

Experiences of Members of the Union in Measures to
Improve the Efficiency and Effectiveness of DUS Testing

Example Varieties

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Example varieties

Test Guidelines include list of characteristics, states of expression, example varieties and other information useful to describe varieties.

Example varieties are an important element for harmonization of descriptions:

- to define precisely a state/note,
- to compare descriptions at international level,
- to help new examiners in the knowledge of new species.

Qualities for a set of example varieties

- well known material freely and easily accessible,
- covering the full range of species variability,
- expression must not change significantly with environment, (low interaction variety x environment).

Expansion of UPOV membership modifies the approach to define example varieties

Throughout the world,

- range of variation of a characteristic interferes with agroclimatic conditions,

- depending on the geographic areas, parts of the variability is ignored, not grown, unknown ...

Examples: Radish, Black radish, Dikon types ...

- availability of material limited due to phytosanitary requirements,

➤ **More and more difficulties to determine a common set of example varieties: partial set, only proposal from the leading experts, no or few efforts to check adequation....**

How to improve the situation for example varieties

Check if example varieties are necessary for each characteristic :

➤ **.QL, PQ : no need,**

UPOV recommends to use illustrations, drawings, digital pictures, colour chart
Explanations of Chap. 8 of guidelines,
TGP/14 Glossary of terms used in guidelines.

➤ **. QN, PQ : impossible or very difficult,**

Refer to regional sets of example varieties.

How to improve the situation for example varieties

Refer to regional sets of example varieties :

- register in the Test Guidelines sets of example varieties with their adaptation to specific agroclimatic conditions, each member choosing the most relevant one,
- Or allow each member or group of members to develop their own set.

How to improve the situation for example varieties

TWA agreed to improve the situation and to consider that regional sets of example varieties would be appropriate,

TWV agreed that example varieties would be useful:

i) to establish a range of expression for characteristics where they have not enough experience,

ii) for inclusion in TQ to give guidance to applicants

How to improve the situation for example varieties

TWO has experience on how to develop intra-nationally set of example varieties (Petunia TWO/37/8), low interaction variety x environment, calibration books ...

TWF recommends that subgroups adopt regional sets of example varieties, (North East Asia / Rice).