



TC/46/10

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: February 11, 2010

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS
GENEVA

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Forty-Sixth Session
Geneva, March 22 to 24, 2010

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-fifth session, held in Geneva from March 30 to April 1, 2009, the TC agreed to the program for 2009, as set out in document TC/45/10. The Office of the Union also explained that there was flexibility in the program for the preparatory workshops in order to respond to the interests of the participants, including in particular the local participants (see document TC/45/16 “Report”, paragraph 174).

2. The purpose of this document is to provide a report on the preparatory workshops held in 2009 and set out the proposals for 2010.

3. 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 2009

4. 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 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 was replaced by an item on Exchangeable Software]

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

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

6. An international symposium on the “Impact of Plant Variety Protection” was held in conjunction with the thirty-eighth session of the TWA, held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from August 31 to September 4, 2009.

7. The table below summarizes the participation in the preparatory workshops from 2002 to 2009. 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>	<u>2009</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)	95 (21)
<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)	3 (2*)

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

8. With regard to the individual preparatory workshops held in 2009, the numbers of participants were as follows:

TWA (Republic of Korea):	34
TWC (United States of America):	12
TWF (France):	9
TWO (European Union):	26
TWV (China):	17
BMT	no meeting

Program for the Preparatory Workshops in 2010

9. It is proposed that preparatory workshops will be held in association with all TWP sessions in 2010, based on the following program:

1. Introduction to the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)
2. Role of 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) Selection of characteristics
 - (b) Guidance on drafting characteristics
 - (i) States of expression, notes and DUS
 - (ii) Method of observation (V/M; G/S)
 - (iii) Asterisked, grouping and TQ characteristics
 - (iv) Example varieties
 - (c) The process of developing UPOV Test Guidelines
5. UPOV databases (UPOV-ROM Plant Variety Database; GENIE database)
6. The UPOV website
7. Agenda for the TWP Session
8. Feedback from participants

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

10. The following program is proposed for the preparatory workshop to be held in association with the twelfth session of the BMT:

1. Introduction to UPOV
2. Overview of the Technical Working Parties (TWPs)
3. Guidance for DUS Examination
4. Role of the TWPs and BMT
5. Situation in UPOV Concerning the Possible Use of Molecular Techniques in the DUS Examination
6. The Concept of Essentially Derived Varieties
7. The Role of UPOV in Variety Identification
8. The UPOV Website
9. Agenda for the BMT Session
10. Feedback from participants

11. The TC is invited to note the report of the preparatory workshops held in 2009 and to consider the proposed program for 2010.

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