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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

Geneva

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Forty-Ninth Session Geneva, March 18 to 20, 2013

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS AGREED FOR DOCUMENT TGP/7 DEVELOPMENT OF TEST GUIDELINES

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

1. The purpose of this document is to set out proposals for the revision of document TGP/7 "Development of Test Guidelines" (document TGP/7/3) concerning the items agreed by the Technical Committee (TC) at its forty-eighth session, held in Geneva from March 26 to 28, 2012 (see document TC/48/22 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraphs 36 to 48), on the basis of the comments made by the Technical Working Parties (TWPs) at their sessions in 2012.

2. The following abbreviations are used in this document:

CAJ:	Administrative and Legal Committee
TC:	Technical Committee
TC-EDC:	Enlarged Editorial 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
TWPs:	Technical Working Parties
TWV:	Technical Working Party for Vegetables

3. The structure of this document is as follows:

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I. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

4. The TC, at its forty-eighth session held in Geneva from March 26 to 28, 2012, recalled that, at its forty-seventh session, held in Geneva from April 4 to 6, 2011, it had agreed to include the following matters in a future revision of TGP/7 "Development of Test Guidelines":

Coverage of Types of Varieties in Test Guidelines

5. See document TC/47/26 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 54.

Selection of Asterisked Characteristics

6. See document TC/47/26 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 59.

Standard References in the Technical Questionnaire

7. See document TC/47/26 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 68.

Applications for Varieties with Low Germination

8. See documents TC/47/26 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 60 and TC/48/22 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraphs 38 and 39.

Procedure for the Development of Test Guidelines

9. See document TC/48/22 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 48.

II. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Quantity of Plant Material Required

10. The TC, at its forty-eighth session, agreed that the guidance in document TGP/7, GN 7 "Quantity of plant material required" should be extended to encourage Leading Experts to consider the quantity of plant material required in relation to the following factors (see document TC/47/26 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 55):

- (i) Number of plants/ parts of plants to be examined
- (ii) Number of growing cycles
- (iii) Variability within the crop
- (iv) Additional tests (e.g. resistance tests, bolting trials)
- (v) Features of propagation (e.g. cross-pollination, self-pollination, vegetative propagation)
- (vi) Crop type (e.g. root crop, leaf crop, fruit crop, cut flower, cereal, etc.)
- (vii) Storage in variety collection
- (viii) Exchange between testing authorities
- (ix) Seed quality (germination) requirements
- (x) Cultivation system (outdoor/glasshouse)
- (xi) Sowing system
- (xii) Predominant method of observation (e.g. MS, VG)

11. Annex I to this document provides the prepared revised text for Document TGP/7, GN 7.

12. The TC, at its forty-eighth session, agreed that Additional Standard Wording (ASW) should be developed in order to provide guidance in the Test Guidelines on whether the quantity of plant material required in Chapter 2 of the Test Guidelines relates to both growing cycles in the case of Test Guidelines indicating two growing cycles (see document TC/47/26 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 56). Annex II to this document contains the proposed Additional Standard Wording (ASW).

13. The TC further agreed that the guidance in document TGP/7, GN 7 should be extended to encourage Leading Experts to consider the quantity of plant material required for similar crops in order to seek consistency as far as that was appropriate. In that regard, it agreed that a summary of the following information should be prepared by the Office of the Union for all adopted Test Guidelines and made

available to Leading Experts on the TG Drafters' webpage in order that information on Test Guidelines for similar crops could be presented to the Subgroup of Interested Experts by the Leading Expert

- (a) Chapter 2.3 Minimum quantity of plant material to be supplied by the applicant
- (b) Chapter 3.1 Number of growing cycles
- (c) Chapter 3.4.1 Each test should be designed to result in a total of at least X plants
- (d) Chapter 4.1.4 Number of plants / parts of plants to be examined for distinctness
- (e) Chapter 4.2 Number of plants to be examined for uniformity
- (f) Number of plants for special tests (e.g. disease resistance)

(see document TC/48/22 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 57).

5. *The TC is invited to:*

(a) *note the matters on which the TC has reached a conclusion with regard to a future revision of document TGP/7 "Development of Test Guidelines", as set out in paragraphs 4 to 10 of this document;*

(b) *consider the proposed text for GN 7 (TG Template: Chapter 2.3) "Quantity of plant material required", as set out in paragraphs 10 and 11 and in Annex I to this document;*

(c) *consider the proposed Additional Standard Wording (ASW) for Chapter 2.3 "Minimum Quantity of Plant Material", as set out in paragraph 12 and Annex II to this document; and*

(d) *note that a summary of information on adopted Test Guidelines will be prepared by the Office of the Union for presentation to the Subgroups of Interested Experts, as set out in paragraph 13 of this document.*

[Annexes follow]

QUANTITY OF PLANT MATERIAL REQUIRED

[Extract from document TGP/7/3, Annex 3: Guidance Notes (GN) for the TG Template]

“GN 7 (TG Template: Chapter 2.3) – Quantity of plant material required

“The drafter of the Test Guidelines should consider the following factors when determining the quantity of material required:

- “(a) Anticipated level of plant establishment, from submitted plant material, for field trials or other growing tests;
- “(b) Quantity of submitted plant material to be used for non-growing tests (e.g. erucic acid test for Rape seed);
- “(c) Quantity of submitted plant material to be used for quality checks on the submitted plant material (e.g. germination tests for seed);
- “(d) Quantity of submitted plant material to be used for reference samples;
- “(e) Rate of deterioration during storage.

“In general, in the case of *plants* required only for a single growing trial (e.g. no plants required for special tests or variety collections), the number of plants requested in Chapter 2.3 often corresponds to the number of plants specified in Chapters 3.4 “Test Design” and 4.2 “Uniformity”. In that respect, it is recalled the quantity of plant material specified in Chapter 2.3 of the Test Guidelines is the minimum quantity that an authority might request of the applicant. Therefore, each authority may decide to request a larger quantity of plant material, for example to allow for potential losses during establishment (see GN 7 (a)). In relation to the number of plants specified in Chapter 2.3, the number of plants/parts of plant to be examined (Chapter 4.1.4), should at least allow for the possibility of off-type plants within the tolerated number to be excluded from observations.”

PROPOSED REVISED TEXT

“GN 7 (TG Template: Chapter 2.3) – Quantity of plant material required

“The drafter of the Test Guidelines should consider the following factors when determining the quantity of material required:

- (i) Number of plants/ parts of plants to be examined
- (ii) Number of growing cycles
- (iii) Variability within the crop
- (iv) Additional tests (e.g. resistance tests, bolting trials)
- (v) Features of propagation (e.g. cross-pollination, self-pollination, vegetative propagation)
- (vi) Crop type (e.g. root crop, leaf crop, fruit crop, cut flower, cereal, etc.)
- (vii) Storage in variety collection
- (viii) Exchange between testing authorities
- (ix) Seed quality (germination) requirements
- (x) Cultivation system (outdoor/glasshouse)
- (xi) Sowing system
- (xii) Predominant method of observation (e.g. MS, VG)

“In general, in the case of *plants* required only for a single growing trial (e.g. no plants required for special tests or variety collections), the number of plants requested in Chapter 2.3 often corresponds to the number of plants specified in Chapters 3.4 “Test Design” and 4.2 “Uniformity”. In that respect, it is recalled the quantity of plant material specified in Chapter 2.3 of the Test Guidelines is the minimum quantity that an authority might request of the applicant. Therefore, each authority may decide to request a larger quantity of plant material, for example to allow for potential losses during establishment (see GN 7 (a)). In relation to the number of plants specified in Chapter 2.3, the number of plants/parts of plant to be examined (Chapter 4.1.4), should at least allow for the possibility of off-type plants within the tolerated number to be excluded from observations.”

[Annex II follows]

PROPOSED ADDITIONAL STANDARD WORDING (ASW)

Alternative 1:

“2.3 The minimum quantity of plant material, to be supplied by the applicant, should be:

[...]

for each of two growing cycles”

Alternative 2:

“2.3 The minimum quantity of plant material, to be supplied by the applicant, should be:

[...]

, which should be supplied as a single submission”

2. The TWA, at its forty-first session, held in Angers, France, from May 21 to 25, 2012, agreed that it would not be appropriate to seek to develop ASW because the matter concerned arrangements by individual members of the Union (see document TWA/41/34 “Report”, paragraph 14).

3. The TWV, at its forty-sixth session, held near the city of Venlo, Netherlands, from June 11 to 15, 2012, agreed that in the case of vegetables Alternative 2 would be appropriate:

“Alternative 2:

“2.3 The minimum quantity of plant material, to be supplied by the applicant, should be:

[...]

, which should be supplied as a single submission.”

(see document TWV/46/41 “Report”, paragraph 12).

4. The TWF, at its forty-third session and TWO, at its forty-fifth session, agreed that Chapter 2.3 should read:

“The minimum quantity of plant material, to be supplied by the applicant should be: [...].”

(see document TWF/43/38 “Report”, paragraph 9 and TWO/45/37 “Report”, paragraph 9).

[End of Annex II and of document]