

**Technical Committee**

**TC/60/7**

**Sixtieth Session  
Geneva, October 21 and 22, 2024**

**Original:** English  
**Date:** September 23, 2024

**TWP WORKSHOPS AND WEBINARS**

*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 report on TWP workshops and webinars in 2024 and present proposals for 2025.
2. Workshops and webinars are organized with the main objective of helping some of the delegates to participate more actively at Technical Working Party (TWP) sessions. Since 2021, workshops have been organized as webinars prior to TWP sessions. The video recordings are available on the UPOV website, under the “Technical webinars” tab ([https://www.upov.int/meetings/en/webinar\\_videos.html](https://www.upov.int/meetings/en/webinar_videos.html)) and UPOV YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/upov>). Videos on the UPOV YouTube channel can display transcription and subtitles automatically generated in different languages (“closed caption”).
3. The TC is invited to consider whether to organize technical webinars in 2025, at suitable dates according to the schedule of TWP sessions, and workshops with physical participation, where requested, as set out in paragraphs 16 to 19 of this document.
4. The following abbreviations are used in this document:
  - TC: Technical Committee
  - TWA: Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops
  - 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
5. The structure of this document is as follows:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	1
BACKGROUND .....	1
REPORT ON TECHNICAL WEBINARS IN 2024 .....	2
PROGRAM AND FORMAT FOR PREPARATORY WORK IN 2025.....	3
Annex: Program of the preparatory webinars in 2024	

**BACKGROUND**

6. The TC, at its thirty-eighth session<sup>1</sup>, 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”, paragraph 215).

<sup>1</sup> held in Geneva from April 15 to 17, 2002

7. The TC, at its fifty-fifth session<sup>2</sup>, 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).

8. 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.

9. The TC, at its fifty-sixth session<sup>3</sup>, agreed to organize preparatory workshops as a series of webinars at suitable dates according to the schedule of TWP sessions. 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 (see document TC/56/23 “Report”, paragraphs 71 and 75).

10. The TC, at its fifty-sixth session, 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 TECHNICAL WEBINARS IN 2024

11. A total of four webinars were conducted prior to the TWP sessions, on the morning and afternoon of March 12 and 13, 2024.

12. The content of the webinars was as follows:

- Webinar 1: Image analysis in DUS examination
- Webinar 2: Developing individual authorities’ test guidelines in the absence of UPOV Test Guidelines

13. The following number of participants attended the webinars:

Combined numbers for both sessions (am/pm)	Image analysis in DUS examination	Developing individual authorities’ test guidelines in the <u>absence</u> of UPOV Test Guidelines
Total number of participants	187	169
Participants from UPOV Members	166	146
Participants from observer States	15	18
Participants from observer organizations	6	5
Participants that had not attended a TWP	65	63

14. Video recordings of the webinars, excluding the discussion sessions, were made available on the UPOV webpage for the TC and each TWP session in 2024 ([https://www.upov.int/meetings/en/webinar\\_videos.html](https://www.upov.int/meetings/en/webinar_videos.html)) 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 automatically generated in different languages.

<sup>2</sup> held in Geneva on October 28 and 29, 2019

<sup>3</sup> held in Geneva on October 26 and 27, 2020

15. The following number of views were registered until July 3, 2024:

UPOV TWP Webinar and Videos webpage [https://www.upov.int/meetings/en/webinar\\_videos.html](https://www.upov.int/meetings/en/webinar_videos.html):

Pageviews	Unique visitors
502	225

UPOV YouTube channel:

Webinar	Views on UPOV website	Views on UPOV YouTube channel	Automatic subtitling and translation on YouTube
Image analysis in DUS examination	34	121	106 (none) 15 (EN)
Developing individual authorities' test guidelines in the <u>absence</u> of UPOV Test Guidelines	45	78	68 (none) 10 (EN)

#### PROGRAM AND FORMAT FOR PREPARATORY WORK IN 2025

##### Proposal:

16. It is proposed that technical webinars are organized in 2025 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.

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

18. 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.

19. 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.

*20. The TC is invited to consider whether to organize technical webinars in 2025, at suitable dates according to the schedule of TWP sessions, and workshops with physical participation, where requested, as set out in paragraphs 16 to 19 of this document.*

[Annex follows]

PROGRAM OF THE TECHNICAL WEBINARS IN 2024  
Each webinar delivered twice (8 a.m. and 3 p.m. Geneva time - CET)

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024: **WEBINAR 1: IMAGE ANALYSIS IN DUS EXAMINATION**

Part I: Presentations

- (a) Introduction: document TGP/8, Section 11 “Examining characteristics using image analysis”
- (b) Examples of image analysis in DUS examination:

(Morning webinar)

- Mr. Kun Yang (China)
- Mr. Toshiya Kobayashi (Japan)
- Mr. Lubomir Basta (Slovakia)

(Afternoon webinar)

- Ms. Clarisse Leclair (France)
- Ms. Veronika Bojdova (Slovakia)
- Mr. Alex Talibudeen (United Kingdom)

Part II: Session on Questions and Answers

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2024: **WEBINAR 2: DEVELOPING INDIVIDUAL AUTHORITIES’ TEST GUIDELINES IN THE ABSENCE OF UPOV TEST GUIDELINES**

Part I: Presentations:

- (a) Introduction: document TG/1 “General Introduction to the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS) and the Development of Harmonized Descriptions of New Varieties of Plants”, Chapter 9 “Conduct of DUS Testing in the Absence of Test Guidelines”
- (b) Experiences on DUS examination in the absence of UPOV Test Guidelines:

(Morning webinar)

- Ms. Beate Rücker (Germany)
- Mr. Yoshiyuki Ohno (Japan)

(Afternoon webinar)

- Ms. Lilia Losada (Argentina)
- Mr. Adriaan de Villiers (South Africa)
- Ms. Hilary Papworth (United Kingdom)

Part II: Session on Questions and Answers