



INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

GENEVA

**TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY FOR
VEGETABLES**

**Thirty-Eighth Session
Seoul, June 7 to 11, 2004**

**TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY FOR
AGRICULTURAL CROPS**

**Thirty-Third Session
Poznań, Poland, June 28 to July 2, 2004**

ADDENDUM TO WORKING PAPER ON TEST GUIDELINES FOR SWEETCORN

prepared by the Office of the Union

Introduction

1. The Technical Working Party for Vegetables (TWV), at its thirty-eighth session held in Seoul, June 7 to 11, 2004, considered document TWV/38/6 -TWA/33/6 "Working Paper on Test Guidelines for Sweetcorn". The purpose of this document is to report on the comments of the TWV concerning that document.

2. The TWV examined document TWV/38/6-TWA/33/6 and document TG/2/6 + Corr. and observed that:

- Sweet Corn and Maize both belong to the same species and the present Test Guidelines for Maize (document TG/2/6 + Corr.) clearly applied to all varieties of *Zea mays* L., with the exception of ornamental varieties;
- the vast majority of characteristics used in TWV/38/6-TWA/33/6 were applicable to both sweetcorn and maize;
- document TG/2/6 Corr. contained characteristics which indicated that that document had also been designed to be applied to sweetcorn varieties (e.g. characteristic 30: type of grain with the state of expression "sweet").

3. The TWV, on the basis of the observations above, agreed to recommend that separate Test Guidelines for Sweetcorn should not be prepared and that the current Test Guidelines for Sweetcorn should be amended to better address sweetcorn varieties. The TWV also made the following comments:

- it should be the responsibility of the TWA to consider which characteristics in document TG/2/6 + Corr. should be deleted.
- until now, TG/6/2 has not been used for the testing of sweetcorn varieties, but separate national guidelines for sweetcorn had been used; thus there was little experience with respect to the applicability of the current Test Guidelines for Maize to sweetcorn varieties;
- notwithstanding the above, some characteristics specific to sweetcorn varieties would not be adequately covered using the present Test Guidelines for Maize; a minimum number of additional characteristics would need to be added;
- it would be possible to distinguish “sweetcorn” varieties and varieties other than sweetcorn varieties using characteristics such as “sugar content” and “shrinking at dry stage”; thus it would be possible to introduce characteristics peculiar to sweetcorn varieties, some of which would be introduced as characteristics for sweetcorn varieties only;
- conversely, characteristics contained in the current Test Guidelines for Maize, not applicable to sweetcorn varieties, could be indicated as “for maize only”
- the following characteristics of document TWV/38/6-TWA/33/6 are specific to sweetcorn varieties and should be added to the current Test Guidelines for Maize.:

(3a) Leaf: intensity of green color

(25) Plant: number of tillers

(26) Tiller: length

(40) Cob: diameter

(41) Corn: number of colors

(50) Corn: sugar content

4. The Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops (TWA) is invited to note the comments of the TWV when considering document TWV/38/6-TWA/33/6.

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