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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

GENEVA

**TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY
FOR
AGRICULTURAL CROPS**

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PROJECT FOR EXCHANGING SEED OF SELECTED VARIETIES

Document prepared by experts from Sweden

Introduction

1. During the thirtieth session of the Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops (hereinafter referred to as "the Working Party") held in Texcoco, Mexico, from September 3 to 7, 2001, the Working Party visited the *Valle de Mexico* research center of the *Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Forestales, Agrícolas y Pecuarias* (INIFAP) where there was a field trial including several plots of spring cereal crops, some of which were UPOV example varieties from other regions, in particular from Europe. The trial clearly demonstrated the problem of using example varieties from other regions. Some well-known European varieties did not reach emergence stage.

2. The Working Party discussed the issue of example varieties and about developing different sets of example varieties. A proposal was made in connection with the need to find ways to solve the problem of developing sets of example varieties (see paragraphs 46 to 50 of document TWA/30/20). This is elaborated below:

Proposal

3. To set up a test project in selected agricultural crops. Projects were proposed for spring oats (coordinator: Sweden), lupins (coordinator: South Africa), white clover (coordinator: New Zealand) and rice (coordinator: Japan). UPOV member States may choose to participate in one or more crops. A brief description of the project follows:

- (a) Participants to choose two to three well-known varieties in their country with good varietal purity.
- (b) Seed to be sent from each participating country to all the other countries taking part in the project.
- (c) A trial to be sown and variety descriptions made according to the UPOV Test Guidelines.
- (d) If possible, all characteristics included in the UPOV Test Guidelines for each crop to be described; and at least the asterisked characters.
- (e) After each growing season, the description of all the varieties in the trial to be sent to the coordinator for the crop concerned.

Advantages

4. Each variety included in the project will have the same origin and physical quality in the whole project (a single country to supply each variety).
5. Using UPOV Test Guidelines will provide harmonization in:

- field trial design and testing;
- variety descriptions;
- characteristics used.

Objectives

6. Each country to notify problems of varieties not adapted to their agroecological region.
7. The coordinators report will not problems and will provide help for future planning.

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