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GENEVA

**TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY  
FOR  
AGRICULTURAL CROPS**

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EXAMPLE VARIETIES

*Document prepared by experts from France*

The present document was prepared at the thirty-sixth session of the Technical Committee by the expert from France. The aim of it is to highlight the main concerns that UPOV is facing when selecting example varieties during the preparation of Test Guidelines due to the increasing number of member States and the successful worldwide extension of the Union. The Technical Committee decided to circulate it among the Technical Working Parties for discussion during its meetings in year 2000.

## ABOUT EXAMPLE VARIETIES

### Present Situation

It is becoming more and more difficult to establish a relevant list of example varieties to which all member States agree, due to the diversity of variety breeding programs and of environmental conditions.

Moreover, the variety turnover is becoming more and more rapid and very often the example varieties are not available in all countries doing DUS tests on a given species.

### How to improve this situation?

Different solutions can be considered depending on the type of characteristics:

- Characteristics for which the states of expression are evident or are easily described with drawings: no example varieties needed.
- Characteristics very slightly or not at all susceptible to environmental effect: example varieties can be proposed.

In this case, varieties must be well-known and available. If necessary, more than one list can be established depending on growing conditions (open field/greenhouse, autumn/spring sowing, ...) and on world regions, but the states of expression of the example varieties in the different lists must be stable and the similarities between the lists established.

- Characteristics susceptible to environment and/or for which an important interaction is observed. In this case, there is no possibility of establishing similarities between the lists of example varieties. Each country or group of countries has its own list which represents the variability observed and the different states of expression.

There is no real need to indicate these lists in these guidelines but it would be very helpful:

- to define in the General Introduction clear rules concerning the establishment of the list of example varieties and how to handle them;
- to consider the full range of variability observed in the reference collection used to conduct DUS tests in a given country of a region;
- to have access to the list of example varieties used and to the range of variability observed when a description has to be considered by any country.

These are suggestions which have to be discussed.

Jöel Guiard      April 5, 2000

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