



TC/51/3

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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

Geneva

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Fifty-First Session Geneva, March 23 to 25, 2015

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE TECHNICAL WORKING PARTIES

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1. This document summarizes matters arising from the 2014 sessions of the Technical Working Parties (TWPs) which are not expressly covered by specific agenda items. The matters arising are presented in two sections. The first section, "Matters for information and for a possible decision to be taken by the Technical Committee (TC)", identifies matters raised by the TWPs, which may require a decision to be taken by the TC. The Office of the Union (Office) has highlighted aspects where the TC may wish to take a decision by introducing a proposed decision paragraph. The second section, "Matters for information", is provided for the information of the TC but does not require decisions at this stage.

2. The structure of this document is as follows:

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3. 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

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND FOR A POSSIBLE DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (TC)

4. There are no matters for a decision by the Technical Committee at its fifty-first session.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

Duration of DUS tests in the fruit sector

5. The TWF, at its forty-fifth session, considered document TWF/45/27 “Use of Disease Resistance Characteristics in DUS Examination” presented by an expert from the European Union in relation to the duration of DUS test in the fruit sector.

6. The TWF received a presentation by an expert from the European Union on a project of the Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) of the European Union on “Reducing the number of obligatory observation periods in DUS testing for candidate varieties in the fruit sector”. A copy of the presentation is reproduced in document TWF/45/27 Add.

7. The TWF agreed that the standard wording currently used in some fruit Test Guidelines with regard to minimum duration period and the number of growing cycles, might be improved in some cases. It therefore requested the leading experts to propose suitable wording for their draft Test Guidelines in 2015 and requested the expert from the European Union to collate the options developed by the leading experts and to seek to develop possible new standard wording options (see document TWF/45/32 “Report”, paragraphs 74 to 76).

Use of disease resistance characteristics in DUS examination

8. The TWV, at its forty-eighth session, received presentations by an expert from the European Union on “the use of disease resistance characteristics in DUS examination”, an expert from the European Seed Association (ESA) on “survey – CPVO vegetable protocols disease resistance” and an expert from Italy on “an overview on resistance tests on vegetable varieties in Italy”, copies of which are reproduced in document TWV/48/27 Add.

9. The TWV agreed on the importance and the value of disease resistance characteristics in UPOV Test Guidelines. It further agreed that particular care should be taken when revising or drafting Test Guidelines for disease resistance characteristics to ensure that a clear and complete method (e.g. availability of the isolate) is provided.

10. The TWV recalled that asterisked characteristics are “characteristics that are important for the international harmonization of variety descriptions” (see document TGP/7, GN 13, as reproduced below), and recalled that the Test Guidelines needed to be agreed by all members of the Union, including the selection of asterisked characteristics.

“GN 13 *Characteristics with specific functions*

“1. *Asterisked characteristics (TG Template: Chapter 7: column 1, header row 2)*

“1.1 The General Introduction (Chapter 4.8: Table: Functional Categories of Characteristics) states that asterisked characteristics are “characteristics that are important for the international harmonization of variety descriptions.” The criteria for selecting a characteristic as an asterisked characteristic are that:

“(a) it must be a characteristic included in the Test Guidelines;

“(b) it should always be examined for DUS and included in the variety description by all members of the Union except when the state of expression of a preceding characteristic or regional environmental conditions render this inappropriate;

“(c) it must be useful for the international harmonization of variety descriptions;

“(d) particular care should be taken before selection of disease resistance characteristics.

“1.2 It should be clarified that criterion (b) is worded to ensure that members of the Union which are not able to examine the characteristic do not use this as a reason to object to the characteristic being agreed as an asterisked characteristic. Thus, any characteristic which satisfies the criteria and, in particular, is useful for the international harmonization of variety descriptions should be selected as an asterisked characteristic, even if it cannot be examined for all varieties or by all members of the Union. The upper limit on the number of asterisked characteristics should, therefore, be determined by the number which are required to provide useful internationally harmonized variety descriptions.”

11. The TWV agreed that it might be appropriate to review document TGP/7 to: (a) introduce a delay before asterisked disease resistance characteristics need to be examined by all members of the Union; and (b) provide guidance on additional uniformity standard for resistant plants in a susceptible variety (see document TWV/48/43 “Report”, paragraphs 85 to 88).

Data loggers

12. The TWC, at its thirty-second session, considered document TWC/32/27 “Updated Survey on Hand-Held Capture Devices” and noted the summary of information provided by TWC participants on the use of data-loggers for data recording in DUS trials provided in Annex I to document TWC/32/27, which would be included in UPOV/INF/22 “Software and equipment used by members of the Union” subject to the adoption by the Council.

13. The TWC received a presentation by an expert from Germany on the use of hand-held data capture devices in DUS tests in Germany, a copy of which is presented in Annex II to document TWC/32/27 (see document TWC/32/28 “Report”, paragraphs 99 to 102).

14. Document TC/51/8 “Exchange and use of software and equipment” presents a proposal for inclusion of information on the use of data-loggers for data recording in DUS trials in document UPOV/INF/22 “Software and equipment used by members of the Union”.

Experiences with new types and species

Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees

15. The TWO, at its forty-seventh session, was informed by an expert from New Zealand that applications had been filed for the protection of new varieties of *Loropetalum* (see document TWO/47/28 “Report”, paragraph 70).

Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops

16. The TWF was informed by the expert from Spain about testing of *Diospyros kaki* (common name: Persimmon), *Punica granatum* (common name: Pomegranate) and *Eriobotrya japonica* (common name: Loquat). The expert from Spain agreed to make a presentation about those species at the TWF session in 2015.

17. The TWF was informed by the expert from Germany about testing of *Lycium barbarum* (common name: Chinese Wolfberry, Goji berry). The expert from Germany agreed to make a presentation about that species at the TWF session in 2015.

18. The TWF was informed by the expert from the European Union about testing of blueberry medium chilling type. The expert from the European Union agreed to make a presentation about that type at the TWF session in 2015.

19. The TWF was informed by the expert from Mexico about testing of *Jatropha curcas* L. The expert from Mexico agreed to make a presentation about that species at the TWF session in 2015.

20. The TWF received a presentation on date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*) from an expert from Oman, as reproduced in Annex IV to document TWF/45/32 "Report" (see document TWF/45/32 "Report", paragraphs 69 to 73).

Technical Working Party for Automation and Computer Programs

21. The TWC, at its thirty-third session, received an oral report by an expert from Brazil on experiences with new types and species in the country on the development of national Test Guidelines for *Centrosema pubescens*, *Galactia striata*, *Calopogonium mucunoides* and *Neonotonia wightii* for which applications for plant variety protection had been filed (see document TWC/32/28 "Report", paragraph 103).

Technical Working Party for Vegetables

22. The TWV was informed by the expert from Spain about the testing of a new cross of Tomato Rootstock (*Solanum pimpinellifolium* x *Solanum habrochaites*). The expert from Spain agreed to make a presentation on that cross at the TWV session in 2015.

23. The TWV was informed by the expert from France about testing of *Stevia rebaudiana*. The expert from France agreed to make a presentation about that species at the TWV session in 2015.

24. The TWV was informed by the expert from the Netherlands about testing of seaweed and true seed potato. The expert from the Netherlands agreed to make a presentation about those at the TWV session in 2015.

25. The TWV was informed by the expert from Japan about testing of Pepino (*Solanum muricatum*) (see document TWV/48/43 "Report", paragraphs 81 to 84).

Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops

26. The TWA, at its forty-third session, received a presentation by electronic means by an expert from New Zealand on experiences with fungal endophytes from the genus *Neotyphodium*. The presentation is included as an annex to document TWA/43/25 "Reports on Developments in Plant Variety Protection from Members and Observers".

27. The TWA noted the different situations with regard to the possibility to protect varieties of fungal endophytes among UPOV members.

28. The TWA agreed to request an expert from the Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) of the European Union to make a presentation on the results of a study to assess the possible effects of endophyte infection in ryegrass and tall fescue on the expression of DUS characteristics in 2016.

29. The TWA received a presentation by an expert from Argentina on experiences with *Cyamopsis tetragonoloba*. The presentation is included as an annex to document TWA/43/25 "Reports on Developments in Plant Variety Protection from Members and Observers" (see document TWA/43/27 "Report", paragraphs 73 to 76).

Management of variety collections for DUS examination

30. The TWF received a presentation by the expert from the European Union on "Management of variety collection for DUS examination" as reproduced in document TWF/45/26 (see document TWF/45/32 "Report", paragraph 65).

31. The TWV noted that an expert from France would give a presentation at its forty-ninth session on "Management of reference collections" (see document TWV/48/43 "Report", paragraph 113).

Use of statistical approaches in DUS examination

32. The TWV received a presentation by an expert from the Netherlands on "the use of statistical approaches in DUS examination" as reproduced in addendum of document TWV/48/26 (see document TWV/48/43 "Report", paragraph 112).

33. *The TC is invited to note developments in the TWPs concerning:*

- (a) Duration of DUS tests in the fruit sector;*
- (b) Use of disease resistance characteristics in DUS examination;*
- (c) Data loggers;*
- (d) Experiences with new types and species;*
- (e) Management of variety collections for DUS examination; and*
- (f) Use of statistical approaches in DUS examination;*

as reported in this document.

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