

Technical Committee

TC/57/24.

**Fifty-Seventh Session
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PROGRESS REPORTS ON THE WORK OF THE TECHNICAL WORKING PARTIES, INCLUDING THE WORKING GROUP ON BIOCHEMICAL AND MOLECULAR TECHNIQUES, AND DNA-PROFILING IN PARTICULAR (BMT)

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this document is to propose the program of work for the Technical Working Parties (TWP) sessions in 2022, including the first session of the Technical Working Party on Testing Methods and Techniques (TWM).

2. The TC is invited to:

(a) consider the program of work for the first session of the TWM, to be held in 2022, as presented in paragraph 7 of this document;

(b) note that the reports from the chairperson of the TWC and BMT are presented in document TC/57/INF/9 Add.;

(c) consider the proposal from the United Kingdom to hold the fifty-first session of the TWA in Cambridge, from May 23 to 27, 2022;

(d) consider the proposed programs of work for the TWA, TWF, TWO and TWV sessions in 2022, as presented in annexes III to VI to this document; and

(e) note that the reports from the chairpersons of the TWA, TWF, TWO and TWV are presented in document TC/57/INF/9.

3. The structure of this document is as follows:

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4. 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
TWV:	Technical Working Party for Vegetables
TWPs:	Technical Working Parties

PROGRAM OF WORK FOR THE TWPS IN 2022

Technical Working Party on Testing Methods and Techniques

5. The Council, at its fifty-fourth session¹, considered document C/54/14 (see document C/54/17 “Outcome of consideration of documents by correspondence”, paragraphs 32 to 35). The Council approved the establishment and the terms of reference for the TWM, to encompass the work of the TWC and BMT, to take effect from 2022.

6. The TWC, at its thirty-ninth session, and the BMT, at its twentieth session, proposed items for discussion at the first session of the TWM, as presented in Annexes I and II to this document (see documents TWC/39/9 “Report”, paragraph 91; and BMT/20/12 “Report”, paragraph 44).

7. In agreement with the chairperson of the TWM, Ms. Beate Ruecker (Germany), the following program of work combining the proposals from the TWC and BMT is proposed for the TWM, at its first session:

Opening, adoption of the agenda and short reports

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Short reports on developments in plant variety protection:
 - (a) Reports from members and observers (written reports to be prepared by members and observers)
 - (b) Report on developments within UPOV (report by the Office of the Union)

Guidance and cooperation

4. Development of guidance and information materials (documents to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
5. Increasing participation in the work of the TC and the TWPs (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
6. Cooperation in examination (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
7. Information and databases (documents invited)
 - (a) UPOV PRISMA (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
 - (b) UPOV information databases (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
 - (c) Variety description databases including databases containing molecular data (papers invited)
8. Variety denominations (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)

Software and statistical analysis methods for DUS examination

9. Statistical tools and methods for DUS examination (documents invited)
 - (a) Comparison of results obtained for COYD and COYU procedures using different software (document to be prepared by France)
 - (b) Development of software for the improved COYU method (splines) (document to be prepared by the United Kingdom)
 - (c) Extrapolation in relation to COYU (document to be prepared by the United Kingdom and documents invited)
10. Exchange and use of software and equipment (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union and documents invited)

¹ Held via electronic means on October 30, 2020

- Development of Statistical Analysis Software: DUSCEL (document to be prepared by China)

Phenotyping and image analysis

11. Phenotyping and image analysis (documents invited)

Molecular techniques

12. Molecular Techniques and bioinformatics (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union and documents invited)
13. Methods for analysis of molecular data, management of databases and exchange of data and material (papers invited)
14. Report of work on molecular techniques in relation to DUS examination (papers invited)
15. The use of molecular techniques in examining essential derivation² (papers invited)
16. The use of molecular techniques in variety identification² (papers invited)
17. The use of molecular techniques for enforcement² (papers invited)
18. Cooperation between international organizations (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union and papers invited)
19. Confidentiality, ownership and access to molecular data, including model agreement template² (papers invited)
20. Session to facilitate cooperation (possible break-out sessions)

Future program, report and closing

21. Date and place of the next session
22. Future program
23. Adoption of the Report on the session (if time permits)
24. Closing of the session

8. The reports from the chairperson of the TWC and BMT are presented in document TC/57/INF/9 Add.

9. *The TC is invited to:*

(a) *consider the program of work for the first session of the TWM, to be held in 2022, as presented in paragraph 7 of this document;*

(b) *note that the reports from the chairperson of the TWC and BMT are presented in document TC/57/INF/9 Add.*

Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops

Date and place of the next session

10. The TWA, at its fiftieth session³, noted that no invitations for the venue of its fifty-first session had been received. The TWA noted that a decision on the date and place of its next session would be taken by the Council, at its fifty-fifth session, to be held on October 29, 2021.

11. The TWA noted that UPOV members could contact the Office of the Union with offers of date and place to host the next TWA session. If an offer was received sufficiently before the fifty-fifth session of the Council, the offer could be considered by the Council at its fifty-fifth session.

² "Breeders day"

³ Hosted by the United Republic of Tanzania and held via electronic means from June 21 to 25, 2021

12. The TWA agreed that its fifty-first session should be held via electronic means, from May 23 to 27, 2022, if no alternative offer was received from a member of the Union.

13. On September 24, 2021, the Office of the Union received a formal offer from the United Kingdom to host the fifty-first session of the TWA in Cambridge, from May 23 to 27, 2022.

14. The TC may wish to consider the proposal of the United Kingdom to host the fifty-first session of the TWA.

15. The TC is invited to consider the proposal from the United Kingdom to hold the fifty-first session of the TWA in Cambridge, from May 23 to 27, 2022.

Discussion items at the Technical Working Parties in 2022

16. The TWA, TWF, TWO and TWV held their sessions in 2021 via electronic means. The meeting reports are available as documents TWA/50/9, TWF/52/10, TWO/53/10 and TWV/55/16. The reports from the chairpersons of the TWA, TWF, TWO and TWV are presented in document TC/57/INF/9.

17. The items proposed for discussion at the 2022 sessions of the TWA, TWF, TWO and TWV are presented in Annexes III to VI of this document.

18. The TC may wish to consider the agenda items proposed for discussion by the TWA, TWF, TWO and TWV, at their sessions in 2022, as presented in Annexes III to VI of this document.

19. The TC is invited to:

(a) consider the proposed programs of work for the TWA, TWF, TWO and TWV sessions in 2022, as presented in annexes III to VI to this document; and

(b) note that the reports from the chairpersons of the TWA, TWF, TWO and TWV are presented in document TC/57/INF/9.

[Annexes follow]

TWC: DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION AND FUTURE PROGRAM

Date and place of next session

The TWC noted that no invitations for the venue of the first session of Technical Working Party on Testing Methods and Techniques (TWM) had been received. The TWC noted that a decision on the date and place of the first session of TWM would be taken by the Council, at its fifty-fifth session, to be held on October 29, 2021 (see document TWC/39/9 "Report", paragraphs 86 to 91).

The TWC noted that UPOV members could contact the Office of the Union with offers of date and place to host the session of TWM in 2022. If an offer was received sufficiently before the fifty-fifth session of the Council, the offer could be considered by the Council at its fifty-fifth session.

The TWC agreed that the first session of TWM should be held via electronic means, from September 19 to 23, 2022, if no alternative offer was received from a member of the Union.

The TWC agreed to invite the BMT to consider holding the first session of TWM during the week of September 19, 2022, via electronic means.

Future program

The TWC agreed that documents for the first session of TWM should be submitted to the Office of the Union by July 21, 2022. The TWC noted that items would be deleted from the agenda if the planned documents did not reach the Office of the Union by the agreed deadline.

The TWC, at its thirty-ninth session, proposed to discuss the following items at the first session of the TWM:

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Short reports on developments in plant variety protection:
 - (a) Reports from members and observers (written reports to be prepared by members and observers)
 - (b) Report on developments within UPOV (report by the Office of the Union)
4. Tools and methods for DUS examination (documents invited)
 - (a) Comparison of results obtained for COYD and COYU procedures using different software (document to be prepared by France)
 - (b) Development of software for the improved COYU method (splines) (document to be prepared by the United Kingdom)
 - (c) Extrapolation in relation to COYU (document to be prepared by the United Kingdom and documents invited)
5. Phenotyping and image analysis (documents invited)
6. Development of guidance and information materials (documents to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
7. Variety denominations (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
8. Exchange and use of software and equipment (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union and documents invited)
 - Development of Statistical Analysis Software: DUSCEL (document to be prepared by China)
9. Information and databases (documents invited)
 - (a) UPOV information databases (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
 - (b) Variety description databases (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union and documents invited)
 - (c) UPOV PRISMA (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
10. Increasing participation in the work of the TC and the TWPs (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
11. Molecular Techniques and bioinformatics (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union and documents invited)

12. Cooperation in examination (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
13. Date and place of the next session
14. Future program
15. Adoption of the Report on the session (if time permits)
16. Closing of the session

[Annex II follows]

BMT: DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION AND FUTURE PROGRAM

Date and place of next session

The BMT noted that no invitations for the venue of the first session of Technical Working Party on Testing Methods and Techniques (TWM) had been received. The BMT noted that a decision on the date and place of the first session of TWM would be taken by the Council, at its fifty-fifth session, to be held on October 29, 2021 (see document BMT/20/12 "Report", paragraphs 40 to 44).

The BMT noted that UPOV members could contact the Office of the Union with offers of date and place to host the session of TWM in 2022. If an offer was received sufficiently before the fifty-fifth session of the Council, the offer could be considered by the Council at its fifty-fifth session.

The BMT considered the proposal by the TWC and agreed to hold the first session of TWM via electronic means from September 19 to 23, 2022, if no alternative offer was received from a member of the Union.

Future program

The BMT agreed that documents for the first session of TWM should be submitted to the Office of the Union by July 21, 2022. The BMT noted that items would be deleted from the agenda if the planned documents did not reach the Office of the Union by the agreed deadline.

The BMT, at its twentieth session, proposed to discuss the following items at the first session of the TWM:

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Reports on developments in UPOV concerning biochemical and molecular techniques (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
4. Short presentations on new developments in biochemical and molecular techniques by DUS experts, biochemical and molecular specialists, plant breeders and relevant international organizations (reports by participants)
5. Report of work on molecular techniques in relation to DUS examination (document prepared by breeders' organization and papers invited)
6. Variety description databases including databases containing molecular data (papers invited)
7. Methods for analysis of molecular data, management of databases and exchange of data and material (document prepared by breeders' organization and papers invited)
8. The use of molecular techniques in examining essential derivation⁴ (papers invited)
9. The use of molecular techniques in variety identification⁴ (papers invited)
10. The use of molecular techniques for enforcement⁴ (papers invited)
11. Cooperation between international organizations (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union and papers invited)
12. Confidentiality, ownership and access to molecular data, including model agreement template⁴ (papers invited)
13. Session to facilitate cooperation (possible break-out sessions)
14. Date and place of next session
15. Future program
16. Report of the session (if time permits)
17. Closing of the session

[Annex III follows]

⁴ Breeders' Day

PROPOSED PROGRAM OF WORK FOR THE TWA IN 2022

Future program

The TWA agreed that documents for its fifty-fifth session should be submitted to the Office of the Union by March 25, 2022. The TWA noted that items would be deleted from the agenda if the planned documents did not reach the Office of the Union by the agreed deadline (see document TWA/50/9 "Report", paragraphs 115 and 116).

The TWA proposed to discuss the following items at its next session:

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Short reports on developments in plant variety protection
 - (a) Reports from members and observers (written reports to be prepared by members and observers)
 - (b) Report on developments within UPOV (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
4. Development of guidance and information materials (documents to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
5. Using the COYU-Splines method in DUS examination (presentations from France and the United Kingdom and presentations invited)
6. Variety denominations (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
7. Information and databases
 - (a) UPOV information databases (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
 - (b) Variety description databases (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union and documents invited)
 - (c) Exchange and use of software and equipment (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union and documents invited)
 - (d) UPOV PRISMA (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
8. Molecular Techniques
 - (a) Developments in UPOV (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
 - (b) Presentation on the use of molecular techniques in DUS examination (presentations by Argentina, France and presentations invited)
9. New technologies in DUS examination (documents to be prepared by Denmark, United Kingdom and documents invited)
10. Big data platform for DUS examination (document to be prepared by China)
11. Examining hybrid varieties (document to be prepared by United Kingdom and documents invited)
12. Cooperation in examination (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
13. Increasing participation in the work of the TC and the TWPs
14. Experiences with new types and species (oral reports invited)
15. Revision of Test Guidelines (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
16. Guidance for drafters of Test Guidelines (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
17. Discussion on draft Test Guidelines (Subgroups)
18. Recommendations on draft Test Guidelines
19. Date and place of the next session
20. Future program
21. Adoption of the Report on the session (if time permits)
22. Closing of the session

PROPOSED PROGRAM OF WORK FOR THE TWF IN 2022

Date and place of the next session

The TWF noted that no invitations for the venue of its fifty-third session had been received. The TWF noted that a decision on the date and place of its next session would be taken by the Council, at its fifty-fifth session, to be held on October 29, 2021 (see document TWF/52/10 "Report", paragraphs 107 to 111).

The TWF noted that UPOV members could contact the Office of the Union with offers of date and place to host the next TWF session. If an offer was received sufficiently before the fifty-fifth session of the Council, the offer could be considered by the Council at its fifty-fifth session.

The TWF agreed that its fifty-third session should be held via electronic means, from July 11 to 15, 2022, if no alternative offer was received from a member of the Union.

Future program

The TWF agreed that documents for its fifty-third session should be submitted to the Office of the Union by March 25, 2022. The TWF noted that items would be deleted from the agenda if the planned documents did not reach the Office of the Union by the agreed deadline.

The TWF proposed to discuss the following items at its fifty-third session:

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Short reports on developments in plant variety protection
 - (a) Reports from members and observers (written reports to be prepared by members and observers)
 - (b) Reports on developments within UPOV (oral report by the Office of the Union)
4. Molecular Techniques (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
 - (c) Developments in UPOV (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
 - (d) Presentation on the use of molecular techniques in DUS examination (presentations from the European Union and France and presentations invited from members of the Union)
5. Development of guidance and information materials (documents to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
6. Variety denominations (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
7. Information and databases
 - (a) UPOV information databases (documents to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
 - (b) Variety description databases (documents to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
 - (c) Exchange and use of software and equipment (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
 - (d) UPOV PRISMA (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
8. Experiences with new types and species (oral reports invited)
9. Cooperation in examination (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union and presentations invited)
10. Access to plant material for the purpose of management of variety collections and DUS examination (document to be prepared by the European Union and others presentations invited from members of the Union)
11. DUS examination of mutant varieties of apple (document and presentation to be prepared by the European Union and Canada)
12. Matters relevant in DUS examination for the fruit sector (presentations invited from the European Union and Brazil and other presentations invited from members and observers)
13. Assessing characteristics on the basis of measurements of individual plants or parts of plants for small samples (presentations invited from France and other members of the Union)

14. The assessment of color in fruit crops (presentations to be prepared by New Zealand)
15. Guidance for drafters of Test Guidelines
16. Matters to be resolved concerning Test Guidelines put forward for adoption by the Technical Committee (if appropriate)
17. Discussion on draft Test Guidelines (Subgroups)
18. Recommendations on draft Test Guidelines
19. Date and place of the next session
20. Future program
21. Adoption of the Report of the session (if time permits)
22. Closing of the session

[Annex V follows]

PROPOSED PROGRAM OF WORK FOR THE TWO IN 2022

Date and place of the next session

At the invitation of Germany, the TWO agreed to hold its fifty-fourth session in Hannover, Germany, from June 13 to 17, 2022 (see document TWO/53/10 "Report", paragraphs 113 to 115).

Future program

The TWO agreed that documents for its fifty-fourth session should be submitted to the Office of the Union by April 29, 2022. The TWO noted that items would be deleted from the agenda if the planned documents have not reached the Office of the Union by the agreed deadline.

The TWO agreed to discuss the following items at its next session:

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Short reports on developments in plant variety protection
 - (a) Reports from members and observers (written reports to be prepared by members and observers)
 - (b) Reports on developments within UPOV (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
4. Development of guidance and information materials (documents to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
5. Information and databases
 - (a) UPOV information databases (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
 - (b) Variety description databases (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union and documents invited)
 - (c) UPOV PRISMA (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
6. Increasing participation in the work of the TC and the TWPs (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
7. Cooperation in examination (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
8. Disease resistance in ornamental crops (document to be prepared by the Netherlands)
9. Possible developments to enable UPOV Codes to provide information on variety groups (document to be prepared by the European Union)
10. New issues arising for DUS examination (documents invited)
11. Molecular techniques (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
12. Variety denominations (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
13. Report on court cases dealing with technical matters (document invited)
14. Experiences with new types and species (oral reports invited)
15. Test Guidelines
 - (i) Guidance for drafters of Test Guidelines
 - (ii) Revision of Test Guidelines (documents to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
 - (iii) Partial revision of the Test Guidelines for Rose (Technical Questionnaire characteristics) (document to be prepared by the European Union)
 - (iv) Matters to be resolved concerning Test Guidelines adopted by the Technical Committee
 - (v) Discussion on draft Test Guidelines (Subgroups)
 - (vi) Recommendations on draft Test Guidelines
16. Date and place of the next session

17. Future program
18. Adoption of the Report on the session (if time permits)
19. Closing of the session

[Annex VI follows]

PROPOSED PROGRAM OF WORK FOR THE TWV IN 2022

Date and place of the next session

At the invitation of Turkey, the TWV agreed to hold its fifty-sixth session in Antalya, Turkey, from April 18 to 22, 2022 (see document TWV/55/16 "Report", paragraphs 135 to 137).

Future program

The TWV agreed that in order to allow sufficient time in advance of the meeting to post the documents and provide comments, all documents and presentations invited or to be prepared should be sent to the Office of the Union at least 8 weeks prior to the session.

The TWV proposed to discuss the following items at its next session:

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Short reports on developments in plant variety protection
 - (a) Reports from members and observers
 - (b) Reports on developments within UPOV (oral report by the Office of the Union)
4. Molecular Techniques
 - (a) Developments in UPOV (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
 - (b) Presentation on the use of molecular techniques in DUS examination (presentations invited from members of the Union)
5. Development of guidance and information materials
6. Possible use of COYU Splines for vegetable crops (document and presentation to be prepared by the United Kingdom)
7. Variety denominations (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
8. Information and databases
 - (a) UPOV information databases (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
 - (b) Variety description databases (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union and presentations invited from France and the Netherlands)
 - (c) Exchange and use of software and equipment (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
 - (d) UPOV PRISMA (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
9. Experiences with new types and species (oral reports invited)
10. Revision of Test guidelines (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union, and documents invited)
11. Replacing botanical nomenclature of *Brassica oleracea* by variety groups (document to be prepared by the Netherlands)
12. New issues arising for DUS examination (presentations invited from members of the Union)
13. Use of disease resistance characteristics (presentations invited from France, the Netherlands and ISF and other members of the Union and observers)
14. Matters to be resolved concerning Test Guidelines put forward for adoption by the Technical Committee (if appropriate)
15. Discussions on draft Test Guidelines (Subgroups)
16. Recommendations on draft Test Guidelines
17. Guidance for drafters of Test Guidelines
18. Date and place of the next session
19. Future program
20. Report on the session (if time permits)
21. Closing of the session