Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS) according to DUS Principles”, a key feature of which was presentations by UPOV members on “National and regional procedures for DUS testing of fruit varieties”.

6. The table below summarizes the participation in the preparatory workshops from 2002 to 2007. The participants include experts who made presentations at the preparatory workshop.

	Participation					
	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Members of the Union						
number of participants / (number of members of the Union)	35 (15)	55 (23)	69 (20)	130 (25)	136 (19)	167 (22)
Observer States / Authorities						
number of participants / (number of States / Authorities)	1 (1)	10 (9)	2 (1)	3 (3)	-	3 (1)
Observer Organizations						
number of participants / (number of Organizations)	8	3	2	5 (3)	2 (2)	4 (2*)

* International Community of Breeders of Asexually Reproduced Ornamental and Fruit-Tree Varieties (CIOPORA);
International Seed Federation (ISF)

7. With regard to the individual preparatory workshops held in 2007, the numbers of participants were as follows:

TWA (Hungary):	26 participants
TWC (Romania):	13 “
TWF (Republic of Korea):	36 “
TWO (China):	79 “
TWV (Kenya):	20 “

Program for the Preparatory Workshops in 2008

8. It is proposed that preparatory workshops will be held in association with all TWP meetings in 2008, based on the same items as in 2007 (see paragraph 3).

9. A specific program will be developed for the preparatory workshop for the eleventh session of the BMT, to be held in Madrid, Spain, from September 16 to 18, 2008. That program will, in particular, include information on the following:

- (a) the situation in UPOV concerning the possible use of molecular markers in DUS examination;
- (b) possible use of molecular tools for variety identification in relation to the enforcement of plant breeders' rights, technical verification and the consideration of essential derivation; and
- (c) UPOV Guidelines for molecular marker selection and database construction (BMT Guidelines).

Activities planned in association with the TWPs / Preparatory Workshops in 2008

10. To coincide with the twenty-sixth session of the TWC, to be held in Jeju, Republic of Korea, from September 2 to 5, 2008, it is planned to hold a workshop on data handling in the preceding week.

11. The TC is invited to note the report of the preparatory workshops held in 2007 and the proposals for the proposed program for 2008 and to comment if appropriate.

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