



TC/48/10

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**INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS**

Geneva

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE****Forty-Eighth Session  
Geneva, March 26 to 28, 2012**

## 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-seventh session, held in Geneva from April 4 to 6, 2011, the TC noted the report of the preparatory workshops held in 2010 and agreed the proposed program for 2011. It agreed that consideration should be given to the inclusion of items for molecular techniques, essentially derived varieties, variety identification and the relationship between the UPOV Convention and other international treaties (see document TC/47/26 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 93).
2. The purpose of this document is to provide a report on the preparatory workshops held in 2011 and set out proposals for 2012.
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 2011*

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. Overview of the General Introduction (document TG/1/3 and TGP documents)
3. Guidance on drafting Test Guidelines (document TGP/7)
  - (a) Selection of characteristics
  - (b) Guidance on drafting characteristics
    - (i) Types of expression (QL, QN, PQ), notes and distinctness
    - (ii) Method of observation (V/M; G/S)
    - (iii) Asterisked, grouping and TQ characteristics
    - (iv) Example varieties
  - (c) The process for developing UPOV Test Guidelines

*[For the TWC, item 3 was replaced by an item on Exchangeable Software]*

4. UPOV databases (Plant Variety Database; GENIE database)
5. The UPOV website
6. Role of UPOV Technical Working Parties (TWPs)
7. Agenda for the TWP Session
8. Feedback from participants

5. The preparatory Workshop for the BMT covered the following items:

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

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

7. The table below summarizes the participation in the preparatory workshops from 2003 to 2011. The participants include experts who made presentations at the preparatory workshop.

	Participation								
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<i>Members of the Union</i>									
number of participants / (number of members of the Union)	55 (23)	69 (20)	130 (25)	136 (19)	167 (22)	162 (31)	95 (21)	117 (25)	115 (24)
<i>Observer States / Authorities</i>									
number of participants / (number of States / Authorities)	10 (9)	2 (1)	3 (3)	-	3 (1)	3 (2)	-	-	15 (6)
<i>Observer Organizations</i>									
number of participants / (number of Organizations)	3	2	5 (3)	2 (2)	4 (2)	25 (2)	3 (2*)	10 (2*)	5 (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 2011, the numbers of participants were as follows:

TWA (Brazil):	26
TWC (Geneva):	13
TWF (Japan):	24
TWO (Japan):	34
TWV (United States of America):	14
BMT (Brazil):	24

*Program for the Preparatory Workshops in 2012*

9. It is proposed that preparatory workshops will be held in association with all TWP sessions in 2012, based on the same program as set out in paragraph 4.

*10. The TC is invited to note the report of the preparatory workshops held in 2011 and to consider the proposed program for 2012.*

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