



**Facilitating development of
databases**

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Kees van Ettehoven
Head Variety testing Department
Naktuinbouw



Importance

- **Management of Common Knowledge is depending on structured information**
- **Databases with structured information are the best available means to manage Common Knowledge**



What do we have

- **Databases with variety descriptions**
- **Databases with photos of varieties**
- **Databases with measurements**
- **Databases with molecular information**
- **And we have the Worldwide Web**



Challenges

- **The number of varieties is rapidly growing.**
- **The life span of varieties is getting shorter.**
- **UPOV is growing and more variety information becomes available.**
- **New versions of Guidelines**



The future lies in cooperation

- **All examination offices face the same challenge; how to find resources to maintain all relevant databases for that EO.**
- **Cooperation appears logical**
- **Due to various reasons the formation of joint databases is not yet successful**



How to promote joint databases

- **Allocate time and dedicated staff**
- **Trust and willingness to cooperate**
- **Agreement on the management**
- **Agreement on the use**
- **Recognition of different user groups:**
 - Heavy contributors**
 - Incidental contributors**
 - Users**
- **Contract on the financial aspects**



Limitations of centralized databases

- **Variety descriptions from other Examination Offices, specially from other climatical areas, may be of limited value**
- **Problem is extremely hard to solve (we cannot grow all varieties of common knowledge in all member states to have locally correct descriptions in the database)**

Critical aspect for (a system of) international cooperation on large scale



Possible solution

- **Databases with molecular data**
- **State of the art using carefully selected SNP markers based on full genome sequencing now allows us to create common databases.**
- **Such databases can be used to include in the growing trial those varieties with identical or almost identical DNA**

	<h2>Items for discussion</h2>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Can we agree on a model to really cooperate in the construction of joint databases?<li>- Should we shift from joint morphological databases to joint Molecular databases?<li>- How to finance the creation of such molecular databases, assuming the maintenance will be covered from the testing fees
	