



TC/45/10

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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS
GENEVA

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Forty-Fifth Session
Geneva, March 30 to April 1, 2009

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-fourth session, held in Geneva from April 7 to 9, 2008, the TC agreed to the program for 2008, as set out in document TC/44/10. The purpose of this document is to provide a report on the preparatory workshops held in 2008 and set out the proposals for 2009.

2. The following abbreviations are used in this document:

TC:	Technical Committee
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 2008

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) Example varieties
 - (e) The process for developing Test Guidelines
5. The UPOV website
6. Agenda for the TWP meeting
7. Feedback from participants

[For the BMT, items 2 to 4 were replaced by the following:

2. *The situation in UPOV concerning the possible use of molecular markers in DUS examination*
3. *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*
4. *UPOV Guidelines for molecular marker selection and database construction(BMT Guidelines)]*

4. The preparatory workshops took the form of a half-day event.

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

6. The table below summarizes the participation in the preparatory workshops from 2002 to 2008. 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>	<u>2008</u>
<i>Members of the Union</i>							
number of participants / (number of members of the Union)	35 (15)	55 (23)	69 (20)	130 (25)	136 (19)	167 (22)	162 (31)
<i>Observer States / Authorities</i>							
number of participants / (number of States / Authorities)	1 (1)	10 (9)	2 (1)	3 (3)	-	3 (1)	3 (2)
<i>Observer Organizations</i>							
number of participants / (number of Organizations)	8	3	2	5 (3)	2 (2)	4 (2)	25 (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 2008, the numbers of participants were as follows:

TWA (South Africa):	21 participants
TWC (Republic of Korea):	9 “
TWF (Portugal):	19 “
TWO (Netherlands):	41 “
TWV (Poland):	33 “
BMT (Spain):	67 “

Program for the Preparatory Workshops in 2009

8. It is proposed that preparatory workshops will be held in association with all TWP meetings in 2009, based on the following program:

1. Introduction to UPOV
2. Introduction to the UPOV Technical Working Parties (TWPs)
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) Method of observation (V/M; G/S)
 - (d) Asterisked, grouping and TQ characteristics
 - (e) Example varieties
 - (f) The process of developing UPOV Test Guidelines

[For the TWC, item 4 will be replaced by an item on Exchangeable Software]

5. UPOV databases
6. The UPOV website
7. Agenda for the TWP Session
8. Feedback from participants

Activities planned in association with the TWPs / Preparatory Workshops in 2009

9. To coincide with the thirty-eighth session of the TWA, to be held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from August 31 to September 4, 2009, it is planned to hold a national symposium on plant variety protection.

10. The TC is invited to note the report of the preparatory workshops held in 2008 and the proposals for the proposed program for 2009 and to comment if appropriate.

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