

Technical Committee

TC/57/13

**Fifty-Seventh Session
Geneva, October 25 and 26, 2021**

Original: English
Date: June 3, 2021

to be considered by correspondence

PREPARATORY WORKSHOPS

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this document is to provide a report on preparatory workshops in 2021 and present proposals for 2022.

2. The TC is invited to consider whether to organize preparatory workshops as a series of webinars, to be organized at suitable dates according to the schedule of TWP sessions in 2022, in conjunction with workshops with physical participation, where requested, as set out in paragraphs 20 to 21 of this document.

3. The following abbreviations are used in this document:

- BMT: Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques, and DNA-Profiling in Particular
- 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
- TWM: Technical Working Party on Testing Methods and Techniques
- TWO: Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees
- TWPs: Technical Working Parties
- TWV: Technical Working Party for Vegetables

4. The structure of this document is as follows:

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BACKGROUND

5. The TC, at its thirty-eighth session¹, agreed, on the basis of document TC/38/12, to the holding of a preparatory workshop before each Technical Working Party (TWP) meeting, with the aim of helping some of the delegates to participate more actively at the meeting (see document TC/38/16 "Report", paragraphs 215 to 218).

6. The TC, at its fifty-fifth session², recalled that preparatory workshops were an opportunity for training local participants and agreed that TWP hosts should have the possibility to decide whether or not to organize a preparatory workshop prior to the TWP session (see document TC/55/25 "Report", paragraphs 226 and 227).

7. The TC, at its fifty-fifth session, agreed that TWPs should be invited to discuss the possible organization of preparatory workshops when considering the date and place of their future sessions.

CONSIDERATION BY THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AT ITS FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION

8. The TC, at its fifty-sixth session³ considered document TC/56/9 "Preparatory Workshops" (see document TC/56/23 "Report", paragraphs 71 and 75).

9. The TC agreed to organize preparatory workshops in 2021 as a series of webinars at suitable dates according to the schedule of TWP sessions, as follows:

Webinar 1:

- (a) Introduction to UPOV and the role of UPOV Technical Working Parties (TWPs)
- (b) Overview of the General Introduction (document TG/1/3 and TGP documents)
 - Characteristics as the Basis for DUS Examination and Selection of Characteristics

Webinar 2:

Guidance on drafting Test Guidelines – part I (document TGP/7)

- (a) Method of Observation (MS, MG, VS, VG);
- (b) Types of Expression (QL, PQ, QN), notes and distinctness;

Webinar 3:

Guidance on drafting Test Guidelines – part II (document TGP/7)

- (a) Subject of the Test Guidelines, Material Required and Method of Examination;
- (b) Shape and Color Characteristics;
- (c) Example Varieties;

Webinar 4:

The process for developing UPOV Test Guidelines:

- (a) Web-based TG Template; Additional Standard Wording; and Guidance Notes;
- (b) Role of the leading expert drafting Test Guidelines and how to participate as an interested expert

Webinar 5:

UPOV online resources

- (a) UPOV member laws: UPOV Lex
- (b) PBR Applications: UPOV PRISMA PBR Application Tool
- (c) DUS Examination: GENIE database, UPOV Code
- (d) Variety denomination/novelty: PLUTO database

Webinar 6:

- (a) Situation in UPOV Concerning the Possible Use of Molecular Techniques in DUS Examination
- (b) The Concept of Essentially Derived Varieties
- (c) The Role of UPOV in Variety Identification

10. The TC noted that the webinar presentations would be recorded and made available online, but not the discussions. The TC noted that the Office of the Union would provide content for the webinars and invite experts from members to act as panelists for discussions and to provide practical examples.

¹ held in Geneva from April 15 to 17, 2002

² held in Geneva on October 28 and 29, 2019

³ held in Geneva on October 26 and 27, 2020

11. The TC noted that detailed arrangements concerning the webinars would be finalized by the Office of the Union in coordination with the chairpersons of the TC and TWPs.

12. The TC noted that, subject to a request by the hosts of the TWPs, workshops with physical participation could be organized in conjunction with the TWP sessions. In such cases, the content would be adapted to the particular context.

REPORT ON PREPARATORY WORKSHOPS IN 2021

Preparatory webinars

13. Four preparatory webinars were conducted from April 19 to 22, 2021. The arrangements of the webinars were finalized by the Office of the Union in coordination with the chairpersons of the TC and TWPs.

14. The content of the webinars was as follows:

- Webinar 1: How to organize DUS examination and international cooperation
- Webinar 2: International harmonization in DUS examination
- Webinar 3: Developing and using UPOV Test Guidelines
- Webinar 4: Using molecular markers in DUS examination and the role of the BMT

15. Video recordings of the webinars, excluding the discussion sessions, are made available on the UPOV webpage (https://www.upov.int/meetings/en/webinar_videos.html) for each TWP session in 2021 and on the UPOV Youtube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/upov>). The UPOV Youtube channel provides the possibility to watch the videos with “closed caption” transcription and subtitles can be generated automatically in different languages.

16. The following number of views were registered to May 31, 2021:

UPOV TWP webpages:

Pageviews	Unique pageviews
254	210

UPOV YouTube channel:

Webinar	Total views	Closed Caption/ Subtitles
TWP Webinar 1	178	59 (EN)
TWP Webinar 2	47	8 (EN)
TWP Webinar 3	25	None
TWP Webinar 4	32	4 (EN)

17. The availability of the webinars is communicated via the UPOV TWP webpages and via social media.

PROGRAM AND FORMAT FOR PREPARATORY WORK IN 2022

Proposal:

18. It is proposed that the preparatory workshops in 2022 are organized as webinars at suitable dates according to the schedule of TWP sessions. The webinar presentations and panel discussions would be recorded and made available online. The session on questions and answers would not be recorded and/or made available online.

19. Experts from members would be invited to make presentations on selected contents and participate as panelists for discussions.

20. The detailed arrangements concerning the webinars would be finalized by the Office of the Union in coordination with the chairpersons of the TC and TWPs.

21. If requested by the hosts of the TWPs, workshops with physical participation could be organized in conjunction with the TWP sessions. In such cases, the content would be adapted to the particular context.

22. The TC is invited to consider whether to organize preparatory workshops as a series of webinars, to be organized at suitable dates according to the schedule of TWP sessions in 2022, in conjunction with workshops with physical participation, where requested, as set out in paragraphs 20 to 21 of this document.

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

PROGRAM OF THE PREPARATORY WEBINARS IN 2021

The preparatory webinars held in 2021 were comprised of presentations, followed by a panel discussion and a session on questions and answers. The following content was presented:

April 19, 2021: Webinar 1: How to organize DUS examination and international cooperation	Presenters / Panelists	Time
(a) What are the possible testing arrangements	Ben Rivoire, UPOV	12.00
(b) How to cooperate with other UPOV members (document TGP/5)	Leontino Taveira, UPOV	12.10
(c) Using GENIE database to find practical experience / cooperation in DUS examination	Manabu Suzuki, UPOV	12.20
Panel discussion	Anthony Parker (CA); Manuela Brand (CH); Simon Maina (KE); Yoshiyuki Ohno (JP)	12.30
Question and answer session		13.00
April 20, 2021: Webinar 2: International harmonization in DUS examination	Presenters / Panelists	Time
(a) The role of Technical Working Parties (TWPs) and Technical Committee (TC)	Leontino Taveira, UPOV	12.00
(b) UPOV guidance on DUS examination (document TG/1/3, TGP documents and TGs)	Ben Rivoire, UPOV	12.10
(c) Harmonizing observations and decision-making (TGP documents)	Leontino Taveira, UPOV	12.20
Panel discussion	Nik Hulse (Chair/TC); Beate Ruecker (Chair/BMT/TWC)	12.30
Question and answer session		13.00
April 21, 2021: Webinar 3: Developing and using UPOV Test Guidelines	Presenters / Panelists	Time
(a) How to participate in the development of Test Guidelines (Leading and Interested Experts)	Ben Rivoire, UPOV	12.00
(b) Elements of Test Guidelines: coverage, plant material, characteristics and explanations	Leontino Taveira, UPOV	12.10
(c) Using the online tool to develop and comment on draft Test Guidelines (Web-based TG Template)	Romy Oertel, UPOV	12.20
(d) Using varieties for reference and comparison (Example Varieties)	Ben Rivoire, UPOV	12.30
Panel discussion	Ashley Balchin (Chair/TWO); Marian van Leeuwen (Chair/TWV); Renée Cloutier (Chair/TWA)	12.40
Question and answer session		13.10
April 22, 2021: Webinar 4: Using molecular markers in DUS examination and the role of the BMT	Presenters / Panelists	Time
(a) UPOV guidance on the use of molecular markers in DUS Examination	Leontino Taveira, UPOV	12.00
(b) The role of the BMT	Manabu Suzuki, UPOV	12.15
Panel discussion	Amanda van Dijk (NL); Jin-Kee Jung (KR); Mariano Mangeri (AR)	12.25
Question and answer session		13.00

[End of Annex and of document]