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# INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

Geneva

## TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

**Fiftieth Session**  
**Geneva, April 7 to 9, 2014**

REVISION OF DOCUMENT TGP/8: PART I: DUS TRIAL DESIGN AND DATA ANALYSIS,  
 NEW SECTION: MINIMIZING THE VARIATION DUE TO DIFFERENT OBSERVERS

*Document prepared by the Office of the Union*

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1. The purpose of this document is to present a draft of a new section for document TGP/8 Part I: DUS Trial and Design and Data Analysis, on “Minimizing the Variation due to Different Observers”.

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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## BACKGROUND

4. Document TGP/8/1 Draft 7 PART I, paragraph 2.9.1: "Control of variation due to different observers", considered by the Technical Working Parties, at their sessions in 2007, states:

*[If this section is required, TWPs are invited to contribute guidance on the control of variation due to different observers when statistical analysis is not used to determine distinctness and to consider it in relation to paragraph 2.7.2.9.]*

5. The TWC at its twenty-sixth session, held in Jeju, Republic of Korea, from September 2 to September 5, 2008 agreed that Mr. Gerie van der Heijden (Netherlands) would consult his Naktuinbouw colleagues in the Netherlands to see if they could contribute a draft for this section.

6. The TWV at its forty-second session, held in Cracow, Poland, from June 23 to 27, 2008, noted that it had encouraged the development of that section and agreed that it should provide suitable text for aspects which were not adequately covered in document TWC/25/12.

## DEVELOPMENTS IN 2012

Technical Committee

7. The Technical Committee (TC), at its forty-eighth session, held in Geneva from March 26 to 28, 2012, agreed to request the drafter to prepare a new draft of the Section on the basis of the comments made by the TWPs in 2011, as set out in document TC/48/19 Rev., Annex II (see document TC/48/22 "Report on conclusions" paragraph 51).

Technical Working Parties

8. At their sessions in 2012, the TWA, TWV, TWC, TWF and TWO considered documents TWA/41/24, TWV/46/24, TWC/30/24, TWF/43/24 and TWO/45/24, respectively, containing the proposed text as Annex for a new section in TGP/8 Part I: "DUS Trial and Design and Data Analysis", on "Minimizing the Variation due to Different Observers" prepared by Mr. Gerie van der Heijden (Netherlands), and made the following comments:

General	The TWV considered document TWV/46/24 and highlighted the importance of the calibration of the observer (see document TWV/46/41 "Report", paragraph 35).	TWV
	The TWC considered document TWC/30/24 and recommended that it should be sent for consideration by the TC for incorporation into TGP/8 after amendment in the last sentence of Section 6.1 to read "for systematic differences" (see document TWC/30/41 "Report", paragraph 23).	TWC

## DEVELOPMENTS IN 2013

Enlarged Editorial Committee

9. The TC-EDC, at its meeting held in Geneva on January 9 and 10, 2013, considered document TC-EDC/Jan 13/9 "Revision of document TGP/8 Part I: DUS Trial and Design and Data Analysis, New Section: Minimizing the Variation due to Different Observers", and made the following comments:

General remark	document should also cover PQ characteristics (e.g. color, shape etc.)
Title	to read: REVISION OF DOCUMENT TGP/8 PART I: DUS TRIAL DESIGN <del>OF AND</del> DATA ANALYSIS, NEW SECTION: MINIMIZING THE VARIATION DUE TO DIFFERENT OBSERVERS
Annex, paragraph 1	Reference should be made not only to QN/MS but also to QN/MG
Annex, paragraph 1.1	to read "... So, if observer A <del>assesses measures</del> variety 1 and observer B variety 2, the difference <del>observed measured</del> might be caused by differences between observers A and B instead of differences between varieties 1 and 2. Clearly, our main interest lies with the differences between varieties and not with the differences between the observers. ...."

Annex, paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2	to correct numbering
2.1	Last sentence should be deleted
3.1	to read "After training an observer, the next step could be to test the performance of the observers in a calibration experiment. This is especially useful for inexperienced observers who have to make visual observations (QN/VG and QN/VS characteristics). If making <u>visual</u> VG observations, they should preferably pass a calibration test prior to making observations in the trial. But also for experienced observers, it is useful to test themselves on a regular basis to verify if they still fulfill the calibration criteria."
3.3	to be deleted
4.	to read "Testing the calibration for QN/MG or QN/MS characteristics"
4.1	to add a blank line after paragraph

### Technical Committee

10. The Technical Committee (TC), at its forty-ninth session held in Geneva from March 18 to 20, 2013, considered the revision of document TGP/8, Part I "Trial Design and Techniques Used in the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability" on the basis of document TC/49/22: "Revision of document TGP/8: Part I: DUS Trial and Design and Data Analysis, New Section: Minimizing the Variation due to Different Observers".

11. The TC, at its forty-ninth session, agreed to request the expert from the Netherlands to prepare a new draft section on "Minimizing the Variation due to Different Observers" for consideration by the TWPs at their sessions in 2013, on the basis of the comments by the TWPs at their sessions in 2012, and the TC-EDC at its meeting in January 2013 and, in particular, in order to include guidance on PQ and QN/MG characteristics (see document TC/49/41 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 51).

12. In response to the request of the TC, the drafter requested help of experts from the other TWPs in order to develop guidance on PQ and QN/MG characteristics. In that regard, it was recalled that the aim of the section is to provide guidance on the control of variation due to different observers when statistical analysis is not used to determine distinctness (see paragraph 4 of this document).

### Comments by the Technical Working Parties in 2013

13. The TWO, TWF, TWV, TWC and TWA considered documents TWO/46/14, TWF/44/14, TWV/47/14, TWC/31/14 and TWA/42/14, respectively (see document TWO/46/29 "Report", paragraphs 30 to 32, document TWF/44/31 "Report", paragraphs 33 to 35, document TWV/47/34 "Report", paragraphs 33 to 35, document TWC/31/32 "Report", paragraphs 30 to 32, and document TWA/42/31 "Report", paragraphs 33 to 35).

14. The TWO proposed that experts from Australia, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom help to develop further guidance on the proposed text to be included in TGP/8 part I: DUS Trial and Design and Data Analysis, New Section: Minimizing the Variation due to Different Observers, in a future revision of document TGP/8, with regard to guidance on PQ and QN/MG characteristics.

15. The TWO noted, however, the importance of the Test Guidelines in providing clear guidance for DUS examiners and to ensure consistency of observations.

16. The TWF agreed that the variation due to different observers was not relevant in fruit DUS testing as observations were usually made by a single observer, and therefore the TWF considered it unnecessary to provide experts to develop further guidance on the proposed text to be included in TGP/8 part I: DUS Trial and Design and Data Analysis, New Section: Minimizing the Variation due to Different Observers, in a future revision of document TGP/8.

17. The TWF noted, however, the importance of the quality of the Test Guidelines in providing clear guidance for DUS examiners and in ensuring the consistency of observations. In that regard, the TWF recalled the work done previously on the consistency of variety descriptions in strawberry and apple (see document TWF/35/4). The TWF proposed that the expert from New Zealand report at the forty-fifth session, on the work done on the: "Publication of harmonized variety description for apple for an agreed set of varieties", in order to consider if it could be relevant to further develop the study.

18. The TWV proposed that experts from the European Union, France and Netherlands help the drafter to develop further guidance on the proposed text to be included in TGP/8 part I: DUS Trial and Design and Data Analysis, New Section: Minimizing the Variation due to Different Observers, in a future revision of document TGP/8.

19. The TWV and the TWA noted that the expert from the Netherlands would draft, in conjunction with other experts, a proposed text with regard to further guidance on PQ and QN/MG characteristics, to be circulated to the groups of experts of the other interested working parties (TWPs).

20. The TWC noted that the drafter from the Netherlands was no longer participating in the TWC meetings and that it was not possible to indicate another expert(s) from the TWC to continue the work. However, the TWC noted that the TWO and TWV had proposed experts to help to develop further guidance, on the proposed text to be included in TGP/8 Part I: DUS Trial and Design and Data Analysis, New Section: Minimizing the Variation due to Different Observers, in a future revision of document TGP/8, with regard to guidance on PQ and QN/MG characteristics.

21. The TWC noted that the TWF had proposed that an expert from New Zealand would report at its forty-fifth session, on the work done on the "Publication of harmonized variety description for apple for an agreed set of varieties", in order to consider if it could be relevant to further develop the study.

22. The TWA proposed TWA experts from Australia and the Netherlands to assist the drafter to develop further guidance on the proposed text to be included in TGP/8 part I: DUS Trial and Design and Data Analysis, New Section: Minimizing the Variation due to Different Observers, in a future revision of document TGP/8.

23. Mr. Nik Hulse (Australia), with the assistance of experts from the European Union, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom has agreed to draft further guidance to be included in TGP/8 Part I: DUS Trial and Design and Data Analysis, New Section: Minimizing the Variation due to Different Observers, in a future revision of document TGP/8, with regard to guidance on PQ and QN/MG characteristics, for consideration by the TWPs at their sessions in 2014.

24. *The TC is invited to:*

*(a) note that the TWF has requested an expert from New Zealand to report at its session in 2014, on the previous work done on harmonized variety description for apple for an agreed set of varieties, as set out in paragraph 17 of this document; and*

*(b) invite the expert from Australia with the assistance of experts from the European Union, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, to draft further guidance to be included in a future revision of document TGP/8 on minimizing the variation due to different observers, including guidance on PQ and QN/MG characteristics, for consideration by the TWPs at their sessions in 2014.*

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