

TWA/31/13

**ORIGINAL:** English

**DATE:** September16,2002

# INTERNATIONALUNIONFORTHEPROTECTIONOFNEWVARIETIESOFPLANTS

**GENEVA** 

# TECHNICALWORKINGPA RTY FOR AGRICULTURALCROPS

Thirty-FirstSession RiodeJaneiro, Brazil, September 23 to 27, 2002

COMMENTSONTGPDOCUME NTS

Document prepared by the Office of the Union to present the comments made at

the Technical Working Partyon Automation and Computer Programs (TWC), at its twentieth session held in Texcoco, Mexico, from June 17 to 20,2002

the TechnicalWorkingPartyforVegetables(TWV), atitsthirty -sixthsessionheldin
Tsukuba, Japan, from September 9 to 13,2002

# (a). TGP Documents to which the Technical Committee has given highest priority for discussion

# TGP/7DevelopmentofTestGui delines

# TGP/7.1:GuidanceforDraftersofTestGuidelines

# TWV

The TWV observed that the current presentation of document TGP/7.1 might give the impression to the drafters that all additional standard wordings (ASWs) should be used in UPOV Test Guideline s. However, the objective of the document was to provide guidance in order to maintain a minimum level of harmonisation in the layout and the wording used in Test Guidelines. The TWV observed that document TGP/7.1 could be improved to make it clear that the additional standard wording should be used only when necessary and as appropriate and this would never force the drafter to include the information indicated by the headings of the additional standard wording.

ASW 6 (TGP/7.2: Section 4.3.3) -stability assessment of hybrid varieties: An additional sentence referring to the stability assessment of parental lines should be addedreading: "The stability of a parental line may, in addition to an examination of parental linesits elf, also be assessed by examination of the uniformity and stability of its hybrids."

ASW 9 (TGP/7.2: Section TQ 4.2) -information on method of propagating hybrid varieties: Thelastlineshouldread: "(b) maintenancesystem of malesterilelines."

The TWV further considered GN 1 4 (TGP/7/2: Section 7) -Table of Characteristics: Handling of along list of characteristics, and observed that it should be stated clearly that a consensus should be required for the inclusion of characteristics fulfilling the criteriain order to avoid au tomaticad option of such characteristics. The TWV further agreeding eneral to the following:

 $1) \quad a list of characteristics longer than necessary should be avoided, characteristics proposed but not adopted as Standard Test Guidelines Characteristics coul on a list, which would be then placed on the UPOV Website for further consideration and/or eventual adoption in future as Standard Test Guidelines Characteristics.$ 

# TGP/7.2:TGTemplate

# **TWV**

The TWV agreed to endorse document TGP/7.2 as agree d by the Technical CommitteeincludingthenewlydraftedAnnextotheTechnicalQuestionnaires.

	TGP/7DevelopmentofTestGuidelines(Cont.)
7	GP/7.3.1:StandardizedUPOVTermsandExplanations –TypesofExpressionof Characteristics
TWV	The TWV a greed to send comments to the Office of UPOV before the end of the year.
	TGP/7.3.2:StandardizedUPOVTermsofExplanations -HarmonizedStatesof ExpressionofCharacteristics
TWV	The TWV agreed to send comments to the Office of UPOV before the end of the year.
	TGP/7.4: Procedures for the Introduction and Revision of Test Guidelines:
TWV	The TWV noted the importance of establishing procedures in a written form to ensure transparency and full participation of members of the Technical Committee and its observers in the process of the introduction and revision of Test Guidelines. The TWV agreed, however, that the proposed procedures should be improved by taking into account the following general comments made during the discussion:
	(1) Initiatives of Technical Working Parties in the drafting and revision of Test Guidelines would be affected by the proposed procedures, in particular, through the approval procedures included in Steps 1 to 3.
	(2) The proposed procedures may lead to the imposition o f additional burden onto Technical Working Parties.
	(3) It would be necessary to include a mechanism to respect the priority and expertiseoftheTechnicalWorkingPartyconcernedwhenallocatingdraftingwork.
	(4) Criteriafortheprioritizationshould beclearlyformulated.
	(5) Parties having requested the introduction and revision of Test Guidelines shouldbepreparedtocontributetothework.
	In connection to the discussion on document TGP/7, the TWV noted that the procedures between the adoption of draft Test Guidelines and their publication were not clear and might need to be clarified, especially when draft Test Guidelines have been adopted subject to the inclusion of additional information to be provided by the leading expert. The TWV propose detailed the decision taken by the Technical Committee including the instruction to the leading expert be circulated to the interested experts of the Technical Working Parties concerned.
	The TWV proposed that questionnaires be prepared to ask for opinio ns of TWPs on their mid -term work plan with respect to the establishment and/or revision of Test Guidelines.

	TGP/4ManagementofVarietyCollections	
	TGP/4.1 General Guidance for the Management of Variety Collections	
TWC	Someexpertsconsideredthat thewordingofparagraph14wasconfusingspeciallythe secondpart. The expert from Germany clarified that the aim of this part of paragraph 14 was to stress the need and importance of having a variety collection.	
	Paragraph14toread:	
	"14. As a conclusion, it is important to underline that whatever the situation adopted to establish a variety collection, it is impossible and not necessary to have a full collection of varieties of common knowledge , but also to have a working variety collection with a ll varieties which would have to be included	
TWV	The TWV noted that the coverage of this document overlapped with that of document TGP/9.3.1, and thought that a restructuring might be necessary. Furthermore, the TWV agreed to that Paragraph 13(a)(ii) should read: "access to a representative sample of plantmaterial of the variety"	
	TGP/9ExaminingDistinctness	
	TGP/9.1:1:GeneralProceduresforDe terminingDistinctness:OfficialTesting	
TWV	The TWV noted the documents mentioned above, without making any specific comments.	
TGP/	9.1.2.1:GeneralProceduresforDeterminingDistinctness:BreederTesting(Australia)	
TWV	The TWV noted the documents mentioned above, without making any specific comments.	
TGP	/9.1.2.2:GeneralProceduresforDeterminingDistinctness:WiththeParticipationof Breeders(France)	
TWV	The TWV noted the documents mentioned above, without making any specific comments.	

TGP/9ExaminingDistinctness(Cont.)	
	TGP/9.1.3:GeneralProceduresforDeterminingDistinctness:General
TWV	RemarksintheTable:
	Page4:Thesuperscriptgiventotheword "Cross-pollinated"shouldbemovedtothe word "Obs"inthecolumnfortheseco ndgrowingcycle.
	Page 5: The indication of the possibility of the rejection for any variety with an erroneous TQ description may be interpreted in various way and thus should be redraftedtoavoidanymisunderstanding.
TG	P/9.3.1:ConsiderationofAllV arietiesofCommonKnowledgeintheExaminationof Distinctness
TWV	The TWV noted a similarity in the contents of this document to document TGP/4.1: General Guidance for the Management of Variety Collection and suggested a possible reorganization of the structure of the TGP documents.
	TGP/9.3.2UseofPhenotypicDistanceforExaminingDistinctness
TWC	The TWC noted that the proposed program had been used by one member State only and considered that it should be tested by more member States before bein recommended by UPOV in TGP/9.3.2. The TWC further agreed to keep the introduction as part of TGP/9.3.2 and the program GAIA to be presented in a TWC paper the following session.
TWV	(1) the determination of the weight applied to each characteristic is im portant and should be carefully done by crop experts with sufficient knowledge on the crop speciesconcerned.
	(2) the result of the application of the proposed GAIA system should be examinedinconjunctionwithapplicationofCOYDanalysis.
	TGP/9.4.1Examin ingdistinctnessindifferenttypesofvarieties:General
TWC	The TWC agreed to have references to the features of propagation in this chapter and not in the chapters describing the statistical method for distinctness
	Paragraph1toread:
	"1. The a ppropriate method for examining distinctness depends on the methodsofrecordingtheexpressionofacharacteristicinaspecificcropandthe resultingsetofdata (seeTGP/8)"

# TGP/9ExaminingDistinctness(Cont.)

*TGP/9.4.1Examining distinctnes* sindifferenttypes of varieties: General (Cont.)

# **TWC**

# Paragraph3and4toread:

- "3. Vegetatively propagated, truly self -pollinated and mainly self -pollinated varieties normally have very little variation within varieties. The same situation may occur in qualitative characteristics in cross -pollinated varieties (including synthetic varieties). A lack of significant variation within varieties allows examination of distinctness based on a single observation per variety, year and location. Guidance for the assessment of Distinctness in such cases is provided in (TGP/9/\_/) Ingeneral, aminimum distance of one or more than one states is recommended to consider a variety to be distinct. In the case of a single observation for each variety, the applica tion of a statistical analysis is not possible or necessary."
- Withinvarietyvariationisnormallygreaterforquantitativecharacteristics in cross-pollinated varieties, including synthetic varieties, due to genotypic pressionofavarietyshouldberecordedusing variation.Inthiscase,theex more than one observation s. Usually, records are taken from a on number of individual plants. Distinctness can then be assessed by comparing the differences in variety means with a measure of random variatio ninherentinthe variety means (see TGP/9.7 "Recommended Statistical Methods"). If a characteristic in a vegetatively propagated, truly self -pollinated or mainly self pollinated variety is recorded by observation of individual plants, the same methods can be applied. This situation might occur where there is considerable plant to plant variation within varieties due to environmental effects is observed.However, in general, a one single observation per plot for each variety is sufficient in vegetatively propagated, truly self -pollinated and mainly self pollinated varieties."

# Toaddnewparagraphattheend:

"The assessment of distinctness for hybrid varieties should follow the same rules independently of the degree of within variety variation on the level of the hybrid or of the parental lines. Specific guidance for the assessment of distinctness using the parental formulais provided in TGP/9."

# TWV

The TWV noted the document, without making any specific comments. The members of the TWV were invited to send comments on the documents to the Office as soon as possible so that hose comments could be considered by the Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops.

	TGP/9ExaminingDistinctness(Cont.)	
	TGP/9.6UseofMultipleLocationsintheEx aminationofDistinctness	
TWC	Paragraph4toreadasfollows:  "4. For some crops, such as fruit trees, the same plants are examined over successiveyears. Inthiscase, the condition of independence of growing cycles is not also satisfied. But, asit would be impossible in practice to plant successive trials, this is accepted"	
	Torewordthesecondsentenceofparagraph7ortoremovethewholeparagraph.	
	Thelastpointofparagraph8toredasfollows:  "Some offices systematically grow varieties in more than one location (usually 2).  They do this in order to provide a double check for consistency in crops for which they experience difficulties in proving distinctness and uniformity."	
	The TWC did not accepted to modify the fifth point of pa ragraph 8 as proposed by Australia because it considered necessary to check consistency of the DUS test by sampling different environments.	
	TGP/9.7RecommendedStatisticalMethods -COYD	
TWC	The TWC agreed to add an example of long term COYD and to put in page 14 It also agreed to include other possibilities than "fitted constants" in paragraph 10 of Appendix A.	
	Paragraph1, first sentence to read as:  "1. To distinguish varieties on the basis of a measured quantitative character istic we need to establish a minimum allowable distance between varieties so that a pair of varieties showing a difference greater than the minimum might be regarded as "distinct" in respect of that characteristic"	

	TGP/9ExaminingDistinctness(Cont.)	
	TGP/9.7RecommendedStatisticalMethods –COYD(Cont.)	
TWC	Paragraph12toreadasfollows:	
	"12. COYDisrecommendedforuseinassessingdistinctnessofvarieties	
	whenobservationsaremadeonaplant(orplot)basisovertwoormoreyears;	
	whenth echaracteristicisquantitative	
	when there are some differences between plants (or plots) of a variety but, nevertheless, this variation is sufficiently small to allow us to distinguish between varieties;	
	<ul> <li>in general COYD is recommended for use in the te sting of allogamous (cross fertilized) varieties."</li> </ul>	
	Paragraph16:toreplace"present"by"common".	
	TGP/10ExaminingUniformity	
	TGP/10.2 Assessing Uniformity According the Features of Propagation	
TWC	The TWC did not accept the proposal from Australia to modify paragraph 6, sentence 2 because it considered that the COYU is the only recommended method. The TWC also agreed to have references to the features of propagation in this chapter and not in the chapters describing the statistical method for uniformity.	
	Paragraph1(b)toreadasfollows:	
	"(b). Variation within mainly self -pollinated varieties should also result, predominantly, from environmental influences but a low level of genotypical variation caused by some cross pollination is accept ed. Therefore , the tolerance limit for uniformity may be higher more variation may be tolerated than for vegetatively propagated and truly self -pollinated varieties."	
TWV	The TWV noted the document, without making any specific comments. The members of the TWV were invited to send comments on the documents to the Office as soon as possible so that hose comments could be considered by the Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops.	

# TGP/10ExaminingUniformity(Cont.)

TGP/10.2AssessingUniformi tyAccordingtheFeaturesofPropagation

#### TWC

Paragraph2:toreadasfollowsandtoaddanewone:

- "2. As a result of the above, appropriate uniformity standards for the different typesofvarieties must be developed according to the features of propaga tion (specific population standards)."
- "2.a The variation within varieties in a characteristic determines how that characteristic is used to determine uniformity in the crop (off —types in case of discontinuous variationorvariancesincaseofcontinuous variationofcharacteristics).

  Thus, the uniformity of the crop may be determined by off —types alone, by variances of the characteristics alone, or by off —types for some characteristics and by variances for other characteristics ."

Paragraph4(b),last sentencetoreadasfollows:

"(b). ...... An appropriate fixed population standard should may also be applied in the case of a very low number of comparable varieties."

# Paragraph6toreadasfollows:

"6. If the detection of off -types is not possible because of considerable genotypic and/or environmental variation within varieties, uniformity should be assessed after taking this variation into account. The variability of a candidate variety should not exceed the variability of comparable varieties or types already known. The comparison between a candidate variety and comparable varieties is carried out on the basis of variances calculated from individual plant observations. The COYU procedure is the recommended statistical method for this comparis on (see Section 10.3.1). This procedure calculates the tolerance limit on the basis of comparable varieties already known i.e. uniformity is assessed using a relative tolerance limit."

# Paragraph8toreadasfollows:

"8. If the inheritance of a clear -cut segregating characteristic is not known, the expression of the characteristic is treated in the same way as other characteristics in eross pollinated varieties (including synthetic varieties). The observed segregation ratio should be described. An a ssessment of uniformity is not possible for these characteristics. (Therules outlined for predictable segregation ratios in Chapter 10.3.3 should be used for testing stability.)"

	TGP/10ExaminingUniformity(Cont.)	
	TGP/10.3.1RecommendedStatistical Methods:COYU	
TWC	The TWC agreed to include a paragraph clarifying that the same number of plants, measurements and replications as in COYD are used. It also agreed a paper to be prepared for the following TWC meeting proposing an alternative method to coyu when the requirements on degrees of freedom for COYU are not fulfilled	
	Paragraph1, first sentence to read:	
	"1. When the uniformity of plants of a variety is to be judged on the basis of measurements quantitative characteristics then the standard deviation (SD) can be used to summarise the spread of the observations."	
	Paragraph11:toincludeanextrapoint"whenthecharacteristicisquantitative"	
	Paragraph14:Toamendthesecondformula.	
	Paragraph30:referenceto"TableB2"should beto"TableA2"	
	TochecktheformatofTableA2.	
	10.3.2RecommendedStatisticalmethods:Off -types	
TWC	The TWC considered that the tables and figures included in the document in pages 14 to 36 should be improved. It was agreed that Denmark wo uld send the drafter the program to create new ones.	
	The TWC also considered necessary to include advice for the assessment of Uniformitybyrelativetolerancesinthenumberofoff -typesinTGP/10.Itwasagreed that experts from Germany and United K ingdom would prepare a document for the followingsessionoftheWorkingParty.	
	The TWC agreed to request the opinion of the other Technical Working Parties in relation to the use of the term "heterogeneous" of paragraph 11 or whether it could be replaced by "nonuniform"	

	TGP/10ExaminingUniformity(Cont.)	
	10.3.2RecommendedStatisticalmethods:Off -types(Cont.)	
TWC	Paragraph2toreadasfollows:	
	"2. Uniformity of candidate varieties of self—pollinated and vegetatively—propagatedcropsisno—rmallyassessedonthebasisofthenumberofoff—typesrecorded intests—. The maximum number of off—typesthatis acceptable should be chosen so that the probability of rejecting a candidate variety that should meet the crop standard is small. On the othe—rhand the probability of accepting a candidate variety that has many more off-types than the standard of that crop should also below."	
	Paragraph8toreadasfollows:  "8. Thismethodisrecommendedforuseinassessingtheuniformitybynumber of off-types-in self-pollinated and vegetatively propagated crops—with a fixed populationstandard."	
	TGP/8UseofStatisticalProceduresinDUSTesting	
	TGP/8.6ExaminingDUSinBulkSamples	
TWC	Someexpertsconsideredthatitwouldbenecessarytoinclud emoreexamplestoshow thereaction to bulking in different characteristics. One expert from United Kingdom proposed the components of the formula in paragraph 3 should be considered as "sources of variation" instead of "variance caused by".	
	Paragraph4toread:  "4. In cases where the data are not bulked the variance on of the difference betweentwovarietymeans, $\sigma_{diff}^2$ , becomes:"	
	Paragraph10theexplanationtotheformulatoread:	
	$Var(Z_w) = \sigma_w^2 + \sigma_f^2$ where $\sigma_w^2$ is the total variance caused by the year in which the variety is measured $\sigma_f^2$ is the variance caused influenced by the number of degrees of freedom $\sigma_f^2$ is approximately $\frac{1}{2\nu} \left(\frac{\sigma}{\sigma+1}\right)^2$ when then recorded variable is normally distributed and the variances are not too variable. This last expression reduces to $0.5/\nu$ when $\sigma >> 1$ . Here $\sigma$ is the mean value of the $s_w$ values and $\nu$ is the number of degrees of freedom used in the estimation of $s_w$ .	
TWV	The TWV agreed to send comments to the Of year.	

# (b)OtherTGPdocuments

# TGP/3VarietiesofCommonKnowledge

TGP/3.2:DevelopmentsandExplanationsRegardingVarietiesofCommonKnowledge

#### **TWV**

The TWV observed that the contents of the existing drafts of the document groups under TGP/3 and TGP/4 were duplicated in several areas. It was considered that the objectives of TGP/3 would be to explain the legal background of variety of common knowledge on the basis of provisions of the UPOV Convention whilet he objectives of TGP/4 would be to give practical guidance to DUS testing authorities when establishing reference collection. The TWV, being aware of the close link between TGP/3 and TGP/4, thought, however, that a clear functional division should be respected.

# TGP/8UseofStatisticalProceduresinDUSTesting

# TWC

Procedure for recommending statistical methods in TGP documents: The TWC received several comments suggesting that the statistical procedures and methods included in the TGP documents were—not the only ones that could be used in DUS testing. Even though the Working Party considered that it might be the case, it also considered that, to be recommended by UPOV in a TGP document, the Working Party and the Technical Committee should previously—examine any statistical method as follows:

- (a) aworkingpaper("TWCdocument")shouldbepresentedtotheconsideration of the Working Party, explaining the statistical principles applied including examples of its practical use in DUS testing.
- (b) the TWC toe xamine the proposal and to decide whether it could be put to the Technical Committee as a recommended statistical method or whether further development is necessary.
- (c) if considered suitable, the proposal to be put to the Technical Committee to be included as a TGP document.

# TGP/8.4TypesofCharacteristicsandtheirScaleLevel

# TWC

The TWC agreed to replace "level of view" by "level of process" throughout the wholedocument.

# Page4, second paragraph to read:

The continuous quantitative data for the echaracteristic "Plantlength" are measured on a continuous scale with defined units of assessment. It depends only on the costs and then ecessity to get any value in cmorinmm. Changing of measure— A change of unit of measurement—e.g. from cmintomm—is only a question of precision and not a change of type of scale.

# TGP/8UseofStatisticalProceduresinDUSTesting(Cont.)

*TGP/8.4TypesofCharacteristicsandtheirScaleLevel(Cont.)* 

# **TWC**

# Page4,lastparagraphtoread:

The definition of an absolute zero point makes it possible to define additional eonstant meaningful ratios. This is also a requirement for the construction of index numbers (e.g. the ratio of length to width). An index is the combination of at least two characteristics. In UPOV terms this special case is defined as a combined characteristic.

# Page5, second paragraph to read:

"The interval scale is higher classified than the ordinal scale but lower classified than the ratio scale (Table 2). That means that it is possib le to use more statistical procedures. Fewer statistical procedures can be used with interval scaled data than with ratio scaled data (Chapter 7). The interval scale is theoretically the minimum scaleleveltocalculate arithmetic mean values."

### Page 5,lastparagraphtoread:

"The ordinal scale is higher classified than the nominal scale but lower classified than the interval scale (Table 2). It is possible to use more statistical procedures than for nominal scaled data but less than for interval s caled data. Less statistical procedures can be used for ordinal scale than for all of the higher classified scaled data (Chapter 7)."

# Page6,thirdparagraph

Characteristicswithonlytwocategories( <u>dichotomous</u> <u>alternative</u>characteristic)are aspeci alformofnominalscales.

# Page6, Table2

Toreplace"exactzero" by "absolutezero" in the column Description.

# TGP/8UseofStatisticalProceduresinDUSTesting(Cont.)

*TGP/8.4TypesofCharacteristicsandtheirScaleLevel(Cont.)* 

## TWC

Page 7,thethirdparagraphandtheremarktoread:

"Length of plant" is usually recorded by measurements resulting in ratio scaled continuous quantitative data. Underspecific circumstances, visual assessment on a 1 to9scale may be appropriate. In this case, the recorded data are qualitatively scaled (ordinal scale) because the size interval between the midpoint of categories is not exactly the same.

Remark: In some cases visually assessed data on quantitative characteristics may be handled as quantitative data measurements. The possibility to apply statistical methods for quantitative data depends on the precision of the assessment and the robustness of the statistical procedures. In case of very precise visually assessed quantitative characteristics the usually ordinal data may reach the level of discrete interval scaled data or of discrete interval scaled data."

Table 4 and 5: to merge the columns Type/Procedure and Further Conditions and to delete "Recommended" from the titles of these tables. To replace "alternative" by "dichotomous" intable 5.

 $The Working Party furthermore agree \quad d \ that a paper on Chi square \ distribution \ to be prepared for the following session by experts from France and United Kingdom.$ 

# TGP/8.5S tatistical M ethod for DUSE x amination.

# TWC

The TWC agreed that bibliography should be included in the document and the would contact national expert to get that information and to include another example of randomized block design, another example of completely randomized design and a section on paired ttest. As the document would become more voluminous with the inclusion of more methods the Working Party considered that special care should be taken in its structure. Finally it was also agreed that experts from Denmark and Poland would prepare a document on incomplete block design and experts from France and United Kingdom would prepare a document on Chi Square for discussion at the following session of the TWC.

# TGP/12SpecialCharacteristics TGP/12.1: Characteristics Expressed in Response to External Factors: Disease Resistance TWV Paragraphs4torea d: "The decreasing input from science on the taxonomy of the diseases and of the strains of diseases is decreasing rapidly around the world is compensated by the input of phytologistsfromDUStestinginstitutesandseedcompanies Paragraphs13,the lastsentencetoread: thattheheterogeneity introduced through to attribute the trial is "Ithastobeavoided blamed inducedheterogeneity tothecandidatevariety. Paragraphs15, the second sentence to read: "Therefore, In fact in many cases—di sease characteristics may are often be used as groupingcharacteristics. Paragraphs16thelastsentencetobedeleted Paragraphs17 (g)toread: "the availability of reliable in oculum and host differential set" Paragraphs21 the second indent to read: "The applicant/breeder may be requested to carry out a blind disease test with coded samples including the candidate variety and a number of also coded control samples as susceptible and resistant controls <u>on</u> thebasisofaclearcontrol ." TGP/12.4:ExaminationofScentandFlavorCharacteris **TWV** The TWV recalled that it had proposed at its thirty -fifth session that a separate TGP document be prepared on scent and flavor, but it still needed to nominate a drafter. The TWV felt, however, tha tithad not sufficient experiences and knowledge, for the time being, to use scent or flavor characteristics for the conduct of DUS testing for vegetablevarieties.

[Endofdocument]