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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

Geneva

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**Fifty-Second Session
Geneva, March 14 to 16, 2016**

UPOV INFORMATION DATABASES

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this document is to provide an update on developments concerning: the GENIE database; UPOV Codes; and the PLUTO database.
2. The TC is invited to note:
 - (a) the developments concerning UPOV codes, as set out in paragraph 7;
 - (b) that the Office of the Union will prepare tables of UPOV codes additions and amendments, for checking by the relevant authorities, for each of the TWP sessions in 2016, as set out in paragraph 8;
 - (c) the summary of contributions to the PLUTO database from 2012 to 2015 and the current situation of members of the Union on data contribution, as presented in the Annex to this document;
 - (d) the introduction of an additional column showing the latest date on which the information was provided in the PLUTO database;
 - (e) the introduction of a function to search denominations using the data field "Denomination" and "Breeder's Ref", independently or in combination, in the "Denomination Search" page of the PLUTO database;
 - (f) that the CAJ, at its seventy-second session, agreed to expand the mandate and the composition of the WG-DST to form the WG-DEN;
 - (g) that the CAJ, at its seventy-second session, agreed that the WG-DEN should consider proposals for the expansion of the content of the PLUTO database to include all recognized varieties, including those that had not been, or were no longer, registered/protected; and
 - (h) the information concerning the training courses "Contributing data to the PLUTO database", held in Geneva in September and October 2015, as set out in paragraphs 29 to 31.

3. The following abbreviations are used in this document:

CAJ:	Administrative and Legal Committee
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
TWP(s):	Technical Working Party(ies)
TWV:	Technical Working Party for Vegetables
WG-DST:	Working Group for the Development of a UPOV Denomination Similarity Search Tool
WG-DEN:	Working Group on Variety Denominations

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GENIE DATABASE

5. It is recalled that the GENIE database (<http://www.upov.int/genie/en/>) has been developed to provide, for example, online information on the status of protection (see document C/[session]/6), cooperation in examination (see document C/[session]/5), experience in DUS testing (see document TC/[session]/4), and existence of UPOV Test Guidelines (see document TC/[session]/2) for different GENera and specIEs (hence GENIE), and is used to generate the relevant Council and Technical Committee (TC) documents concerning that information. In addition, the GENIE database is the repository of the UPOV codes and also provides information concerning alternative botanical and common names.

UPOV CODE SYSTEM

Guide to the UPOV Code System

6. The “Guide to the UPOV Code System” is available on the UPOV website (see http://www.upov.int/genie/en/pdf/upov_code_system.pdf).

UPOV code developments

7. In 2015, 188 new UPOV codes were created and amendments were made to 11 existing UPOV codes. The total number of UPOV codes in the GENIE database at the end of 2015 was 7,992.

	Year								
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
New UPOV codes	n/a	300 (approx.)	148	114	173	212	209	577	188
Amendments	n/a	30 (approx.)	17	6	12	5	47*	37	11
Total UPOV Codes (at end of year)	6,169	6,346	6,582	6,683	6,851	7,061	7,251	7,808	7,992

* including changes to UPOV codes resulting from the amendment of the "Guide to the UPOV Code System" concerning hybrids (see document TC/49/6).

8. In accordance with the procedure set out in Section 3.3 of the Guide to the UPOV Code System, the Office of the Union will prepare tables of UPOV code additions and amendments, for checking by the relevant authorities, for each of the TWP sessions in 2016.

9. *The TC is invited to note:*

(a) *the developments concerning UPOV codes, as set out in paragraph 7; and*

(b) *that the Office of the Union will prepare tables of UPOV codes additions and amendments, for checking by the relevant authorities, for each of the TWP sessions in 2016, as set out in paragraph 8.*

PLUTO DATABASE

Program for improvements to the PLUTO database ("Program")

10. The CAJ, at its sixty-eighth session, held on October 21, 2013, considered document CAJ/68/6 "UPOV information databases" and approved the amendments to the program for improvements to the PLUTO database ("Program") as set out in document CAJ/68/6, Annex II, subject to certain further amendments agreed at that session (see document CAJ/68/10 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraphs 23 to 26).

11. The program reflecting amendments approved at previous sessions is available in document TC/50/6 "UPOV Information Databases", Annex I.

12. The following paragraphs provide a summary of developments concerning the Program since the fifty-first session of the TC, held in Geneva, from March 23 to 25, 2015.

Provision of assistance to contributors (Program: section 2)

13. The Annex to this document provides a summary of the contributions to the PLUTO database from 2012 to 2015 and the current situation of members of the Union on data contribution.

Information on the latest date of submission by the contributors (Program: section 2)

14. The TC, at its forty-ninth session, noted that, for the short-term, information on the latest date of submission by the contributors was provided by the PLUTO database in the form of a PDF document. However, in the longer term, it was planned that the date of submission would be provided for individual data retrieved from the database (see document TC/49/41 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 93).

15. The TC, at its fifty-first session, noted that an additional column in the PLUTO search screen, showing the date on which the information was provided, would be introduced by the end of March 2015 (see document TC/51/39 "Report", paragraph 187).

16. The additional column showing the latest date on which the information was provided in the PLUTO database was introduced on May 4, 2015.

Search tools

17. Matters concerning the possible development of a similarity search tool for variety denomination purposes are reported in document TC/52/12 "Variety Denominations".

Searching for denominations in the item "Breeder's Ref" on "Denomination Search" page

18. The TC, at its fifty-first session, and the CAJ, at its seventy-first session, held in Geneva on March 26, 2015, agreed that both the fields "Denomination" and "Breeder's Ref" be searchable, independently or in combination, by denomination search tools on the "Denomination Search" page of the PLUTO database (see documents TC/51/39 "Report", paragraph 198 and CAJ/71/12 "Report", paragraph 64).

19. The function to search both the data field "Denomination" and "Breeder's Ref" using the denomination search tools on the Denomination Search page, either individually or in combination, was introduced in the PLUTO database on May 4, 2015.

Content of the PLUTO Database

20. The Working Group for the Development of a UPOV Denomination Similarity Search Tool (WG-DST), at its second meeting, held in Geneva on June 9, 2015, agreed to recommend that consideration be given to avoiding re-use of denominations in all cases. In this regard, the WG-DST agreed to invite the CAJ to consider whether to expand the content of the PLUTO database to include all recognized varieties, including those that had not been, or were no longer, registered/protected (see document UPOV/WG-DST/2/6 "Report", paragraph 30).

Variety data no longer included in the PLUTO database (historical data)

21. The WG-DST, at its third meeting, held in Geneva, on October 2, 2015, considered document UPOV/WG-DST/3/4 "Content of the PLUTO Database" and agreed, subject to the views of the CAJ, to invite members of the Union to check whether they have relevant variety data that is no longer included in the PLUTO database but was submitted to the PLUTO database previously (see document UPOV/WG-DST/3/6 "Report", paragraph 19).

22. The WG-DST, at its third meeting, agreed that it would be useful to introduce a unique identifier for variety records in the PLUTO database in order that new data submissions would add to the existing data rather than replacing it. In that regard, the WG-DST agreed to invite the CAJ to consider the possible introduction of a unique identifier for the PLUTO database (see document UPOV/WG-DST/3/6 "Report", paragraph 20).

23. The CAJ, at its seventy-second session, held in Geneva, on October 26 and 27, 2015, agreed that matters concerning the possible expansion of the content of the PLUTO database to include all recognized varieties, including those that have not been, or were no longer, registered/protected as set out in document CAJ/72/6, paragraph 24, be referred to the Working Group on Variety Denominations (WG-DEN) (see document CAJ/72/9 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 40).

Other varieties (new data)

24. The WG-DST, at its third meeting, noted that there could be relevant data for variety denomination purposes but for which the source was not appropriate for the data to be included in the PLUTO database (see document UPOV/WG-DST/3/6 "Report", paragraph 21).

25. The WG-DST, at its third meeting, noted that it would be useful to further consider the development of a common search platform¹ that would search multiple databases containing variety denominations. The WG-DST noted that such an approach might not be as efficient as including all data in the same data form (see document UPOV/WG-DST/3/6 "Report", paragraph 22).

26. The WG-DST, at its third meeting, agreed, subject to the views of the CAJ, to consider whether additional data should be included in PLUTO or accessible via a search platform for independent databases

¹ See document CAJ/69/6 "UPOV information Databases", Annex I "Program for Improvements to the Plant Variety Database", section 6 "Common search platform".

and agreed that it might be appropriate to invite members of the Union to propose data that they would wish to include (see document UPOV/WG-DST/3/6 "Report", paragraph 23).

27. The CAJ, at its seventy-second session, held in Geneva, on October 26 and 27, 2015, agreed that matters concerning the possible expansion of the content of the PLUTO database to include all recognized varieties, including those that have not been, or were no longer, registered/protected as set out in document CAJ/72/6, paragraph 24, be referred to the Working Group on Variety Denominations (WG-DEN) (see document CAJ/72/9 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 40).

28. The first meeting of the WG-DEN will be held in Geneva, on March 18, 2016.

PLUTO Database Training Course

29. From September 7 to 9, 2015, and October 12 to 14, 2015, training courses on "Contributing data to the PLUTO database" were held in Geneva in English and Spanish, respectively. The aim of the courses was to provide assistance to members of the Union that did not provide data for the PLUTO database, or did not provide data on a regular basis, in order to enable them to provide data for the PLUTO database on a regular basis. The courses were in the form of practical, hands-on training, provided by the PLUTO administrators. At the end of the courses, participants were required to present the following information:

- (i) action required by participants to be able to provide data for the PLUTO database;
- (ii) action required by the PLUTO database administrator;
- (iii) the date by which participants intend to start to provide data to PLUTO on a regular basis (i.e. shortly after it is published by the authority(ies) concerned).

30. The training course in English was attended by three participants from the following members of the Union: Oman, South Africa and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The training course in Spanish was attended by 11 participants from the following members of the Union: Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay.

31. The dates by which participants intend to start providing data to PLUTO on a regular basis are provided in the Annex to this document.

32. *The TC is invited to note:*

(a) the summary of contributions to the PLUTO database from 2012 to 2015 and the current situation of members of the Union on data contribution, as presented in the Annex to this document;

(b) the introduction of an additional column showing the latest date on which the information was provided in the PLUTO database;

(c) the introduction of a function to search denominations using the data field "Denomination" and "Breeder's Ref", independently or in combination, in the "Denomination Search" page of the PLUTO database;

(d) that the CAJ, at its seventy-second session, agreed to expand the mandate and the composition of the WG-DST to form the WG-DEN;

(e) that the CAJ, at its seventy-second session, agreed that the WG-DEN should consider proposals for the expansion of the content of the PLUTO database to include all recognized varieties, including those that had not been, or were no longer, registered/protected; and

(f) the information concerning the training courses “Contributing data to the PLUTO database”, held in Geneva in September and October 2015, as set out in paragraphs 29 to 31.

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

REPORT ON DATA CONTRIBUTED TO THE PLANT VARIETY DATABASE BY MEMBERS OF THE UNION AND OTHER CONTRIBUTORS AND ASSISTANCE FOR DATA CONTRIBUTION

Contributor	Number of applications for Plant Breeders' Rights in 2014	Number of new data submissions to the Plant Variety Database in 2012 ¹	Number of new data submissions to the Plant Variety Database in 2013	Number of new data submissions to the Plant Variety Database in 2014	Number of new data submissions to the Plant Variety Database in 2015	Current situation
African Intellectual Property Organization	0	-	-	0	0	E-mail with instructions for contribution sent on October 31, 2014. Awaiting data.
Albania	0 (2013)	0	0	0	1	[Contributing data] Awaiting submission of missing data on the data received on February 2, 2015.
Argentina	253	0	1	0	0	Participated in the training course in 2015 and planned to start regularly submitting data from December 15, 2015.
Australia	341	5	6	3	5	[Contributing data]
*Austria	0	4	4	3	3	
Azerbaijan	19	0	0	0	0	Awaiting reply to e-mail of October 1, 2014 requesting data.
Belarus	29	1	0	0	0	Participated in the training course in 2014 and planned to submit data every March.
*Belgium	3	4	4	4	6	
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	6	0	0	0	0	Participated in the training course in 2015 and planned to submit data by end of December, 2015.
Brazil	344	5	5	4	3	[Contributing data]
*Bulgaria	21	6	6	5	12	
Canada	345	6	5	5	7	[Contributing data]
Chile	134	3	3	2	4	[Contributing data]
China	2,026	1	0	1	2	[Contributing data] Ministry of Agriculture submitted data on May 20, 2015, and State Forestry Administration on October 23, 2015.
Colombia	106	0	0	0	0	Participated in the training course in 2015 and plans to submit data by February, 2016.
Costa Rica	20	(1)	0	2	1	[Contributing data] Participated in the training course in 2015. Data submitted on October 16, 2015. Plans to submit next data as soon as possible.
*Croatia	3	1	0	0	3	
*Czech Republic	99	4	6	4	3	
*Denmark	16	6	6	8	12	
Dominican Republic	0 (2011)	0	0	0	0	Awaiting reply to e-mail of October 21, 2014 requesting data.

¹ '3' indicates that new data was submitted for all three (3) new versions of the UPOV-ROM issued in 2012.

() Parenthesis indicates that data are currently being processed.

* Data provided via the CPVO.

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Contributor	Number of applications for Plant Breeders' Rights in 2014	Number of new data submissions to the Plant Variety Database in 2012 ¹	Number of new data submissions to the Plant Variety Database in 2013	Number of new data submissions to the Plant Variety Database in 2014	Number of new data submissions to the Plant Variety Database in 2015	Current situation
Ecuador	50	3	2	1	0	[Contributing data] Participated in the training course in 2015 and planned to submit data on the first week of December, 2015.
*Estonia	7	5	4	4	9	
*European Union	3625	6	6	6	10	
*Finland	6	3	3	2	2	
*France	102	6	5	6	13	
Georgia	61	0	2	1	0	[Contributing data]
*Germany	69	6	6	8	11	
*Hungary	30	6	6	6	16	
*Iceland	0 (2012)	0	0	0	0	
*Ireland	2	2	2	2	2	
Israel	79	0	0	2	1	[Contributing data]
*Italy	5	6	6	4	8	
Japan	1,018	1	2	5	4	[Contributing data]
Jordan	12	(1)	0	0	0	
Kenya	69	0	1	2	0	[Contributing data]
Kyrgyzstan	1	1	0	1	0	[Contributing data]
*Latvia	6	2	1	3	1	
*Lithuania	7	2	3	2	3	
Mexico	180	1	1	1	1	[Contributing data] Participated in the training course in 2015 and planned to submit data by end of December, 2015.
Montenegro	-	-	-	-	0	
Morocco	76	1	1	0	2	[Contributing data]
*Netherlands	699	6	6	2	10	
New Zealand	148	5	3	5	6	[Contributing data]
Nicaragua	7	0	0	0	0	Participated in the training course in 2015 and planned to submit data by end of November 2015.
*Norway	18	3	3	1	4	
Oman	0 (2009)	0	0	0	0	Participated in the training course in 2015 and plan to submit data upon receipt of applications.
Panama	3	0	0	0	0	Participated in the training course in 2015 and planned to submit data by end of December, 2015 (received new data on January 18, 2016).
Paraguay	34(2013)	0	0	0	1	[Contributing data] Participated in the training course in 2015 and planned to submit data by mid-December, 2015. Submitted data on December 25, 2015.
Peru	56	1	0	2	0	[Contributing data]
*Poland	75	6	5	5	3	
*Portugal	0	1	1	2	0	

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Contributor	Number of applications for Plant Breeders' Rights in 2014	Number of new data submissions to the Plant Variety Database in 2012 ¹	Number of new data submissions to the Plant Variety Database in 2013	Number of new data submissions to the Plant Variety Database in 2014	Number of new data submissions to the Plant Variety Database in 2015	Current situation
Republic of Korea	661	1	2	1	0	[Contributing data]
Republic of Moldova	34	1	0	2	3	[Contributing data]
*Romania	32	4	3	4	4	
Russian Federation	722	5	4	2	5	[Contributing data]
Serbia	53	-	3	2	3	[Contributing data]
Singapore	6	0	0	0	0	Awaiting reply to E-mail on July 9, 2014 requesting data.
*Slovakia	16	5	6	4	4	
*Slovenia	3	4	3	5	5	
South Africa	243	2	2	0	0	Participated in the training course in 2015 and planned to submit data by end of December, 2015.
*Spain	54	6	4	5	5	
*Sweden	0	4	5	6	11	
*Switzerland	53	5	6	7	6	
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	n/a	0	0	0	0	Participated in the training course in 2014 and planned to submit data upon receipt of applications.
Trinidad and Tobago	0(2013)	0	0	0	0	Participated in the training course in 2014 and planned to submit some data by the third week of January 2015.
Tunisia	7	0	0	0	0	Awaiting reply to e-mail of July 23, 2014 requesting data. Data received and awaiting confirmation of tags on August 29, 2014,
*Turkey	202	2	1	1	1	
Ukraine	1,447	0	0	0	0	Unable to provide data at present.
*United Kingdom	36	6	6	10	11	
United Republic of Tanzania	-	-	-	-	0	
United States of America	1,567	5	6	10	17	[Contributing data]
Uruguay	49	1	0	1	1	[Contributing data] Participated in the training course in 2015 and planned to submit data by end of December, 2015.
Uzbekistan	29	0	0	0	0	Participated in the training course in 2014 and planned to submit data in 2015.
Viet Nam	109	0	0	0	0	Participated in the training course in 2014 and planned to submit data in 2015.
OECD	-	1	1	1	0	[Contributing data]

[End of Annex and of document]