

**Enlarged Editorial Committee**

**TC-EDC/Mar19/9**

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**TGP DOCUMENTS**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of revisions of TGP documents.
2. The structure of this document is as follows:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	1
BACKGROUND .....	1
MATTERS FOR ADOPTION BY THE COUNCIL IN 2019 .....	2
DOCUMENT TGP/15: GUIDANCE ON THE USE OF BIOCHEMICAL AND MOLECULAR MARKERS IN THE EXAMINATION OF .....	2
POSSIBLE FUTURE REVISIONS OF TGP DOCUMENTS .....	2
OTHER PROPOSALS FOR REVISIONS OF TGP DOCUMENTS .....	2
PROGRAM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TGP DOCUMENTS .....	3
NEW PROPOSAL FOR REVISION OF DOCUMENT TGP/7 “DEVELOPMENT OF TEST GUIDELINES” .....	4
PRESENTATION OF FULL SCALE OF NOTES FOR QUANTITATIVE CHARACTERISTICS IN TEST GUIDELINES.....	4
Consideration by the Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees .....	4
ANNEX: Program for the development of TGP documents	

3. The following abbreviations are used in this document:

- CAJ: Administrative and Legal Committee
- TC: Technical Committee
- TC-EDC: Enlarged Editorial Committee
- TWF: Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops
- TWO: Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees
- TWV: Technical Working Party for Vegetables
- TWPs: Technical Working Parties

**BACKGROUND**

4. The TC, at its fifty-fourth session, held in Geneva on October 28 and 29, 2018, and the CAJ, at its seventy-fifth session, held in Geneva on October 30, 2018, approved the program for the development of TGP documents, as set out in the Annex to documents TC/54/5 Rev. and CAJ/75/13, respectively, subject to the conclusions at their sessions (see document TC/54/31 “Report”, paragraph 251, and document CAJ/75/14 “Report”, paragraph 13).

5. The approved TGP documents are published on the UPOV website at [http://www.upov.int/upov\\_collection/en/](http://www.upov.int/upov_collection/en/).

## MATTERS FOR ADOPTION BY THE COUNCIL IN 2019

6. The following revisions of TGP documents were agreed by the Technical Committee to be proposed for adoption by the Council at its fifty-third ordinary session, to be held in Geneva on November 1, 2019, subject to approval by the CAJ, at its seventy-sixth session, to be held in Geneva on October 30, 2019:

Document TGP/7: Development of Test Guidelines

- (i) Duration of DUS tests
- (ii) Procedure for the adoption of Test Guidelines by correspondence

Document TGP/8: Trial Design and Techniques Used in the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability

- (iii) Examining DUS in Bulk Samples
- (iv) Method for more than one single test (year)

Document TGP/10: Examining uniformity

- (v) Assessing Uniformity by Off-Types on the Basis of More than One Growing Cycle or on the Basis of Sub-Samples

Document TGP/14: Glossary of Terms Used in UPOV Documents

- (vi) Illustrations for shape and ratio characteristics
- (vii) Factors to be considered for creating color groups

Document TGP/15: Guidance on the use of Biochemical and Molecular Markers in the examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS)

- (viii) Genetic Selection of Similar Varieties for the First Growing Cycle

## POSSIBLE FUTURE REVISIONS OF TGP DOCUMENTS

7. The TC, at its fifty-fourth session, held in Geneva on October 29 and 30, 2018, agreed the matters for possible future revision of TGP documents to be considered by the TWPs at their sessions in 2019, as follows (see document TC/54/31 "Report", paragraphs 210 to 251):

TGP/7: Development of Test Guidelines

- (i) Characteristics which only apply to certain varieties

TGP/8: Trial Design and Techniques Used in the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability

- (ii) The Combined-Over-Years Uniformity Criterion (COYU)
- (iii) Data Processing for the Assessment of Distinctness and for Producing Variety Descriptions

TGP/14: Glossary of Terms Used in UPOV Documents

- (iv) Color names for the RHS Colour Chart

TGP/15: Guidance on the Use of Biochemical and Molecular Markers in the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS)

- (v) New example: Characteristic-specific marker with incomplete information on state of expression

## OTHER PROPOSALS FOR REVISIONS OF TGP DOCUMENTS

8. The TC, at its fifty-fourth session, considered the following new proposals for the revision of TGP documents (see document TC/54/31 "Report", paragraphs 221 to 224 and 246 to 251):

TGP/7: Development of Test Guidelines*Procedure for partial revision of UPOV Test Guidelines*

9. The TC, at its fifty-fourth session, considered whether to revise the procedure for partial revisions of Test Guidelines, on the basis of the proposal by the TWF, as set out in document TC/54/3, paragraph 24 (see document TC/54/31 "Report", paragraphs 221 to 224).

10. The TC recalled that a similar proposal had been considered at its previous session and further recalled that UPOV members could amend their own test guidelines before changes were made to UPOV Test Guidelines.

11. The TC agreed to request the TWF to clarify under which circumstances changes would need to be implemented to UPOV Test Guidelines on short notice. In particular, the TC agreed to request clarification on the type of changes that were intended to be covered by the proposed procedure and to provide specific examples.

12. The TC agreed that, if an accelerated procedure were to be accepted, proposals for partial revisions of Test Guidelines would need to be published at least two months before the session to allow sufficient time for consideration by members.

*Proprietary method of assessment for male sterility*

13. The TC, at its fifty-fourth session, considered whether to invite the TWV to revise the Test Guidelines for Broccoli to accept the use of any other method to assess male sterility in a DNA-marker test, including alternative markers for the DNA-marker test, where validated by the testing authorities in UPOV members (see document TC/54/31 "Report", paragraphs 246 and 247).

14. The TC noted the importance of Test Guidelines for international harmonization and agreed that members should propose any alternative methods or markers for DNA-marker tests in Test Guidelines.

*Suitability of characteristics in previous versions of Test Guidelines*

15. The TC, at its fifty-fourth session, considered a situation where existing Test Guidelines characteristics did not meet the requirements set out in document TGP/7. The TC noted that the characteristics should meet the requirements for a characteristic set out in the General Introduction, which included provisions for characteristics observed in bulk samples, and agreed that it was the responsibility of the TWPs to assess whether these should be kept as DUS characteristics (see document TC/54/31 "Report", paragraph 248).

TGP/12: Guidance on Certain Physiological Characteristics*Explanations on disease resistance characteristics*

16. The TC, at its fifty-fourth session, considered whether to invite the TWPs to develop further guidance on providing explanations for disease resistance characteristics in Test Guidelines using the Standard Resistance Protocol provided in document TGP/12 "Guidance on certain physiological characteristics", including the elements that would not need to be completed (see document TC/54/31 "Report", paragraphs 249 and 250).

17. The TC noted that the use of disease resistance characteristics would be discussed at the TWV, at its next session, and agreed to wait for the outcome of those discussions before developing further guidance.

## PROGRAM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TGP DOCUMENTS

18. The TC, at its fifty-fourth session, and the CAJ, at its seventy-fifth session, agreed the program for the development of TGP documents, as set out in Annex VI to this document (see document TC/54/31 "Report", paragraph 251, and document CAJ/75/14 "Report", paragraph 13).

## NEW PROPOSAL FOR REVISION OF DOCUMENT TGP/7 “DEVELOPMENT OF TEST GUIDELINES”

Presentation of full scale of notes for quantitative characteristics in Test Guidelines

19. All UPOV Test Guidelines contain the following explanation of the presentation of states of expression for quantitative characteristics (see document TGP/7 “Development of Test Guidelines”, Annex I “TG Structure and Universal Standard Wording”).

“In the case of qualitative and pseudo-qualitative characteristics (see Chapter 6.3), all relevant states of expression are presented in the characteristic. However, in the case of quantitative characteristics with 5 or more states, an abbreviated scale may be used to minimize the size of the Table of Characteristics. For example, in the case of a quantitative characteristic with 9 states, the presentation of states of expression in the Test Guidelines may be abbreviated as follows:

State	Note
small	3
medium	5
large	7

“However, it should be noted that all of the following 9 states of expression exist to describe varieties and should be used as appropriate:

State	Note
very small	1
very small to small	2
small	3
small to medium	4
medium	5
medium to large	6
large	7
large to very large	8
very large	9

20. Despite the inclusion of this explanation, there is widespread confusion and misunderstanding of the “abbreviated” scale. Furthermore, UPOV documentation, including Test Guidelines, have been made available on the UPOV website and are no longer sent as paper copies by mail to UPOV members. Therefore, the use of an abbreviated scale to minimize the size of the Table of Characteristics may no longer be appropriate. Presenting all states of expression for quantitative characteristics in the Table of Characteristics would also remove the need for special treatment of characteristics that are included in the Technical Questionnaire. A further benefit would be that all states of expression are needed for characteristics included in UPOV PRISMA. For these reasons, UPOV members may wish to consider presenting all states of expression for quantitative characteristics in Test Guidelines.

21. At their sessions in 2019, the TWPs will be invited to consider revising document TGP/7, GN 20 “Presentation of characteristics: States of expression according to type of expression of a characteristic” and Annex 1 “TG structure and universal standard wording” to present all states of expression for quantitative characteristics included in Test Guidelines.

*Consideration by the Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees*

22. The TWO, at its fifty-first session, held in Christchurch, New Zealand, from February 18 to 22, 2019, considered the proposal for the revision of document TGP/7 and agreed that all states of expression for quantitative characteristics should be presented in Test Guidelines (see document TWO/51/12 “Report”, paragraphs 15 and 16).

23. The TWO recalled that guidance in document TGP/7 required quantitative characteristics with “1-9” scale to have example varieties for at least three states of expression and “1-5” / “1-4” / “1-3” scales for at least two states of expression. The TWO agreed with the proposal to present all states of expression of quantitative characteristics in Test Guidelines and agreed that this would not change the minimum number of example varieties required in document TGP/7.

24. *The TC-EDC is invited to note the proposal for revising document TGP/7 to have all states of expression for quantitative characteristics presented in Test Guidelines.*

[Annex follows]

