



TC/49/10

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: February 26, 2013

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

Geneva

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**Forty-Ninth Session
Geneva, March 18 to 20, 2013**

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-eight session, held in Geneva from March 26 to 28, 2012, the TC noted the report of the preparatory workshops held in 2011 and the high level of participation by observer States. It approved the proposed program for 2012, as set out in document TC/48/10 (see document TC/48/22 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 134 to 136).
2. The purpose of this document is to provide a report on the preparatory workshops held in 2012 and set out proposals for 2013.
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 2012

4. The preparatory workshops were 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. Situation in UPOV Concerning the Possible Use of Molecular Techniques in the DUS Examination
5. UPOV databases (Plant Variety Database; GENIE database)
6. The UPOV website
7. Role of UPOV Technical Working Parties (TWPs)
8. Agenda for the TWP Session
9. Feedback from participants

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

6. The table below summarizes the participation in the preparatory workshops from 2003 to 2012. The participants include experts who made presentations at the preparatory workshop.

	Participation									
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<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)	114 (26)
<i>Observer States / Authorities</i>										
number of participants / (number of States / Authorities)	10 (9)	2 (1)	3 (3)	-	3 (1)	3 (2)	-	-	15 (6)	8 (4)
<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*)	2 (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 2012, the numbers of participants were as follows:

TWA (France):	21
TWC (Republic of Moldova):	26
TWF (China):	28
TWO (Republic of Korea):	34
TWV (the Netherlands):	15

Program for the Preparatory Workshops in 2013

8. It is proposed to hold half-day preparatory workshops in association with the sessions of TWA, TWF, TWO and TWV in 2013, according to the following program:

1. Introduction to UPOV and the role of UPOV Technical Working Parties (TWPs)
2. Overview of the General Introduction (document TG/1/3 and TGP documents)
 - Characteristics as the Basis for DUS Examination and Selection of Characteristics.
3. Guidance on drafting Test Guidelines (document TGP/7)
 - (a) Subject of the Test Guidelines, Material Required and Method of Examination;
 - (b) Method of Observation (MS, MG, VS, VG);
 - (c) Types of Expression (QL, PQ, QN), notes and distinctness;
 - (d) Shape and Color Characteristics;
 - (e) Example Varieties;
 - (f) The process for developing UPOV Test Guidelines, including: TG Template; Additional Standard Wording; and Guidance Notes;
4. Agenda for the TWP Session
5. Feedback from participants

Program for the TWC Preparatory Workshop in 2013

9. It is proposed to hold a full day preparatory workshop on June 3 in association with the thirty-first session of the TWC, to be held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on June 4 to 7, 2013, according to the following program:

1. Introduction to UPOV and the role of UPOV Technical Working Parties (TWPs);
2. Overview of DUS trials and Test Guidelines;
 - (a) Method of Observation and type of record (MS, MG, VS, VG);
 - (b) Types of Expression of Characteristics (QL, PQ and QN) and Types of Scales of Data;
3. Methods used for DUS data analysis and development of variety descriptions;
 - (a) Methods of management used in the DUS examination for transformation of observations and measurements into notes for distinctness and for variety descriptions (presentations by experts from Germany, Japan, Republic of Korea and United Kingdom)
 - (b) Method used for DUS trial design and data analysis – overview of GAIA software (presentation by an expert from France)
4. Image analysis
5. The UPOV website
 - (a) Databases (UPOV Code, GENIE, PLUTO, Test Guidelines and UPOV Lex)
 - (b) Other available resources (publications, Members, collection, calendar of meetings)
6. Agenda for the TWP Session
7. Feedback from participants

Survey to seek views on improving the effectiveness of the Preparatory Workshops

10. In conjunction with the survey of participants at the TWP session in 2013 (see document TC/49/3 "Matters arising from the Technical Working Parties") it is proposed to conduct a survey of participants in the preparatory workshop in 2013, with a view to seeking improvements to the effectiveness of the Preparatory Workshops. The proposed survey is provided in the Annex to this document.

11. *The TC is invited to:*

(a) note the report of the preparatory workshops held in 2012;

(b) consider the proposed program for Preparatory Workshops for 2013, as set out in the paragraphs 8 and 9; and

(c) approve the conduct of a survey for the participants of the preparatory workshops, at their sessions in 2013, with a view to improve the effectiveness of the Workshops.

[Annex follows]

PROPOSAL FOR SURVEY OF PARTICIPANTS AT PREPARATORY WORKSHOPS IN 2013

1. Are you representing: a Member of the Union, an Observer State, an observer Intergovernmental Organization (IGO), observer Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)?
2. How many TWP meetings have you attended? [none, 1, 2, less than 5, 5-10, more than 10]
3. How many Preparatory Workshops have you attended? [none, 1, 2, less than 5, 5-10, more than 10]
4. Was the content of the Preparatory Workshop useful for you? [scale from very poor to very good] (Note: comments box will allow detail if required)
5. Were the presentations clear and informative? [scale from very poor to very good] (Note: comments box will allow detail if required)
6. Was the number of practical exercises appropriate? [too few; about right, too many] (Note: comments box will allow detail if required)
7. Was the duration of the practical exercises appropriate? [too short, about right, too long] (Note: comments box will allow detail if required)
8. Did the practical exercises help in your understanding? [scale from not at all to very helpful] (Note: comments box will allow detail if required)
9. Did you receive guidance on the subjects that you wished to cover? [none of the subjects, some of the subjects, all of the subjects] (Note: comments box will allow detail if required)

[End of Annex and of document]