

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

Grouping characteristics

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Grouping characteristics

- Necessary to examine distinctness in relation to all varieties of common knowledge
- Challenge: high number of varieties of common knowledge
- Process to reduce the number of varieties of common knowledge to be included in the growing trial
 - 1. Making an inventory
 - 2. Establishment of a collection
 - **3. Selecting varieties from the variety collection for the growing trial**

Grouping characteristics

- One possible tool: Identification of *groups of varieties* within a variety collection.
- Grouping on the basis of characteristics

Grouping characteristics

- Function
- **General introduction chapter 4.8 distinguishes 2 functions:**

Characteristics in which the documented states of expression, even where **recorded at different locations**, can be used either individually or in combination with other such characteristics,

 1. to select varieties of common knowledge that can be excluded from the growing trial used for examination of distinctness;
 2. to organize the growing trial so that similar varieties are grouped together.

Grouping characteristics

- Criteria for the selection
- **General introduction chapter 4.8:**
 1. (a) Qualitative characteristics or
(b) Quantitative or pseudo-qualitative characteristics which provide useful discrimination between the varieties of common knowledge from documented states of expression **recorded at different locations.**
 2. Must be useful for functions 1 and 2.
 3. Should be an asterisked characteristic and/or included in the Technical Questionnaire or application form.

Grouping characteristics

- UPOV Test Guidelines identify grouping characteristics in Chapter 5
- Problem: frequently not sufficient in order to reduce the number of varieties in the growing trial
- Solution: further grouping characteristics ?
- Question: should that list be considered as a basic list or an exhaustive list
- TGP 9:
 - grouping on the basis of other characteristics in the UPOV Test Guideline
 - Grouping on the basis of other characteristics

Grouping characteristics

Reminder:

Any exclusion of a variety of common knowledge from the growing trial implies a decision on distinctness

Any set up of an individual list of grouping characteristics different from the list as mentioned in Chapter 5 by individual authorities creates a different basis for the decision on distinctness