

Technical Committee

TC/55/10 Add.

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ADDENDUM TO INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN EXAMINATION

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1. The purpose of this addendum is to report on developments at the thirty-seventh session of the Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs (TWC) concerning international cooperation in the examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS).
2. The TWC considered document TWP/3/14 “Cooperation in examination” (see document TWC/37/12 “Report”, paragraphs 94 to 100).
3. The TWC noted the results of the survey of the current situation of members of the Union with regard to cooperation in examination, as set out in the Annex to document TWP/3/14.
4. The TWC noted that the UPOV Office would invite the Council representatives to identify contact the persons for international cooperation in DUS examination and that the information received would be made available on the UPOV website.
5. The TWC noted that the topic of international cooperation in DUS examination would be presented as an introduction to the agenda item “Cooperation in examination” during the normal program for the TWPs to explain the existing possibilities for cooperation between UPOV members.
6. The TWC formed discussion groups to discuss the technical concerns that prevent cooperation in DUS examination and how to overcome the technical concerns raised.
7. The TWC noted the following technical concerns raised by participants in the discussion groups:

Different composition and size of collection of varieties
Different protocols for molecular markers
Different criteria for assessing distinctness
Different national test guidelines
Language barriers
Phytosanitary requirements
Difficulties in administrative procedures

8. The TWC noted the following proposals from the participants in the discussion groups on how to overcome the technical concerns raised:

Development of the general structure of databases
Guidelines for developing databases
Validated data of SNP profiles of varieties in different crops
Development of harmonization platform of SNPs set and software
Information sharing on machinery and equipment for DUS testing
<u>Electronic means</u>
Harmonized platform in XML
Crop dataset in the cloud
Joined construction and use of electronic means
Variety DNA passport for identification/ enforcement