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TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY FOR AGRICULTURAL CROPS

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**TGP/8: TRIAL DESIGN AND TECHNIQUES USED IN THE EXAMINATION OF
DISTINCTNESS, UNIFORMITY AND STABILITY**

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

1. The purpose of this document is to report on the developments with respect to document TGP/8 “Trial Design and Techniques Used in the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability” (document TGP/8/2) in accordance with the approach approved by the Technical Committee (TC) at its forty-sixth session, held in Geneva from March 22 to 24, 2010 (see document TC/46/15 “Report on the Conclusions”, paragraphs 18 to 20), and the discussions at the Technical Working Parties (TWPs) at their sessions in 2010.

2. The following abbreviations are used in this document:

CAJ:	Administrative and Legal Committee
TC:	Technical Committee
TC-EDC:	Enlarged Editorial Committee
TWA:	Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops
TWC:	Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs
TWF:	Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops
TWO:	Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees
TWPs:	Technical Working Parties
TWV:	Technical Working Party for Vegetables

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I. BACKGROUND

4. At its meeting on January 8, 2009, the Enlarged Editorial Committee (TC-EDC) noted that there were a number of sections within document TGP/8/1 Draft 1 for which development had not yet started, or for which substantial further development would be required. At the same time, the TC-EDC noted that there were a number of important sections within TGP/8 that were well-established and could already provide useful guidance. Therefore, the TC-EDC proposed that the TC should be invited to consider the adoption of a first version of document TGP/8 (document TGP/8/1) without the sections of that document that would require further substantial development. The TC-EDC also noted that the identification of well-established text within document TGP/8 would justify translation of those sections. With regard to the sections of document TGP/8 that would not be included in the first version of document TGP/8 (document TGP/8/1), the TC-EDC proposed that those sections should continue to be developed without delay and should be incorporated into document TGP/8 by means of a revision of document TGP/8 (document TGP/8/2) at the earliest opportunity.

5. The TC at its forty-fifth session, held in Geneva from March 30 to April 1, 2009, agreed that document TGP/8/1 should be scheduled for adoption in 2010 on the basis of the content included in document TGP/8/1 Draft 12. The TC further agreed that, at the same time, separately from consideration of the draft of document TGP/8/1, the sections omitted from document TGP/8/1 Draft 12, as reproduced in document TC/45/14, Annex I, should continue to be developed without delay and should be incorporated into document TGP/8 by means of a revision of document TGP/8/1 (i.e. document TGP/8/2) at the earliest opportunity (see documents TC/45/5 “TGP Documents” paragraph 24 and TC/45/16, “Report”, paragraph 136).

6. The Technical Committee at its forty-sixth session in Geneva from March 22 to 24, 2010, agreed that, subject to agreement by the Administrative and Legal Committee (CAJ), document TGP/8/1 Draft 15, as amended by the TC, should be put forward for adoption by the Council at its forty-fourth ordinary session, to be held in Geneva on October 21, 2010. The TC noted that the French, German and Spanish translations of the original English text would be checked by the relevant members of the Editorial Committee prior to submission of the draft of document TGP/8/1 to the Council.

7. The CAJ, at its sixty-first session, held in Geneva on March 25, 2010, agreed that document TGP/8/1 Draft 15, as amended by the TC, should be put forward for adoption by the Council at its forty-fourth ordinary session, to be held in Geneva on October 21, 2010.

8. At its forty-fourth ordinary session in Geneva on October 21, 2010, the Council of UPOV adopted document TGP/8/1 “Trial Design and Techniques Used in the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability” on the basis of document TGP/8/1 Draft 16.

II. NEW SECTIONS TO BE DEVELOPED FOR A FUTURE REVISION OF DOCUMENT TGP/8 (DOCUMENT TGP/8/2)

New sections agreed by the TC at its forty-fifth session

9. The following are the sections contained in document TC/45/14, Annex I, which the TC has agreed should continue to be developed for a future revision of document TGP/8 (see paragraph 5 above).

Part I: DUS Trial Design and Data Analysis:

2. *Data to be recorded*
3. *Control of variation due to different observers*
6. *Data processing for the assessment of distinctness and for producing variety descriptions*

Part II: Techniques Used in DUS Examination

- 3.5 *Statistical methods for very small sample sizes*
5. *Examining DUS in bulk samples*
6. *Examination of characteristics using image analysis*
7. *Methods for data processing for the assessment of distinctness and for producing variety descriptions*

10. The Technical Committee at its forty-fifth session also agreed that consideration should be given to the inclusion of the following matters in a future revision of document TGP/8:

- (a) information on good agronomic practices for DUS field trials (e.g. soil conditions, uniformity of land, etc.)
- (b) guidance on data analysis for blind randomized trials.

(see document TC/45/16 “Report”, paragraph 126)

New Sections agreed by the TC at its forty-sixth session

11. The TC at its forty-sixth session held in Geneva from March 22 to 24, 2010, agreed that statistical methods for visually observed characteristics should be investigated by the TWC and should be considered for possible inclusion in the revision of document TGP/8/1 (see document TC/46/15 “Report on the Conclusions”, paragraph 14).

12. The TC at its forty-sixth session also approved the approach for the revision of document TGP/8/1 (document TGP/8/2), as set out in document TC/46/5, paragraphs 13 and 14. The TC agreed that, in addition to those items included in document TC/46/5 (paragraphs 9 and 10 above), the following matters should also be considered in the revision of document TGP/8 (see document TC/46/15 “Report on the conclusions”, paragraph 20):

- (a) guidance on the development of variety descriptions with information from:
 - (i) more than one growing cycle in one location, and
 - (ii) more than one location;

13. The TC at its forty-sixth session considered document TC/46/14 “Assessing uniformity by off-types on the basis of more than one sample or sub-samples”, and requested the Office of the Union, after the inclusion of a vegetable crop and incorporating the changes agreed by the TC, to send the questionnaire to the TC representatives of the members of the Union for completion, and to provide a document compiling the replies for consideration at the forty-seventh session of the TC. The TC also requested that the document identify any matters that might be considered in relation to the revision of document TGP/8 (see document TC/46/15 “Report on the conclusions”, paragraphs 86 to 88).

14. The content of the new sections to be developed for a future revision of TGP/8 and the notes on that content are provided in the annexes to this document.

Seminar on DUS testing

15. From March 18 to 20, 2010, in Geneva, UPOV held a Seminar on DUS testing (“Seminar”). The conclusions drawn by the Chairman of the TC in conjunction with the Office of the Union included the following:

“[...]”

“The organization of such seminars, from time-to-time, provides a valuable means of sharing broad overviews and new developments and also of indentifying areas for possible future guidance (e.g. treatment of data for distinctness and descriptions, understanding of “similar varieties”, status of the variety descriptions).

“[...]”

16. With regard to identifying areas for possible future guidance in document TGP/8, Session 7 of the Seminar may be of particular interest, in particular in respect to New Section 13 - Methods for data processing for the assessment of distinctness and for producing variety descriptions (Drafters: experts from Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Kenya and the United Kingdom):

“Session 7: Developing Variety Descriptions and their Use for Distinctness and the Management of Variety Collections”

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 09.00 | Introduction based on document TGP/9 “Examining Distinctness” |
| (a) | <i>Transformation of Observations and Measurements into Notes for Distinctness and for Variety Descriptions</i> |
| <i>Moderator:</i> | <i>Mrs. Beate Rücker (Head DUS Testing Department, Bundessortenamt (Germany))</i> |
| 09.15 | Experience in Germany |
| 09.45 | Experience in Japan |
| 10.15 | Experience in the Republic of Korea |
| 10.45 | <i>Coffee</i> |
| 11.00 | Experience in the United Kingdom |
| 11.30 | Discussion |
| 12.00 | <i>Lunch</i> |

Session 7: Developing Variety Descriptions and their Use for Distinctness and the Management of Variety Collections (continued)

(b) *Use of Variety Descriptions Provided by Breeders*

Moderator: Mr. Alejandro Barrientos Priego (Professor / Investigator, Department of Phytotechnics, Chapingo Autonomous University (Mexico))

13.30 Experience in Argentina

14.00 Experience in Australia

14.30 Experience in Canada

15.00 Experience in France

15.30 Experience in the United States of America

16.00 Discussion”

17. Copies of the presentations made at the Seminar on DUS testing are available on the UPOV website at: http://www.upov.int/en/documents/dus_seminar/dus_seminar_index.html.

Development of new sections of document TGP/8

18. At their sessions in 2010, the TWPs considered the sections for further development of TGP/8 and agreed the following with regard to the development of the items covered by the annexes:

ANNEX I - TGP/8 PART I: DUS TRIAL DESIGN AND DATA ANALYSIS

New Section 2 - Data to be recorded (Drafter: Mr. Uwe Meyer (Germany))

TWA Noted that Mrs. Beate Rücker (Germany) was already involved in the drafting of this section.

When discussing document TGP/7 “Development of Test Guidelines”, section “(vii) Guidance for type of observation”, the TWA concluded that the important difference between Scenario A and B in Example 1 was that, in Scenario B, the assessment was made by reference to example varieties, instead of recording the date and suggested that the document be modified to clarify that. It also agreed that the guidance should be consistent with the recommendations provided in document TGP/8, in particular in section “Data to be recorded” to be developed for a future revision of TGP/8 - PART I (see document TWA/39/27 rev. “Revised Report”, paragraphs 53 and 54).

TWC The TWC considered that a DUS expert should be identified to assist Mr. Meyer in the redrafting of the section in order to ensure that it would be accessible to DUS experts

TWO The TWO agreed that Andrea Menna (Germany) should participate in the development of the section.

TWF The TWF agreed that Erik Schulte (Germany) should participate in the development of the section.

Annex I to this document contains updated text for section “Data to be recorded” prepared by Mr. Uwe Meyer (Germany).

ANNEX II – TGP/8 PART I: DUS TRIAL DESIGN AND DATA ANALYSIS

New Section 3 – Control of variation due to different observers (Drafter: Mr. Gerie van der Heijden (Netherlands))

TWA Mr. Henk Bonthuis (Netherlands) to coordinate with Mr. van der Heijden (Netherlands). France to contribute via TWC experts.

TWC Mr. van der Heijden reported that he had discussed the section with Mr. Henk Bonthuis, (Netherlands) and they would seek to develop a draft text for consideration by the TWPs in 2011.

TWV The TWV noted that the TWV experts from the Netherlands would coordinate with Mr. Henk Bonthuis (Netherlands) and Mr. van der Heijden (Netherlands) in the development of that section, also noting that France would contribute via TWC experts.

Annex II to this document contains the text prepared by Mr. Gerie van der Heijden (Netherlands) for section “Control of variation due to different observers”.

ANNEX III - TGP/8 PART I: DUS TRIAL DESIGN AND DATA ANALYSIS

New Section 6 – Data processing for the assessment of distinctness and for producing variety descriptions (Drafters: experts from France, Germany, Japan, Kenya and the United Kingdom)

TWA To be combined with Annex XI.

TWC The TWC considered document TWC/28/32 “Principles Lying Behind the Methods Described in TGP/8 Part II for Producing Variety Descriptions”, prepared by Mrs. Sally Watson (United Kingdom) and Mr. Sami Markkanen (Finland).

The TWC agreed that the Office of the Union should develop the section by making reference to TGP/9 “Examining Distinctness” and “New Section 2 - Data to be recorded (Drafter: Mr. Uwe Meyer (Germany))”.

The TWC noted that this section would need to be considered in conjunction with the development of the New Section 13 of PART II of TGP/8 “Methods for data processing for the assessment of distinctness and for producing variety descriptions: (Drafters: experts from Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Kenya and the United Kingdom)”

ANNEX IV - TGP/8 PART I: DUS TRIAL DESIGN AND DATA ANALYSIS

New Section – Information of good agronomic practices for DUS field trials (Drafters: Mrs. Anne Weitz (European Union) and Argentina and France to contribute)

TWA Mrs. Anne Weitz (European Union) to act as Drafter and Argentina and France to contribute.

TWC The TWC noted that, at the thirty-ninth session of the TWA, held in Osijek, Croatia, from May 24 to 28, 2010, Mrs. Anne Weitz (European Union) had offered to act as a drafter of this section, and Argentina and France had offered to contribute.

TWV The TWV noted the standard wording in Chapter 3.3 of Test Guidelines: “The tests should be carried out under conditions ensuring satisfactory growth for the expression of the relevant characteristics of the variety and for the conduct of the examination.” It considered that it would be very difficult for UPOV to develop guidance on good agronomic practices and suggested that further consideration should be given to the possible content of such a section before drafting of a section began.

TWF The TWF noted the standard wording in Chapter 3.3 of Test Guidelines: “The tests should be carried out under conditions ensuring satisfactory growth for the expression of the relevant characteristics of the variety and for the conduct of the examination.”. The TWF agreed with the TWV that it would be very difficult for UPOV to develop guidance on good agronomic practices and suggested that further consideration should be given to the possible content of such a section before drafting of a section began. For example, it noted that guidance would need to cover a wide range of growing conditions (field trials, greenhouse trials etc.), different DUS testing arrangements and different types of crop / species (agricultural crops, fruit, ornamentals, vegetables, mushrooms etc.). However, it considered that it might be useful to consider providing literature for aspects such as trial design.

Annex IV to this document contains the text prepared by Ms. Anne Weitz (European Union).

ANNEX V - TGP/8 PART II: TECHNIQUES USED IN DUS EXAMINATION

New Section after COYU – Statistical Methods for very small sample sizes (Drafter: Mr. Gerie van der Heijden (Netherlands))

TWA TWC to develop

TWC The TWC agreed that Mr. van der Heijden (Netherlands) would contact Mr. Chris Barnaby (New Zealand) to seek clarification on the purpose of this section and to seek examples of situations where guidance was needed. On the basis of those discussions, an introduction would be added to the text.

TWF The TWF agreed that one of the aspects to be considered would be guidance on the sample size where several parts of plants were taken from a number of individual plants: to clarify whether the sample size would relate to the number of plants or the number of plant parts.

Annex V to this document contains the text prepared by Mr. Gerie van der Heijden (Netherlands) which has been incorporated in document TGP/8 but was not discussed yet.

ANNEX VI - TGP/8 PART II: TECHNIQUES USED IN DUS EXAMINATION

New Section 11 Examining DUS in bulk samples (Drafter: Mr. Kristian Kristensen (Denmark))

TWC The TWC agreed that Mr. Kristian Kristensen should provide an introduction to this section explaining the reasons for bulking of samples and the consequences of bulking for DUS examination.

Annex VI to this document contains the text prepared by Mr. Kristian Kristensen (Denmark) for section “Examining DUS in bulk samples”, which incorporates a revised text for subsections “Introduction” and “Consequences of bulking for DUS examination”.

ANNEX VII - TGP/8 PART II: TECHNIQUES USED IN DUS EXAMINATION

New Section 12 - Examining characteristics using image analysis (Drafter: Mr. Gerie van der Heijden (Netherlands))

TWA France and the United Kingdom to contribute.

TWC The TWC considered that, before developing this section further, it would be useful to review information on the use of image analysis by UPOV Members. Experts from Australia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and the United Kingdom would make 15-minute presentations on their use of image analysis at the twenty-ninth session of the TWC. The TWC noted that those presentations might also be considered in relation to exchangeable software.

TWV The TWV agreed that the potential benefits of image analysis should be linked to Annex II, New Section 3 - Control of variation due to different observers. The TWV noted that the TWC had considered that, before developing this section further, it would be useful to review information on the use of image analysis by UPOV Members and that experts from Australia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and the United Kingdom would make 15-minute presentations on their use of image analysis at the twenty-ninth session of the TWC. The TWV was informed that the TWC session would be webcast to enable interested experts to follow the presentations.

TWF The TWF noted the information from the expert from Australia that the examples to be provided by Australia for the section would include examples of image analysis on fruit.

ANNEX VIII - TGP/8 PART II: TECHNIQUES USED IN DUS EXAMINATION

New Section 13 - Methods for data processing for the assessment of distinctness and for producing variety descriptions (Drafters: experts from France, Germany, Japan, Kenya and the United Kingdom)

TWA The Office of the Union to coordinate and to include all relevant information presented at the Seminar on DUS Testing.

TWC (see also comments on Annex III)

The TWC considered Annex XI in conjunction with the following documents: TWC/28/24 “Handling measured quantitative characteristics for vegetable and herbage crops tested in the United Kingdom”, prepared by Mrs. Sally Watson (United Kingdom)

The TWC noted that paragraph 7 should be amended to read “For vegetable crops excluding potato method (b) is used to divide the range of expression into states and notes, and for herbage crops method (a) is used.”

The TWC agreed that the notes should be amended to 1-5, instead of 1, 3, 5,

7, 9.

Mr. Markkanen (Finland) explained that the system used by Finland appeared to be based on the same principles as those used in the DUSTNT package and explained that, if that proved to be the case, Finland would consider using the DUSTNT package and would withdraw its method from the collection of methods in Annex XI

TWC/28/32 “Principles Lying Behind the Methods Described in TGP/8 Part II for Producing Variety Descriptions”, prepared by Mrs. Sally Watson (United Kingdom) and Mr. Sami Markkanen (Finland)

TWC/28/33 “Use of linear regression for the description of herbage crops tested in France” prepared by Mr. Vincent Gensollen (France)

As a next step in preparing a section for TGP/8, the TWC agreed that the TWC should receive a 10-minute overview of each of the methods presented in document TWC/28/20, Annex XI and also the presentations by Argentina, Germany, Japan and the Republic of Korea at the DUS seminar, held in Geneva in March 2010. The TWC would then analyze the similarities and differences in those proposals and would seek to identify methods that would serve as models and that would be available to UPOV members in the form of exchangeable software. As a possible future step, the TWC could consider whether it would be appropriate to compare results from common data sets.

The text from Finland has been withdrawn from the collection of methods.

ANNEX IX - TGP/8 PART II: TECHNIQUES USED IN DUS EXAMINATION

New Section - Guidance of data analysis for blind randomized trials (Drafters: France and Israel to provide examples)

TWA France to provide an example.

TWC The TWC noted that at the thirty-ninth session of the TWA, it was agreed that France would provide an example.

TWV The TWV agreed that it should be clarified that the guidance should not be restricted to “data analysis” for blind randomized trials.

TWF The TWF agreed that Israel should provide an example.

ANNEX X - TGP/8 PART II: TECHNIQUES USED IN DUS EXAMINATION

New Section - Statistical methods for visually observed characteristics (Drafters: Denmark, France and the United Kingdom)

TWA TWC to develop.

TWC The TWC noted that this subject would be discussed under agenda item 12 “Statistical methods for visually observed characteristics” (document TWC/28/29)

The TWC considered document TWC/28/29, presented by Mr. Kristian Kristensen (Denmark), on the basis of a presentation, a copy of which is provided in document TWC/28/29 Add.. It was suggested that it might be useful to make the analysis using programs other than SAS. An expert from France agreed to investigate whether someone in his country would be able to translate the method to R. An expert from United Kingdom offered to do this for the program GenStat. 56. The TWC agreed that separate chapters for ordinal and nominal data (including binominal data) be prepared for the next version of the document (see document TWC/28/36, paragraphs 54 to 56).

Annex X to this document contains the collection of statistical methods for visually observed characteristics. The text for “The Combined Over-Years Method for Nominal Characteristics” has been prepared by Mr. Kristian Kristensen (Denmark).

ANNEX XI - TGP/8 PART II: TECHNIQUES USED IN DUS EXAMINATION

New Section - Guidance for the development of variety descriptions (Drafter to be agreed)

TWA To be combined with Annex XI.

TWC The TWC agreed that Mr. van der Heijden (Netherlands) would consider whether it would be possible to present a report on developments in the Netherlands

19. The content of the new sections to be developed for a future revision of TGP/8 and the notes on that content are provided in the annexes I to XI to this document, including the respective drafter and notes, where appropriate.

III. REVISION OF EXISTING SECTIONS OF DOCUMENT TGP/8/1 TO BE DEVELOPED FOR A FUTURE REVISION (DOCUMENT TGP/8/2)

Revision of Sections of document TGP/8/1 agreed by the TC at its forty-sixth session

20. The TC at its forty-sixth session approved the approach for the revision of document TGP/8/1 (document TGP/8/2), as set out in document TC/46/5, paragraphs 13 and 14. The TC agreed that, in addition to those items included in document TC/46/5 (paragraphs 9 and 10 above), the following matters should also be considered in the revision of document TGP/8 (see document TC/46/15 “Report on the conclusions”, paragraph 20):

- (a) review of the recommendation on the minimum number of degrees of freedom for COYD;
- (b) inclusion of a recommendation on the minimum number of degrees of freedom for the 2 x 1% Method; and
- (c) inclusion of a recommendation on the minimum number of comparable varieties to be included in the trial in the Relative Variance Method for the assessment of uniformity.

Discussions on the revision of existing sections of document TGP/8 at the Technical Working Parties during their sessions in 2010

General

21. The TWC noted that, subsequent to the twenty-eighth session of the TWC, there had been some changes to certain sections in the version of document TGP/8/1 that was put forward for adoption by the Council and agreed that the TWC should review those sections at its twenty-ninth session.

The TGP/8/1 Draft 15 Part II, 1. The GAIA Methodology

22. The TWA noted that the text of TGP/8/1 Draft 15 “Trial Design and Techniques Used in the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability”, Part II, 1. The GAIA Methodology, Section 1.3.1.1, should be amended to clarify that there is an assumption that the length of panicle is used as a characteristic (see document TWA/39/27 Rev. “Revised Report”, paragraph 70).

TGP/8/1 Draft 15: Part II: 5: Pearson’s Chi-Square Test Applied to Contingency Tables

23. The TWC agreed that, in document TGP/8/1 Draft 15: Part II: 5: Pearson’s Chi-Square Test Applied to Contingency Tables, Section 5.5 (4) should be amended to read:
 “(4) Always use Yates Correction for determining the chi-square test with only one degree of freedom.”

(see document TWC/28/36 “Report”, paragraph 74)

24. At their sessions in 2010, the TWPs considered the sections for further development of TGP/8 and agreed the following with regard to the development of the items covered by the annexes:

ANNEX XII - TGP/8 PART II: TECHNIQUES USED IN DUS EXAMINATION
 Section 4 – 2x1 % Method - Minimum number of degrees of freedom for the 2x1% Method (Drafter to be agreed)

TWA *TWC to develop.*

TWC *The TWC agreed that Mrs. Sally Watson (United Kingdom) would draft a general explanation of the rationale for indicating “at least 10 degrees of freedom and preferably at least 20 degrees of freedom” for both the 2x1%*

Method and COYD.

TWF The TWF agreed that one of the aspects to be considered would be guidance on the sample size where several parts of plants were taken from a number of individual plants: to clarify whether the sample size would relate to the number of plants or the number of plant parts.

ANNEX XIII - TGP/8 PART II: TECHNIQUES USED IN DUS EXAMINATION

Section 9 - The Combined-Over-Years Uniformity Criterion (COYU) - Minimum number of degrees of freedom for COYU

TWA The TWA agreed that the TWC should review the data that was originally presented for COY when considering the appropriate degrees of freedom.

TWC The TWC agreed that Mrs. Sally Watson (United Kingdom) would draft a general explanation of the rationale for indicating “at least 10 degrees of freedom and preferably at least 20 degrees of freedom” for both the 2x1% Method and COYD. The TWC agreed that reference to “COYU” should be changed to “COYD”

ANNEX XIV - TGP/8 PART II: TECHNIQUES USED IN DUS EXAMINATION

Section 10 – Minimum number of comparable varieties for the Relative Variance Method (Drafter: Mr. Nik Hulse (Australia)).

TWC The TWC noted that a proposal would be prepared for discussion by the TWPs in 2011.

Annex XIV to this document contains the proposal prepared by Mr. Nik Hulse (Australia) for discussion by the TWPs in 2011.

25. The content of the sections to be developed for a future revision of TGP/8 and the notes on that content are provided in the annexes XII to XIV to this document, including the respective drafter and notes, where appropriate.

IV. WORKPLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DIFFERENT SECTIONS OF TGP/8/2

26. The TC, at its forty-seventh session, agreed the workplan for the development of TGP/8/2 (see document TC/47/26 “Report on the Conclusions”, paragraph 74). The workplan specified that the following sections would be drafted for consideration by the Technical Working Parties in 2011 and 2012, with a view to adoption by the Council in 2013.

27. The Technical Committee (TC), at its forty-seventh session held in Geneva from April 4 to 7, 2011, noted the comments made by the TWPs at their sessions in 2010, with regard to document TGP/8, as set out in document TC/47/20, paragraphs 18 and 24. It agreed that the text of TGP/8/1 “Trial Design and Techniques Used in the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability”, Part II, should be amended in a future revision as follows:

- (a) 1. The GAIA Methodology, Section 1.3.1.1, should be amended to clarify that there is an assumption that the length of panicle is used as a characteristic;

- (b) 5: Pearson's Chi-Square Test Applied to Contingency Tables, Section 5.5 (4) should be amended to read: "(4) Always use Yates Correction for determining the chi-square test with only one degree of freedom." (See document TC/47/26 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 73).

[Annexes follow]

TGP/8 PART I: DUS TRIAL DESIGN AND DATA ANALYSIS*New Section 2 - Data to be recorded (Drafter: Mr. Uwe Meyer (Germany))***2. DATA TO BE RECORDED****2.1 Introduction**

Document TGP/9 Examining Distinctness, sections 4.4 and 4.5 provide the following guidance on the type of observation for distinctness in respect to the type of characteristic and the method of propagation of the variety:

“4.4 Recommendations in the UPOV Test Guidelines

“The indications used in UPOV Test Guidelines for the method of observation and the type of record for the examination of distinctness, are as follows:

“Method of observation

“M: to be measured (an objective observation against a calibrated, linear scale e.g. using a ruler, weighing scales, colorimeter, dates, counts, etc.);

“V: to be observed visually (includes observations where the expert uses reference points (e.g. diagrams, example varieties, side-by-side comparison) or non-linear charts (e.g. color charts). “Visual” observation refers to the sensory observations of the expert and, therefore, also includes smell, taste and touch.

“Type of record(s)

“G: single record for a variety, or a group of plants or parts of plants; “S: records for a number of single, individual plants or parts of plants

“For the purposes of distinctness, observations may be recorded as a single record for a group of plants or parts of plants (G), or may be recorded as records for a number of single, individual plants or parts of plants (S). In most cases, “G” provides a single record per variety and it is not possible or necessary to apply statistical methods in a plant-by-plant analysis for the assessment of distinctness.

“4.5 Summary

“The following table summarizes the common method of observation and type of record for the assessment of distinctness, although there may be exceptions:

Method of propagation of the variety	Type of expression of characteristic		
	QL	PQ	QN
Vegetatively propagated	VG	VG	VG/MG/MS
Self-pollinated	VG	VG	VG/MG/MS
Cross-pollinated	VG/(VS*)	VG/(VS*)	VS/VG/MS/MG
Hybrids	VG/(VS*)	VG/(VS*)	**

* Records of individual plants only necessary if segregation is to be recorded.

** To be considered according to the type of hybrid.”

2.2 Types of expression of characteristics

2.2.1 Characteristics can be classified according to their types of expression. The following types of expression of characteristics are defined in the General Introduction to the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability and the Development of Harmonized Descriptions of New Varieties of Plants, (document TG/1/3, the “General Introduction”, Chapter 4.4):

2.2.2 Qualitative characteristics” (QL) are those that are expressed in discontinuous states (e.g. sex of plant: dioecious female (1), dioecious male (2), monoecious unisexual (3), monoecious hermaphrodite (4)). These states are self-explanatory and independently meaningful. All states are necessary to describe the full range of the characteristic, and every form of expression can be described by a single state. The order of states is not important. As a rule, the characteristics are not influenced by environment.

2.2.3 “Quantitative characteristics” (QN) are those where the expression covers the full range of variation from one extreme to the other. The expression can be recorded on a one-dimensional, continuous or discrete, linear scale. The range of expressions is divided into a number of states for the purpose of description (e.g. length of stem: very short (1), short (3), medium (5), long (7), very long (9)). The division seeks to provide, as far as practical, an even distribution across the scale. The Test Guidelines do not specify the difference needed for distinctness. The states of expression should, however, be meaningful for DUS assessment.

2.2.4 In the case of “pseudo-qualitative characteristics” (PQ) the range of expression is at least partly continuous, but varies in more than one dimension (e.g. shape: ovate (1), elliptic (2), circular (3), obovate (4)) and cannot be adequately described by just defining two ends of a linear range. In a similar way to qualitative (discontinuous) characteristics – hence the term “pseudo-qualitative” – each individual state of expression needs to be identified to adequately describe the range of the characteristic.

2.3 Types of scales of data

2.3.1 The possibility to use specific procedures for the assessment of distinctness, uniformity and stability depends on the scale level of the data which are recorded for a characteristic. The scale level of data depends on the type of expression of the characteristic and on the way of recording this expression. The type of scale may be nominal, ordinal, interval or ratio.

2.3.2 Data from qualitative characteristics

2.3.2.1 Data results from qualitative characteristics are nominal scaled data without any logical order of the discrete categories. They result from visually assessed (notes) qualitative characteristics.

Examples:

Type of scale	Example	Example number
nominal	Sex of plant	1
nominal with two states	Leaf blade: variegation	2

For description of the states of expressions, see Table 6.

2.3.2.2 A nominal scale consists of numbers which correspond to the states of expression of the characteristic, which are referred to in the Test Guidelines as notes. Although numbers are used for designation there is no inevitable order for the expressions and so it is possible to arrange them in any order.

2.3.2.3 Characteristics with only two categories (dichotomous characteristic) are a special form of nominal scaled characteristic.

2.2.2.4 The nominal scale is the lowest classification of the scales (Table 1). Few statistical procedures are applicable for evaluations (section 2.3.8 [*cross ref.*]).

2.3.3 Data from quantitative characteristics

2.3.3.1 Data results from quantitative characteristics are metric (ratio or interval) or ordinal scaled data.

2.3.3.2 Metric scaled data are all data which are recorded by measuring or counting. Weighing is a special form of measuring. Metric scaled data can have a continuous or a discrete distribution. Continuous metric data result from measurements. They can take every value out of the defined range. Discrete metric data result from counting.

Examples

Type of scale	Example	Example number
Continuous metric	Plant length in cm	3
Discrete metric	Number of stamens	4

For description of the states of expression, see Table 6.

2.3.3.3 The continuous metric scaled data for the characteristic “Plant length” are measured on a continuous scale with defined units of assessment. A change of unit of measurement e.g. from cm into mm is only a question of precision and not a change of type of scale.

2.3.3.4 The discrete metric scaled data of the characteristic “Number of stamens” are assessed by counting (1, 2, 3, 4, and so on). The distances between the neighboring units of assessment are constant and for this example equal to 1. There are no real values between two neighboring units but it is possible to compute an average which falls between those units.

2.3.3.5 In biometrical terminology, metric scales are referred to as quantitative scales or cardinal scales. Metric scales can be subdivided into ratio scales and interval scales.

2.3.3.6 Ratio scale

2.3.3.6.1 A ratio scale is a metric scale with a defined absolute zero point. There is always a constant non-zero distance between two adjacent expressions. Ratio scaled data may be continuous or discrete.

The absolute zero point:

2.3.3.6.2 The definition of an absolute zero point makes it possible to define meaningful ratios. This is 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 the General Introduction, this is referred to as a combined characteristic (see document TG/1/3, section 4.6.3).

2.3.3.6.3 It is also possible to calculate ratios between expressions of different varieties. For example, in the characteristic 'Plant length' assessed in cm, there is a lower limit for the expression which is '0 cm' (zero). It is possible to calculate the ratio of length of plant of variety 'A' to length of plant of variety 'B' by division:

Length of plant of variety 'A' = 80 cm
Length of plant of variety 'B' = 40 cm
Ratio = Length of plant of variety 'A' / Length of plant of variety 'B'
= 80 cm / 40 cm
= 2.

2.3.3.6.4 So it is possible in this example to state that plant 'A' is double the length of plant 'B'. The existence of an absolute zero point ensures an unambiguous ratio.

2.3.3.6.5 The ratio scale is the highest classification of the scales (Table 1). That means that ratio scaled data include the highest information about the characteristic and it is possible to use many statistical procedures (section 2.3.8 [cross ref.]).

2.3.3.6.6 The examples 3 and 4 (Table 6) are examples for characteristics with ratio scaled data.

2.3.3.7 Interval scale

2.3.3.7.1 An Interval scale is a metric scale without a defined absolute zero point. There is always a constant non-zero distance between two adjacent expressions. Interval scaled data may be distributed continuously or discretely.

2.3.3.7.2 An example for a discrete interval scaled characteristic is 'Time of beginning of flowering' measured as date which is given as example 5 in Table 6. This characteristic is defined as the number of days from April 1. The definition is useful but arbitrary and April 1 is not a natural limit. It would also be possible to define the characteristic as the number of days from January 1.

2.3.3.7.3 It is not possible to calculate a meaningful ratio between two varieties which should be illustrated with the following example:

Variety 'A' begins to flower on May 30 and variety 'B' on April 30

Case I) Number of days from April 1 of variety 'A' = 60
Number of days from April 1 of variety 'B' = 30

Number of days from April 1 of variety 'A' 60 days
Ratio_I = $\frac{60}{30} = 2$
Number of days from April 1 of variety 'B' 30 days

Case II) Number of days from January 1 of variety 'A' = 150
Number of days from January 1 of variety 'B' = 120

Number of days from January 1 of variety 'A' 150 days
Ratio_{II} = $\frac{150}{120} = 1.25$
Number of days from January 1 of variety 'B' 120 days

Ratio_I = 2 > 1.25 = Ratio_{II}

2.3.3.7.4 It is impossible to state that the time of flowering of variety 'A' is twice that of variety 'B'. The ratio depends on the choice of the zero point of the scale. This kind of scale is defined as an "Interval scale": a metric scale without a defined absolute zero point.

2.3.3.3.5 The interval scale is lower classified than the ratio scale (Table 1). Fewer statistical procedures can be used with interval scaled data than with ratio scaled data (section 2.3.8 [cross ref.]). The interval scale is theoretically the minimum scale level to calculate arithmetic mean values.

2.3.3.8 Ordinal scale

2.3.3.8.1 Discrete categories of ordinally scaled data can be arranged in an ascending or descending order. They result from visually assessed (notes) quantitative characteristics.

Example:

Type of scale	Example	Example number
ordinal	Intensity of anthocyanin	6

For description of the states of expressions, see Table 6

2.3.3.8.2 An ordinal scale consists of numbers which correspond to the states of expression of the characteristic (notes). The expressions vary from one extreme to the other and thus they have a clear logical order. It is not possible to change this order, but it is not important which numbers are used to denote the categories. In some cases ordinal data may reach the level of discrete interval scaled data or of discrete ratio scaled data (section 2.3.8 [cross ref.]).

2.3.3.8.3 The distances between the discrete categories of an ordinal scale are not exactly known and not necessarily equal. Therefore, an ordinal scale does not fulfil the condition to calculate arithmetic mean values, which is the equality of intervals throughout the scale.

2.3.3.8.4 The ordinal scale is lower classified than the interval scale (Table 1). Less statistical procedures can be used for ordinal scale than for each of the higher classified scale data (section 2.3.8 [cross ref.]).

2.3.4 Data from pseudo-qualitative characteristics

2.3.4.1 Data results from pseudo-qualitative characteristics are nominal scaled data without any logical order of all discrete categories. They result from visually assessed (notes) qualitative characteristics.

Examples:

Type of scale	Example	Example number
nominal	Shape	7
nominal	Flower color	8

For description of the states of expressions, see Table 6.

2.3.4.2 A nominal scale consists of numbers which correspond to the states of expression of the characteristic, which are referred to in the Test Guidelines as notes. Although numbers are used for designation there is no inevitable order for all of the expressions. It is possible to arrange only some of them in an order.

2.3.4.3 The nominal scale is the lowest classification of the scales (Table 1). Few statistical procedures are applicable for evaluations (section 2.3.8 [cross ref.]).

2.3.5 The different types of scales are summarized in the following table.

Table 1: *Types of expressions and type of scales*

Type of expression	Type of scale	Description	Distribution	Data recording	Scale Level
QN	ratio	constant distances with absolute zero point	Continuous	Absolute Measurements	High
			Discrete	Counting	
	interval	constant distances without absolute zero point	Continuous	Relative measurements	↑
			Discrete	Date	
	ordinal	Ordered expressions with varying distances	Discrete	Visually assessed notes	↑

PQ or QL	nominal	No order, no distances	Discrete	Visually assessed notes	Low
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2.3.6 Scale levels for variety description

The description of varieties is based on the states of expression (notes) which are given in the Test Guidelines for the specific crop. In the case of visual assessment, the notes from the Test Guidelines are usually used for recording the characteristic as well as for the assessment of DUS. The notes are distributed on a nominal or ordinal scale (see Part I: section 4.5.4.2 [*cross ref.*]). For measured or counted characteristics, DUS assessment is based on the recorded values and the recorded values are transformed into states of expression only for the purpose of variety description.

2.3.7 Relation between types of expression of characteristics and scale levels of data

2.3.7.1 Records taken for the assessment of qualitative characteristics are distributed on a nominal scale, for example “Sex of plant”, “Leaf blade: variegation” (Table 6, examples 1 and 2).

2.3.7.2 For quantitative characteristics the scale level of data depends on the method of assessment. They can be recorded on a metric (when measured or counted) or ordinal (when visually observed) scale. For example, “Length of plant” can be recorded by measurements resulting in ratio scaled continuous metric data. However, visual assessment on a 1 to 9 scale may also be appropriate. In this case, the recorded data are ordinal scaled because the size of intervals between the midpoints of categories is not exactly the same.

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

2.3.7.3 A pseudo-qualitative type of characteristic is one in which the expression varies in more than one dimension. The different dimensions are combined in one scale. At least one dimension is quantitatively expressed. The other dimensions may be qualitatively expressed or quantitatively expressed. The scale as a whole has to be considered as a nominal scale (e.g. “Shape”, “Flower color”; Table 6, examples 7 and 8).

2.3.7.4 In the case of using the off-type procedure for the assessment of uniformity the recorded data are nominally scaled. The records fall into two qualitative classes: plants belonging to the variety (true-types) and plants not belonging to the variety (off-types). The type of scale is the same for qualitative, quantitative and pseudo-qualitative characteristics.

2.3.7.5 The relation between the type of characteristics and the type of scale of data recorded for the assessment of distinctness and uniformity is described in Table 2. A

qualitative characteristic is recorded on a nominal scale for distinctness (state of expression) and for uniformity (true-types vs. off-types). Pseudo-qualitative characteristics are recorded on a nominal scale for distinctness (state of expression) and on a nominal scale for uniformity (true-types vs. off-types). Quantitative characteristics are recorded on an ordinal, interval or ratio scale for the assessment of distinctness depending on the characteristic and the method of assessment. If the records are taken from single plants the same data may be used for the assessment of distinctness and uniformity. If distinctness is assessed on the basis of a single record of a group of plants, uniformity has to be judged with the off-type procedure (nominal scale).

Table 2: Relation between type of characteristic and type of scale of assessed data

Procedure	Type of scale	Distribution	Type of characteristic		
			Qualitative	Pseudo-qualitative	Quantitative
Distinctness	ratio	Continuous	No	No	<u>Yes</u>
		Discrete	No	No	<u>Yes</u>
	interval	Continuous	No	No	<u>Yes</u>
		Discrete	No	No	<u>Yes</u>
	ordinal	Discrete	No	No	<u>Yes</u>
	nominal	Discrete	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	No
Uniformity	ratio	Continuous	No	No	<u>Yes</u>
		Discrete	No	No	<u>Yes</u>
	interval	Continuous	No	No	<u>Yes</u>
		Discrete	No	No	<u>Yes</u>
	ordinal	Discrete	No	No	<u>Yes</u>
	nominal	Discrete	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>

2.3.8 Relation between method of observation of characteristics, scale levels of data and recommended statistical procedures

2.3.8.1 Established statistical procedures can be used for the assessment of distinctness and uniformity considering the scale level and some further conditions such as the degree of freedom or unimodality (Tables 3 and 4).

2.3.8.2 The relation between the expression of characteristics and the scale levels of data for the assessment of distinctness and uniformity is summarized in Table 6.

Table 3: Statistical procedures for the assessment of distinctness

Type of scale	Distribution	Observation method	Procedure and further Conditions	Reference document
ratio	continuous	MS MG (VS) ¹⁾	COYD Normal distribution, $df \geq 20$	TGP/9
	discrete		long term LSD Normal distribution, $df < 20$	
interval	continuous		2 out of 3 methods (LSD 1%) Normal distribution, $df \geq 20$	
	discrete			
ordinal	discrete	VG	See explanation for QN characteristics in TGP/9 sections 5.2.2 and 5.2.3,	TGP/9
		VS	See explanation for QN characteristics in TGP/9 section 5.2.4	TWC/14/12
nominal	discrete	VG (VS) ²⁾	See explanation for QL and PQ characteristics in TGP/9 sections 5.2.2 and 5.2.3	TGP/9

- 1) see remark in section 2.3.3.8.2 [cross ref.]
- 2) normally VG but VS would be possible

Table 4: Statistical procedures for the assessment of uniformity

Type of scale	Distribution	Observation method	Procedure and Further Conditions	Reference document
ratio	continuous	MS	COYU Normal distribution 2 out of 3 method ($s_c^2 \leq 1.6s_s^2$) Normal distribution LSD for untransformed percentage of off-types	TGP/10
	discrete	MS		
interval	continuous	VS		
	discrete			
ordinal	discrete	VS	threshold model	TWC/14/12
nominal	discrete	VS	off-type procedure for dichotomous (binary) data	TGP/10

2.4 Different levels to look at a characteristic

2.4.1 Characteristics can be considered in different levels of process (Table 5). The characteristics as expressed in the trial (type of expression) are considered as process level 1. The data taken from the trial for the assessment of distinctness, uniformity and stability are defined as process level 2. These data are transformed into states of expression for the purpose of variety description. The variety description is process level 3.

Table 5: Definition of different process levels to consider characteristics

Process level	Description of the process level
1	characteristics as expressed in trial
2	data for evaluation of characteristics
3	variety description

From the statistical point of view, the information level decreases from process level 1 to 3. Statistical analysis is only applied in level 2.

2.4.2 Sometimes for crop experts it seems that there is no need to distinguish between different process levels. The process level 1, 2 and 3 could be identical. However, in general, this is not the case.

2.4.3 Understanding the need for process levels

2.4.3.1 The crop expert may know from UPOV Test Guidelines or his own experience that, for example, 'Length of plant' is a good characteristic for the examination of DUS. There are varieties which have longer plants than other varieties. Another characteristic could be 'Variegation of leaf blade'. For some varieties, variegation is present and for others not. The crop expert has now two characteristics and he knows that 'Plant length' is a quantitative characteristic and 'Variegation of leaf blade' is a qualitative characteristic (definitions: see Part I: section 2.2.3 to 2.2.2 [*cross ref.*] below). This stage of work can be described as **process level 1**.

2.4.3.2 The crop expert then has to plan the trial and to decide on the type of observation for the characteristics. For characteristic 'Variegation of leaf blade', the decision is clear. There are two possible expressions: 'present' or 'absent'. The decision for characteristic 'Plant length' is not specific and depends on expected differences between the varieties and on the variation within the varieties. In many cases, the crop expert will decide to measure a number of plants (in cm) and to use special statistical procedures to examine distinctness and uniformity. But it could also be possible to assess the characteristic 'Plant length' visually by using expressions like 'short', 'medium' and 'long', if differences between varieties are large enough (for distinctness) and the variation within varieties is very small or absent in this characteristic. The continuous variation of a characteristic is assigned to appropriate states of expression which are recorded by notes (see document TGP/9, section 4)[*cross ref.*]. The crucial element in this stage of work is the recording of data for further evaluations. It is described as **process level 2**.

2.4.3.3 At the end of the DUS test, the crop expert has to establish a description of the varieties using notes from 1 to 9 or parts of them. This phase can be described as **process level 3**. For 'Variegation of leaf blade' the crop expert can take the same states of expression (notes) he recorded in process level 2 and the three process levels appear to be the same. In

cases where the crop expert decided to assess 'Plant length' visually, he can take the same states of expression (notes) he recorded in process level 2 and there is no obvious difference between process level 2 and 3. If the characteristic 'Plant length' is measured in cm, it is necessary to assign intervals of measurements to states of expressions like 'short', 'medium'

and 'long' to establish a variety description. In this case, for statistical procedures, it is important to be clearly aware of the relevant level and to understand the differences between characteristics as expressed in the trial, data for evaluation of characteristics and the variety description. This is absolutely necessary for choosing the most appropriate statistical procedures in cooperation with statisticians or by the crop expert.

Table 6: Relation between expression of characteristics and scale levels of data for the assessment of distinctness and uniformity

Example	Name of characteristic	Distinctness			Uniformity		
		Unit of assessment	Description (states of expression)	Type of scale	Unit of assessment	Description (states of expression)	Type of scale
1	Sex of plant	1	dioecious female	nominally scaled data	True-type	Number of plants belonging to the variety	nominally scaled data
		2	dioecious male		Off-type		
3	monoecious unisexual						
4	monoecious hermaphrodite						
2	Leaf blade: variegation	1	absent	nominally scaled data	True-type	Number of plants belonging to the variety	nominally scaled data
		9	present		Off-type		
3	Length of plant	cm	assessment in cm without digits after decimal point	ratio scaled continuous metric data		cm	assessment in cm without digits after decimal point
					True-type	Number of plants belonging to the variety	nominally scaled data
					Off-type	Number of off-types	
4	Number of stamens	counts	1, 2, 3, ... , 40,41, ...	ratio scaled discrete metric data	counts	1, 2, 3, ... , 40,41, ...	ratio scaled discrete metric data
5	Time of beginning of flowering	Date	e.g. May 21, 51 st day from April 1	interval scaled discrete metric data	Date	e.g. May 21, 51 st day from April 1	interval scaled discrete metric data
					True-type	Number of plants belonging to the variety	nominally scaled data
Off-type	Number of off-types						

Example	Name of characteristic	Distinctness			Uniformity		
		Unit of assessment	Description (states of expression)	Type of scale	Unit of assessment	Description (states of expression)	Type of scale
6	Intensity of anthocyanin	1	very low	ordinally scaled data (with an underlying quantitative variable)	True-type	Number of plants belonging to the variety	nominally scaled data
		2	very low to low				
		3	low		Off-type	Number of off-types	
		4	low to medium				
		5	medium				
		6	medium to high				
		7	high				
		8	high to very high				
		9	very high				
7	Shape	1	deltate	nominal scaled data	True-type	Number of plants belonging to the variety	nominally scaled data
		2	ovate				
		3	elliptic		Off-type	Number of off-types	
		4	obovate				
		5	obdeltate				
		6	circular				
		7	oblate				
8	Flower color	1	dark red	nominal scaled data	True-type	Number of plants belonging to the variety	nominally scaled data
		2	medium red				
		3	light red		Off-type	Number of off-types	
		4	white				
		5	light blue				
		6	medium blue				
		7	dark blue				
		8	red violet				
		9	violet				
		10	blue violet				

[Annex II follows]

TGP/8 PART I: DUS TRIAL DESIGN AND DATA ANALYSIS

New Section 3 - Control of variation due to different observers (Drafter: Mr. Gerie van der Heijden (Netherlands))

Notes

28. The TWC at its twenty-fifth session, held in Sibiu, Romania, from September 3 to 6, 2007, agreed that this section be developed on the basis of sections I and II of document TWC/25/12.

29. The TWC at its twenty-sixth session agreed that Mr. Gerie van der Heijden (Netherlands) will consult his Naktuinbouw colleagues in the Netherlands to see if they could contribute a draft for this section.

30. The TWV at its forty-second session, held in Cracow, Poland, from June 23 to 27, 2008, noted that it had encouraged the development of that section and agreed that it should provide suitable text for aspects which were not adequately covered in document TWC/25/12.

[DRAFT TEXT FOLLOWS]

Control of variation due to different observers

Variation in measurements or observations can be caused by many different factors, like the type of crop, type of characteristic, year, location, trial design and management, method and observer. Especially for visually assessed characteristics (QN/VG or QN/VS) differences between observers can be the reason for large variation and potential bias in the observations. An observer might be less well trained, or have a different interpretation of the characteristic. So, if observer A measures variety 1 and observer B variety 2, the difference measured might be caused by differences between observers A and B instead of differences between varieties 1 and 2. Clearly, our main interest lies with the differences between varieties and not with the differences between the observers. It is important to realize that the variation caused by different observers cannot be eliminated, but there are ways to control it.

Training

UPOV test guidelines try to harmonize the variety description process and describe as clearly as possible the characteristics of a crop and the states of expression. This is the first step in controlling variation and bias. However, the way a characteristic is observed or measured may vary per location or testing authority. Calibration manuals made by the local testing authority are very useful for the local implementation of the UPOV test guideline. Where needed these crop-specific manuals explain the characteristics to be observed in more detail, and specify when and how they should be observed. Furthermore they may contain pictures and drawings for each characteristic, often for every state of expression of a characteristic. The calibration manual can be used by new inexperienced observers but are also useful for more experienced or substitute observers, as a way to recalibrate themselves.

Training of new observers is essential for consistency and continuity of databases, both by means of calibration manuals, and by supervision and guidance of experienced observers. This should be done on a regular basis and this procedure should preferably be described in ISO guidelines.

Testing the calibration

After training an observer, the next step is to test the performance of the observers in a calibration experiment. This is especially true for inexperienced observers who have to make visual observations (QN/VG characteristics). They should preferably pass a calibration test prior to making observations in the trial. But also for experienced observers, it is important to test themselves on a regular basis to verify if they still fulfil the calibration criteria.

A calibration experiment can be set up and analyzed in different ways. Generally it involves multiple observers, measuring the same set of material and assessing differences between the observers.

For observations made by measurement tools, like rulers (often QN/MS characteristics), the measurement is often made on an interval or ratio scale. In this case, the approach of Bland and Altman (1986) can be used. This approach starts with a plot of the scores of every pair of observers in a scatter plot, and compare it with the line $y=x$. This helps the eye gauging the degree of agreement between measurements. In a next step, the difference per object is taken and a plot is constructed with on the y-axis the difference between the observers and on the x-axis either the index of the object, or the mean value of the object. By further drawing the horizontal lines $y=0$, $y=\text{mean}(\text{dif})$ and the two lines $y = \text{mean}(\text{dif}) \pm 2 \times \text{standard deviations}$, the bias between the observers and any outliers can easily be spotted. Test methods like the paired t-test can be applied to test for a significant deviation of the observer from another observer or from the mean of the other observers. By taking repeated measurements of the same object, one can use a more advanced test involving variance components.

However, in many cases of QN/MS, a good and clear instruction usually suffices and variation or bias in measurements between observers is often negligible. If there is reason for doubt, a calibration experiment as described above can help in providing insight in the situation.

For the analysis of ordinal data (QN/VS or QN/VG characteristics), the construction of contingency tables between each pair of observers for the different scores is very instructive.

A test for a structural difference (bias) between two observers can be obtained by using the Wilcoxon Matched-Pairs test (often called Wilcoxon Signed-Ranks test).

To measure the degree of agreement the Cohen's Kappa statistic (Cohen, 1960) is often used. The statistic tries to accounts for random agreement:

$\kappa = P(\text{agreement}) - P(e) / (1 - P(e))$, where $P(\text{agreement})$ is the fraction of objects which are in the same class for both observers (the main diagonal in the contingency table), and $P(e)$ is the probability of random agreement, given the marginals (like in a Chi-square test).

If the observers are in complete agreement the Kappa value $\kappa = 1$. If there is no agreement among the observers, other than what would be expected by chance ($P(e)$), then $\kappa = 0$.

The standard Cohen's Kappa statistic only considers perfect agreement versus non-agreement. If one wants to take the degree of disagreement into account (for example with ordinal characteristics), one can apply a linear or quadratic weighted Kappa (Cohen, 1968).

If we want to have a single statistic for all observers simultaneously, a generalized Kappa coefficient can be calculated. Most statistical packages, including SPSS, Genstat and R (package Concord), provide tools to calculate the Kappa statistic.

As noted, a low κ -value indicates poor agreement and values close to 1 indicate excellent agreement. Often scores between 0.6-0.8 are considered to indicate substantial agreement, and above 0.8 to indicate almost perfect agreement. If needed, z-scores for kappa (assuming an approximately normal distribution) are available.

Trial design

If we have multiple observers in a trial, the best approach is to have one person observe one or more complete replications. In that case, the correction for block effects also accounts for the bias between observers. If more than one observer per replication is needed, extra attention should be given to calibration and agreement. In some cases, the use of incomplete block designs (like alpha designs) might be helpful, and an observer can be assigned to the sub blocks. In this way we can correct for the systematic difference between observers.

Example of Cohen's Kappa

In this example, there are three observers and 30 objects (plots or varieties).

The characteristic is observed on a scale of 1 to 6.

The raw data and their tabulated scores are given in the following tables.

Variety	Observer		
	1	2	3
V1	1	1	1
V2	2	1	2
V3	2	2	2
V4	2	1	2
V5	2	1	2
V6	2	1	2
V7	2	2	2
V8	2	1	2
V9	2	1	2
V10	3	1	3
V11	3	1	3
V12	3	2	2
V13	4	5	4
V14	2	1	1
V15	2	1	2
V16	2	2	3
V17	5	4	5
V18	2	2	3
V19	1	1	1
V20	2	2	2
V21	2	1	2
V22	1	1	1
V23	6	3	6
V24	5	6	6
V25	2	1	2
V26	6	6	6
V27	2	6	2
V28	5	6	5
V29	6	6	5
V30	4	4	4

Scores for variety	Observer					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
V1	3	0	0	0	0	0
V2	1	2	0	0	0	0
V3	0	3	0	0	0	0
V4	1	2	0	0	0	0
V5	1	2	0	0	0	0
V6	1	2	0	0	0	0
V7	0	3	0	0	0	0
V8	1	2	0	0	0	0
V9	1	2	0	0	0	0
V10	1	0	2	0	0	0
V11	1	0	2	0	0	0
V12	0	2	1	0	0	0
V13	0	0	0	2	1	0
V14	2	1	0	0	0	0
V15	1	2	0	0	0	0
V16	0	2	1	0	0	0
V17	0	0	0	1	2	0
V18	0	2	1	0	0	0
V19	3	0	0	0	0	0
V20	0	3	0	0	0	0
V21	1	2	0	0	0	0
V22	3	0	0	0	0	0
V23	0	0	1	0	0	2
V24	0	0	0	0	1	2
V25	1	2	0	0	0	0
V26	0	0	0	0	0	3
V27	0	2	0	0	0	1
V28	0	0	0	0	2	1
V29	0	0	0	0	1	2
V30	0	0	0	3	0	0

The contingency table for observer 1 and 2 is:

O1\O2	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
1	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
2	10	5	0	1	0	1	17
3	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
4	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
5	0	0	0	1	0	2	3
6	0	0	1	0	0	2	3
Total	15	6	1	3	0	5	30

The Kappa coefficient between observer 1 and 2, $\kappa(O1,O2)$ is calculated as follows:

$\kappa(O1,O2) = P(\text{agreement between } O1 \text{ and } O2) - P(e) / (1 - P(e))$ where

$P(\text{agreement}) = (3+5+0+1+0+2)/30 = 11/30 \approx 0.3667$ (diagonal elements)

$P(e) = (3/30).(15/30) + (17/30).(6/30) + (3/30).(1/30) + (1/30).(3/30) + (3/30).(0/30) + (3/30).(5/30) \approx 0.1867$. (pair-wise margins)

So $\kappa(O1,O2) \approx (0.3667-0.1867) / (1-0.1867) \approx 0.22$

This is a low value, indicating very poor agreement between these two observers. There is reason for concern and action should be taken to improve the agreement.

Similarly the values for the other pairs can be calculated: $\kappa(O1,O3) \approx 0.72$, $\kappa(O2,O3) \approx 0.22$.

Observer 1 and 3 are in good agreement. Observer 2 is clearly different from 1 and 3 and probably needs additional training.

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[Annex III follows]

TGP/8 PART I: DUS TRIAL DESIGN AND DATA ANALYSIS

New Section 6 – Data processing for the assessment of distinctness and for producing variety descriptions (Drafters: experts from France, Germany, Japan, Kenya and the United Kingdom)

Notes

31. The TWC at its twenty-sixth session agreed that the information provided in documents TWC/26/15 and TWC/26/23, presented by Mr. Vincent Gensollen (France) and Mr. Uwe Meyer (Germany), respectively, and an oral presentation by Ms. Mariko Ishino (Japan) included in document TWC/26/15 Add. provided valuable guidance on data processing for the assessment of distinctness and for producing variety descriptions and noted that UPOV did not have guidance on that matter in the TGP documents. It agreed that a new section should be created in document TGP/8/1, Part I as “Data processing for the assessment of distinctness and for producing variety descriptions for producing variety descriptions” and that the methods used by France, Germany and Japan should be included in a new section in document TGP/8/1, Part II as “Methods for data processing for the assessment of distinctness and for producing variety descriptions.

32. The TWC at its twenty-seventh session agreed that experts from France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kenya and United Kingdom to provide a short description of the principles underlying the detailed methods provided in Part II.

33. Mrs. Sally Watson (United Kingdom) to provide an example for Section 7.1

[DRAFT TEXT FOLLOWS]

6. DATA PROCESSING FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF DISTINCTNESS AND FOR PRODUCING VARIETY DESCRIPTIONS

See PART II, New Section 13

[Annex IV follows]

TGP/8 PART I: DUS TRIAL DESIGN AND DATA ANALYSIS

New Section – Information of good agronomic practices for DUS field trials (Drafters: Mrs. Anne Weitz (European Union) and Argentina and France to contribute))

34. Comments: proposed by the TC at its forty-fifth session

[DRAFT TEXT FOLLOWS]

INFORMATION OF GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES FOR DUS FIELD TRIALS

1. Introduction

According to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Good Agricultural Practices are “practices that address environmental, economic and social sustainability for on-farm processes, and result in safe and quality food and non-food agricultural products” (Source: FAO COAG, 2003, GAP paper: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/006/y8704e.htm>)

The notion of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) covers a rather wide field of activities. It forms the basis for a number of regulations, standards and codes applied by authorities, producers, retailers, consumers, NGOs, quality controllers etc.

For the purpose of this document, the information of good agricultural practices shall consider only field trials set up in the framework of DUS tests.

1.1 General Introduction

The General Introduction states that the DUS examination is based mainly on growing tests. The examination generates a description of the variety, using its relevant characteristics, by which it can be defined as a variety in terms of the Convention. Furthermore, the characteristics generated form the basis for the assessment of D, U and S. Taking this into consideration; it becomes obvious that the satisfactory development of the plants in the growing trial according to their genotypic predisposition is a prerequisite for the proper assessment of the characteristics which describe the variety.

1.2 Conditions for conducting the examination

Document TGP/7 Development of Test Guidelines explains that “the test should be carried out under conditions ensuring satisfactory growth for the expression of the relevant characteristics of the variety and for the conduct of the examination”.

Specific and detailed practical guidance on certain aspects is given in the relevant Test Guidelines; however, general aspects that apply across all Test Guidelines are not covered there. This annex aims to address the aspects for a satisfactory growth of the varieties in a DUS test based on field trials under specific consideration of factors which are influenced by good (or bad) agricultural practices.

1.3 Factors which impact on the expression of characteristics

There are many factors which can affect the expression of the characteristics of a variety, e.g. pests, diseases, chemical treatment or the origin of the plant material examined like tissue culture or different rootstocks. The General Introduction states that, where the factor is not intended for DUS examination, it is important that its influence does not distort the DUS examination. Accordingly, the testing authority should ensure either that the varieties under test are all free of such factors or that all varieties included into the DUS test are subject to the same factor and that it has an equal effect on all varieties.

2. GAP and elements which impact on the true expression of characteristics

The following section will explain the guiding principles of good agricultural practices for the most important elements which play an important role on the satisfactory growth of varieties in terms of their impact on the true expression of the characteristic of the plant genotype. It is important to note that the below mentioned measures should be carried out in a way that their impact on the plants in the field trial is uniform and equal.

The examiner should keep records of all cultivation measures. These records should allow providing evidence in case an incident of growth conditions happens.

The below mentioned elements enumerate the most important considerations for DUS testing in a field trial:

2.1 Soil

As a principle, any field work has to be carried out under consideration of the conditions of the local weather and the location in question.

The natural soil fertility and biological activity shall be increased or maintained by proper rotation. The species involved into the rotation should be chosen in respect of the DUS trial which will follow. E. g. in order to avoid misinterpretation on uniformity, the pre-crop species should not be the same or similar to the next DUS trial.

The humus content should be increased by regular supply of organic substance or by reduction of field work such as tillering, if possible.

Measures to avoid erosion by wind or water are maintaining or planting hedges.

The area of the field which is chosen for a DUS trial should provide to a maximum for a uniform soil.

2.2 Water

Rainfall should be monitored, the amount of irrigation should be such that it provides for proper growth (if that facility exists).

The water used for irrigation should be analyzed on its quality in order to avoid damage to plants, dissipation should be avoided.

2.3 Fertilization

General principles according to the relevant applicable law ruling fertilization (if applicable) shall be applied.

Regular analyses of the composition of the soil with regard to the nutritional elements and to its humus content should guide the supply of fertilizers.

Supply from previous crops in the rotation should be considered.

2.4 Pest and disease management

General principles according to the relevant applicable law ruling pest management shall be applied.

Pests or diseases which allow a treatment by integrated pest management should be privileged to chemical treatment in the framework of sustainable development and to avoid side effects of pesticides.

2.5 Qualification of the personnel

The personnel who performs the agricultural work should have at least basic knowledge of the principles of DUS testing.

2.6 Technical equipment

Sowing or planting equipment should be cleaned in a way that technical mixture of varieties is avoided.

A regular maintenance of machines should be respected.

It shall be cleaned regularly so that infections are avoided.

2.7 Wildlife protection

When protecting trials against damage by wildlife (e.g. nets for birds or fences for hares or deer), this protection should hamper the animals to destroy the trial, it should not kill them.

Good agricultural practices should be a guiding principle for outdoor grown DUS trials in order to provide for satisfactory growth and to minimize any undesirable effect on the true expression of the genotype of a variety.

[Annex V follows]

TGP/8 PART II: TECHNIQUES USED IN DUS EXAMINATION

New Section after COYU Statistical Methods for Very Small Sample Sizes (Drafter: Mr. Gerie van der Heijden (Netherlands))

Notes

35. The TC at its forty-fourth session held in Geneva from April 7 to 9, 2008, agreed to invite the Technical Working Parties to consider including statistical methods for very small sample sizes, subject to suitable methods which are in use by members of the Union being provided.

[DRAFT TEXT FOLLOWS]

3.5 STATISTICAL METHODS FOR VERY SMALL SAMPLE SIZES

One of the main problems when applying a statistical test on small trials is that we do not have enough data available to limit the risk of making a wrong decision to an acceptable level. Every statistical test has a probability/risk of making wrong decisions: there is a Type I error, i.e. the risk of declaring two varieties different where in reality they are not significantly different, and a Type II error: declaring two distinct varieties not significantly different.

In general we control the Type I error by fixing the significance level (α). However, especially with small trials, a low risk of Type I (low α) considerably increases the Type II error, or alternatively stated, such a test has a considerable lack of discriminating power. Another problem with small sample sizes is that we do not have enough data to test our assumptions.

From a statistical point of view it is possible to statistically compare the mean of a candidate variety after a single measurement on a single plant in a single year with a set of reference varieties, if at least several reference varieties are being measured in the same year as well as in one or more other years. For this, one could use any statistical package capable of analysing unbalanced two-way designs with the factors years and varieties. This analysis can be seen as an extension of the long-term LSD but is not standard UPOV practice. The test is based on the usual assumptions, which can however not be tested with such a small dataset. If we are willing to accept assumptions like normality, homogeneity of variance and additivity, e.g. from previous knowledge, the test is in principal valid, although lack of power is still a problem.

In general, small sample size may refer to different aspects of the variety trial:

- (a) limited number of plants/measurements in a plot
- (b) limited number of replications
- (c) limited number of varieties
- (d) limited number of years

or any combination of these aspects.

Ad (a). For any experiment, sound experimental design principles should be kept in mind at all times. With regard to the number of plants per plot, it is bad practise to use so few plants in a plot that measured plants are considerably influenced by their neighbours. A plant of a small variety next to a plant of a tall variety may lead to both plants having a more extreme expression than under the condition of neighbouring plants of similar height. This interaction effect hampers unbiased comparisons. To overcome this neighbouring effect, one often uses border plants. Alternatively one can group varieties in different height classes such that these effects are minimised within the groups. Also refer to TGP8 part 1, section 1.6.3.7 for further details.

Ad (b). The number of replications in a trial is often at least 2. Strictly speaking, for the COYD or long-term LSD we only use the variety means of the year for the analysis, so from a theoretical point of view a single replication per variety per year is sufficient. Of course having no replications within a year may lead to a significant increase of the uncertainty of the estimate of the variety mean and it limits the testing of assumptions for the analysis.

Ad (c). With regard to the number of varieties in the test, from a theoretical point as few as three or four varieties are sufficient if two or three years of data are used. However, in most cases, experience has taught us that such small experiments with just a few degrees of freedom are not really useful, as the discriminating power of the test is too low. A low power may be less of a problem, if we have just a few varieties and large and consistent differences between them.

Ad (d). Theoretically spoken, it is possible to make a decision based on a single year's observation of a candidate variety, when reference varieties are also observed and data from the reference varieties over several years are available. Several assumptions need to be made and these assumptions can not be tested. An important assumption is that the candidate variety to be tested does not exhibit a strong interaction from year to year with close reference varieties for the characteristic under study. However, the most important drawback is that the power of the test is very limited, i.e. the chance that a truly significant difference between a pair of varieties will indeed be declared significant in the analysis is very small. In that case, the conclusion would be that the two varieties are not sufficiently different to obtain a significant result given the small sample size. If this information is sufficient for rejection of the candidate variety is an open question, but probably not.

Historical data can be used to gain insight in the lack of power of the experiment, i.e. the risk of accidentally rejecting a distinguishable variety. One can also use these data to get an impression of the best way to improve the experimental design.

The power of the test can be increased in several ways. If a reference variety is not tested in the same years as the candidate variety, the standard error of this difference is rather large. By putting the varieties in the same trial in the next year, the standard error for this difference can be reduced considerably.

Another way to increase the power of the test is by increasing the number of degrees of freedom for the residual term. This can be done by using more data from previous years, which is exactly what is done in the long-term LSD.

Note that small trials are troublesome for distinctness testing, but even more so for uniformity testing. The COYU requires a considerable number of plants per plot for a reasonable estimate of the standard deviation.

Another problem when we use small and unbalanced designs is that some variety differences are tested with greater power than others. The comparison of candidate varieties with reference varieties which are less frequent (or even absent) in the years of testing of the candidates will have a much larger standard error of difference. This might lead to rejecting a candidate which can not be declared sufficiently distinct, but which is due to bad luck since it is close to a reference not in the collection of reference varieties on the field. The procedure is in itself statistically valid and sound, but might be unwanted from a fair policy point of view.

[Annex VI follows]

TGP/8 PART II: TECHNIQUES USED IN DUS EXAMINATION

New Section 11 Examining DUS in bulk samples (Drafter: Mr. Kristian Kristensen (Denmark))

Notes

36. The TC at its forty-fourth session held in Geneva from April 7 to 9, 2008, requested that for each statistical method an explanation of the requirements for its application and the situations where it would be appropriate to apply the method be included.

[DRAFT TEXT FOLLOWS]

11. EXAMINING DUS IN BULK SAMPLES

11.1 Introduction

11.1.1 The term “bulk sampling” is here used for the process of merging some or all individual plants before recording the characteristics. Bulking is usually only applied where the measurement of the character is very expensive or very difficult to obtain for each individual plant. Some examples are: the content of potassium that is used for distinctness purpose for sugar beet varieties may be based on bulked samples because it would be very expensive to prepare samples and analyse the content of potassium for each individual plant. Likewise the weight of seeds that is used in field peas and field beans are often done after bulking the seeds from several plants.

11.1.2 There are different degrees of bulking ranging from: 1) merging of pairs of plants, 2) merging 3 or 4 up to all plants within a plot and 3) merging all plants for each the variety. The degree of bulking may play an important role for the efficiency of the tests and may exclude even exclude some tests.

11.2 Consequences of bulking for DUS examination

The consequences of bulking will be more serious when testing for uniformity than when testing for distinctness.

11.2.1 Testing for Uniformity

11.2.1.1 If the test for uniformity is based on the number of off-types any bulking may completely mask the off-types as now only the mean the characteristic over the bulked plants can be evaluated.

11.2.1.2 For many continuous variables uniformity are tested using the COYU method which is based on logarithm of the standard deviation of individual plants within each plot. For this method the effect of moderate bulking is mainly caused by a decrease in the number of degrees of freedom and thereby larger uncertainty on the logarithm of the standard deviations. Moderate bulking (bulking pairs of plants) will in most cases decrease the power

of tests. Further bulking, up to having only two bulked samples per plot will further decrease the power of the tests which means that the degree of non-uniformity must be much higher for it to be detected – about 3-4 times higher if 30 plants from each of two blocks were bulked into 2 groups of 15 plants for each of the two blocks before the recording was made. These calculations assume that equal amount of material were bulked from each plant. If that is not done the effect of bulking is expected to be larger.

11.2.1.3 In general, if all plants in a plot are bulked such that only a single sample is available for each plot, it becomes in general impossible to calculate the within plot variability and in such cases no tests for uniformity can be performed. In rare cases, where non-uniformity may be judged from values that can only be found in mixtures, non-uniformity may be detected even where a single bulk sample for each plot is used. For example, in the characteristic “erucic acid” in oil seed rape, values between 2% and 45% can only arise because of a lack of uniformity. However this only applies in certain special cases and even here the non-uniformity may only show up under certain circumstances.

11.2.1.4 Bulking across plots have the consequences that that part of the between plot (and block) variation will be included in the estimate standard deviation between bulks. If this variation is relatively large then this will tend to mask any differences in uniformity between varieties. In addition some noise may also be added because the ratio of material from the different plots may vary from bulk to bulk. Finally the assumptions for the present recommend method, COYU, may not be fulfilled in such cases. Therefore it is recommended only to bulk within plots.

11.2.2 Testing for distinctness

The effect of bulking will usually decrease the power of the distinctness much less than for the uniformity test – and may in some cases result in an ignorable small decrease in power. The reason for this is that both the COYD method and the 2×1% method both are based on means (per year and variety for COYD method and per year, block and variety for the 2×1% method). Therefore, the only loss of precision here is the increase in variability caused by fewer measurements. The uncertainty caused by the measurement is usually much smaller than the uncertainty caused by other sources such as plant, soil and climate. If the uncertainty caused by the measurement is very small (relatively to other sources of variation) it is thus expected that the decrease in power will be ignorable as long as there are at least one bulked sample per year and variety for the COYD method and one bulked sample per year, block and variety for the 2×1% method. Also here it is assumed that equal amount of material were bulked from each plant. If that is not the case the effect of bulking may not be as small as described here.

11.3 Distinctness

11.3.1 In the COYD method for examining distinctness the basic values to be used in the analyses are the annual variety means. As bulk sampling also gives at least one value for each variety per year, it will usually still be possible to use the COYD method for distinctness purposes for any degree of bulking, as long as at least one value is recorded for each variety in each year and that the bulk samples are representative for the variety. However, some problems may be foreseen: the assumption of data being normal distributed may be better fulfilled when the mean of many individual measurements are analyzed instead of the mean of fewer measurements or, in the extreme, just a single measurement.

11.3.2 The efficiency of the test of distinctness may be expected to be lower when based on bulked samples than when it is based on the mean of all individual plants in a year. The loss will be from almost zero upwards, depending on the importance of the different sources of variations. The variation which is relevant for the efficiency of variety comparisons is formulated in the following model:

$$\sigma_{total}^2 = \sigma_{vy}^2 + \sigma_p^2 + \sigma_i^2 + \sigma_m^2$$

where

σ_{total}^2 is the total variance of a characteristic used for comparing varieties.

The total variance is regarded as being composed of four sources of variation:

- 1: σ_{vy}^2 the variance component due to the year in which the variety is measured
- 2: σ_p^2 the variance component due to the plot in which the measurement was taken
- 3: σ_i^2 the variance component due to the plant on which the measurement was taken
- 4: σ_m^2 the variance component due to the inaccuracy in the measurement process

11.2.3 In cases where the data are not bulked the variance of the difference between two variety means, σ_{diff}^2 , becomes:

$$\sigma_{diff}^2 = 2 \left\{ \frac{\sigma_{vy}^2}{a} + \frac{\sigma_p^2}{ab} + \frac{\sigma_i^2}{abc} + \frac{\sigma_m^2}{abc} \right\}$$

where

a is the number of years used in the COYD method

b is the number of replicates in each trial

c is the number of plants in each plot

11.3.4 Assuming that each bulk sample has been composed in such a way that it represents an equal amount of material from all the individual plants which have been bulked into that sample, the variance between two varieties based on k bulked samples (each of l plants) becomes:

$$\sigma_{diff}^2 = 2 \left\{ \frac{\sigma_{vy}^2}{a} + \frac{\sigma_p^2}{ab} + \frac{\sigma_i^2}{abkl} + \frac{\sigma_m^2}{abk} \right\}$$

where

k is the number of bulk samples

l is the number of plants in each bulk sample

11.3.5 Thus if all plants in each plot are divided in k groups of l plants each and an average measurement is taken for each of the k groups, then only the last term in the expression for σ_{diff}^2 has increased (as kl is equal to c). For many characteristics it is found that the variance caused by the measurements process is small and hence the bulking of samples will only have a minor effect on the conclusions reached by the COYD method. Only if the variance caused

by the measurement process is relatively large can bulking have a substantial effect on the distinctness tests using COYD.

Example 1

Variances for comparing varieties were estimated (by the use of estimated variance components) for different degrees of bulking. The calculations were based on the weight of 100 seeds of 145 pea varieties grown in Denmark during 1999 and 2000. In this example, the contribution to the variance caused by the measurement process was relatively very small, which means that bulking will have a low influence on the test for distinctness. In a 3 year test with 30 plants in each of 2 blocks, the variance of a difference between two varieties was estimated to be 2.133 and 2.135, for no bulking and a single bulk sample per plot, respectively.

For other variables the variance component due to the measurement process may be relatively more important. However, it is likely that in most practical cases this variance component will be relatively small.

11.3.6 In some cases each bulk sample is not drawn from a specific set of plants (say, plant 1 to 5 in bulk sample 1, plant 6 to 10 in bulk sample 2 etc.), but bulk samples are formed from mixed samples of all plants in a plot. This means that different bulk samples may contain material from the same plants. It must be expected that similar results apply here, although, in this situation, the effect of bulking may have an increased effect because there is no guarantee that all plants will be equally represented in the bulk samples.

11.4 Uniformity

11.4.1 Bulking within plot

11.4.1.1 In COYU the test is based on the standard deviation of the individual plant observations (within plots) as a measurement of uniformity. The log of the standard deviations plus one are analyzed in an over-years analysis; i.e. the values $Z_{vy} = \log(s_{vy} + 1)$ are used in the analyses. The variance on these Z_{vy} values can be regarded as arising from two sources, a component that depends on the variety-by-year interaction and a component that depends on the number of degree of freedom used for estimating the standard deviation, s_{vy} (the fewer degrees of freedom the more variable the standard deviation will be). This can be written (note that the same symbols as used in the distinctness section will be used here with different meaning):

$$\text{Var}(Z_{vy}) = \sigma_{vy}^2 + \sigma_f^2$$

where this variance can be regarded as being composed of two sources of variation:

- 1: σ_{vy}^2 the variance component due to the year in which the variety is measured
- 2: σ_f^2 the variance component due to the number of degrees of freedom used in estimating

s_{vy}

σ_f^2 is approximately $\frac{1}{2v} \left(\frac{\sigma}{\sigma + 1} \right)^2$ when the recorded variable is normally distributed and the standard deviations do not vary too much. This last expression reduces to $0.5/v$ when $\sigma \gg 1$. Here σ is the mean value of the s_{vy} values and v is the number of degrees of freedom used in the estimation of s_{vy} .

11.3.1.2 The variance caused by the year in which the variety is measured may be assumed to be independent of whether the samples are bulked or not, whereas the variance caused by the number of degrees of freedom will be increased when bulked samples are used because a lower number of degrees of freedom is available.

11.4.1.3 The variance of a difference between a Z_{vy} for a candidate variety and the mean of the reference varieties' Z_{vy} values may be written:

$$\sigma_{diff}^2 = (\sigma_{vy}^2 + \sigma_f^2) \left(\frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{ar} \right)$$

where

a is the number of years used in the test

r is the number of reference varieties

Example 2

The effect of bulking in the test for uniformity, an estimate was made using the same data as for Example 1 I Part II, section 11.2.5 [cross ref.]. For a test using 50 reference varieties in 3 years with 30 plants per variety in each of 2 plots per trial the variance for comparing the Z_{vy} value for a candidate variety and the mean of the reference varieties' Z_{vy} will be 0.0004 if no bulking is done. This can be compared to 0.0041, 0.0016 and 0.0007 when 2, 4 and 10 bulk samples per plot were used. Thus, in this example, the effect of bulking has a great influence on the test for uniformity. The variance increased, approximately by a factor of 10 when changing from individual plant records to just 2 bulk samples per plot. This means that the degree of non-uniformity must be much higher for it to be detected when 2 bulk samples are used instead of individual plant records.

11.4.2 Bulking across plots

Bulking across plots means that part of the between plot (and block) variation will be included in the estimated standard deviation between bulked samples. If this variation is relatively large it will tend to mask any differences in uniformity between varieties. In addition some noise may also be added because the ratio of material from the different plots may vary from bulk to bulk. Finally the assumptions for the present recommended method, COYU, may not be fulfilled in such cases. Therefore it is recommended to bulk only within plots.

11.4.3 Taking just one bulk sample per plot

In general, if all plants in a plot are bulked such that only a single sample is available for each plot, it becomes impossible to calculate the within plot variability and in such cases no tests for uniformity can be performed. In rare cases, where non-uniformity may be judged from values that can only be found in mixtures, non-uniformity may be detected even where a single bulk sample for each plot is used. For example, in the characteristic "erucic acid" in oil seed rape, values between 2% and 45% can only arise because of a lack of uniformity. However this only applies in certain special cases and even here the non-uniformity may only show up under certain circumstances.

[Annex VII follows]

TGP/8 PART II: TECHNIQUES USED IN DUS EXAMINATION

New Section 12 - Examining characteristics using image analysis (Drafter: Mr. Gerie van der Heijden (Netherlands))

Notes

37. With regard to new proposals concerning the content of document TGP/8, the TWA, at its thirty-seventh session, held in Nelspruit, South Africa, from July 14 to 18, 2008, proposed to remove Section III: “Examination of characteristics using image analysis” from TGP/12 and to include that section in document TGP/8, on the basis that it did not concern characteristics, but methods of examining characteristics. The TWC, at its twenty-sixth session, agreed with that proposal. The TC-EDC, at its meeting on January 8, 2009, noted that the section on the examination of characteristics using image analysis would require further substantial development and would not be finalized in time for the initial adoption of document TGP/8 (document TGP/8/1) (see document TC/45/5 paragraph 25).

38. The TWC, at its twenty-sixth session, agreed as follows:

- (a) for existing characteristics: to explain the need to compare the results of the characteristics examined by the old method and by image analysis. The TWC noted that it might, in some cases, lead to a modification of the existing characteristic, in which case it would be necessary for the Test Guidelines to provide a clear definition of the characteristic, including an outline of the algorithm which defined the characteristic;
- (b) for new characteristics: to provide guidance on the need to meet the requirements for a characteristic to be used for DUS, as set out in the General Introduction, and the need to check for independence from other characteristics, in the same way as for other characteristics. In response to an observation from an expert from China, the TWC agreed that the guidance to be developed in document TGP/8 on image analysis should provide guidance on how to consider calibration of images, particularly images containing more than one object, to account for the differing distances of the objects from the camera.

39. The TWC at its twenty-seventh session agreed that existing text be moved to Part I and Mr. Gerie van der Heijden (Netherlands) and Mr. Nik Hulse (Australia) to provide additional information for Part II.

[DRAFT TEXT FOLLOWS]

12. EXAMINATION OF CHARACTERISTICS USING IMAGE ANALYSIS¹

12.1 Introduction

Characteristics which may be examined by image analysis should also be able to be examined by visual observation and/or manual measurement, as appropriate. Explanations for observing such characteristics, including where appropriate explanations in Test Guidelines, should ensure that the characteristic is explained in terms which would enable the characteristic to be understood and examined by all DUS experts.

12.2 Combined characteristics

12.2.1 The General Introduction (document TG/1/3, Chapter 4, Section 4) states that:

“4.6.3 Combined Characteristics

“4.6.3.1 A combined characteristic is a simple combination of a small number of characteristics. Provided the combination is biologically meaningful, characteristics that are assessed separately may subsequently be combined, for example the ratio of length to width, to produce such a combined characteristic. Combined characteristics must be examined for distinctness, uniformity and stability to the same extent as other characteristics. In some cases, these combined characteristics are examined by means of techniques, such as Image Analysis. In these cases, the methods for appropriate examination of DUS are specified in document TGP/12, ‘Special Characteristics’.”

12.2.2 Thus, the General Introduction clarifies that the use of image analysis is one possible method for examining characteristics which fulfil the basic requirements for use in DUS testing (see document TG/1/3, Chapter 4.2), which includes the need for the uniformity and stability of such characteristics to be examined. With regard to combined characteristics, the General Introduction also explains that such characteristics should be biologically meaningful.

12.3 Guidance on the use of image analysis

[to be developed by the Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs (TWC)]

[The TWC, at its Twenty-sixth Session, agreed as follows:

- (a) for existing characteristics: to explain the need to compare the results of the characteristics examined by the old method and by image analysis. The TWC noted that it might, in some cases, lead to a modification of the existing characteristic, in which case it would be necessary for the Test Guidelines to provide a clear definition of the characteristic, including an outline of the algorithm which defined the characteristic;
- (b) for new characteristics: to provide guidance on the need to meet the requirements for a characteristic to be used for DUS, as set out in the General Introduction, and

¹ TWA and TWC agreed to move Section III “Examination of characteristics using image analysis” from TGP/12 to TGP/8.

the need to check for independence from other characteristics, in the same way as for other characteristics

In response to an observation from an expert from China, the TWC agreed that the guidance to be developed in document TGP/8 on image analysis should provide guidance on how to consider calibration of images, particularly images containing more than one object, to account for the differing distances of the objects from the camera.]

The TWC also agreed that Mr. Gerie van der Heijden (Netherlands) should prepare a draft text for Section III, Subsection 3, taking into account the comments made above.]

[the TWA, at its thirty seventh session, agreed that for existing characteristics: to explain the need to compare the results of the characteristics examined by old method and by image analysis; for new characteristics: to provide guidance on the need to meet the requirements for a characteristic to be used for DUS, as set out in the General Introduction, and the need to check for independence from other characteristics]

[Annex VIII follows]

TGP/8 PART II: TECHNIQUES USED IN DUS EXAMINATION

New Section 13 - Methods for data processing for the assessment of distinctness and for producing variety descriptions: (Drafters: experts from France, Germany, Japan, Kenya and the United Kingdom)

Notes

40. The TWC at its twenty-sixth session agreed that the information provided in documents TWC/26/15 and TWC/26/23, presented by Mr. Vincent Gensollen (France) and Mr. Uwe Meyer (Germany), respectively, and an oral presentation by Ms. Mariko Ishino (Japan) included in document TWC/26/15 Add. provided valuable guidance on data processing for the assessment of distinctness and for producing variety descriptions and noted that UPOV did not have guidance on that matter in the TGP documents. It agreed that a new section should be created in document TGP/8/1, Part I as “Data processing for the assessment of distinctness and for producing variety descriptions for producing variety descriptions” and that the methods used by France, Germany and Japan should be included in a new section in document TGP/8/1, Part II as “Methods for data processing for the assessment of distinctness and for producing variety descriptions.

41. The TWC at its twenty-seventh session agreed that experts from Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kenya and United Kingdom to provide a short description of the principles underlying the detailed methods provided in Part II.

42. Mrs. Sally Watson (United Kingdom) to provide an example for Section 13.1

[DRAFT TEXT FOLLOWS]

13. METHODS FOR DATA PROCESSING FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF DISTINCTNESS AND FOR PRODUCING VARIETY DESCRIPTIONS

[The TWC agreed that the information provided in documents TWC/26/15 and TWC/26/23, presented by Mr. Vincent Gensollen (France) and Mr. Uwe Meyer (Germany), respectively, and an oral presentation by Ms. Mariko Ishino (Japan) included in document TWC/26/15 Add. provided valuable guidance on data processing for the assessment of distinctness and for producing variety descriptions and noted that UPOV did not have guidance on that matter in the TGP documents. It agreed that a new section should be created in document TGP/8/1, Part I as “Data processing for the assessment of distinctness and for producing variety descriptions for producing variety descriptions” and that the methods used by France, Germany and Japan should be included in a new section in document TGP/8/1, Part II as “Methods for data processing for the assessment of distinctness and for producing variety descriptions. [...]The TWC agreed that Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Kenya and the United Kingdom should prepare information on their methods for inclusion in the next draft of document TGP/8]

13.1 United Kingdom

13.1 Handling measured, quantitative characteristics for vegetable and herbage crops tested in the United Kingdom

13.1.1 This document provides an explanation of how measured, quantitative characteristics are handled and used to develop variety descriptions in the United Kingdom for vegetable and herbage crops.

13.1.2 In vegetable and herbage crops, which are mostly cross-pollinated except for pea which is self-pollinated, the trials are conducted according to the UPOV Test Guidelines.

13.1.3 For the measured, quantitative characteristics, as part of the determination of distinctness, COYD is applied on the original scale of the characteristics.

13.1.4 To develop variety descriptions, over-year variety means are calculated on the original scale of the characteristics. These over-year means are then converted to notes.

13.1.5 For each crop the over-year variety means of the varieties in trial are calculated from their yearly means in trials. For herbage crops the past 10 years are used, whereas for vegetable crops all years are included in which the reference collection varieties have been tested. As not all varieties are present in all years, a fitted constants analysis is used to adjust the over-year means for the different years varieties were present in. This is done using the DUSTNT module FITC in conjunction with the module FIND.

13.1.6 The over-year means are converted to notes using the DUSTNT module VDES. This permits two methods of division of the range of expression into states and notes as follows:

- a) By division of the range of expression of the over-year means for the reference collection varieties into equal-spaced states. The number of states is as given in the UPOV Test Guideline.
- b) By use of delineating varieties to divide the range of expression into states.

13.1.7 For vegetable crops excluding potato method (a) is used to divide the range of expression into states and notes, and for herbage crops method (b) is used.

13.1.8 For herbage crops the DUSTNT module SAME is used to check whether there are varieties with the same variety description.

13.1.9 For herbage crops the DUSTNT module MOST, is used in conjunction with the modules SSQR and DIST to find most similar varieties based on multivariate distances.

13.2 Japan

13.2 The Method to adjust the Table of Assessment for Quantitative Characteristics

Japan
National Center for Seeds and Seedlings (NCSS)

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This provides an explanation of the Japanese methods to adjust the table of assessment for quantitative characteristics in characteristics table of TG.
- 1.2 The method is based on the premise as below.
 - a) This method is mainly used for ornamental plants and vegetable crops.
 - b) Basically, DUS growing trial for ornamental plants and vegetable crops is assessed in two independent growing cycles. When we decide it is satisfactory for the assessment of DUS, further growing trial will not be done. This document explains the adjusting method of the quantitative characteristics from the result of DUS growing trial of one growing cycle.
 - c) The term “the table of assessment” means the table to evaluate the notes from the data of quantitative characteristics.

2. Method with the Fundamental Table of Assessment (FAT)

2.1 [Background]

- 2.1.1 For the assessment of note in most quantitative characteristics, the relative assessment based on the data of the example variety in one time seems to be general method. Especially when we start DUS growing trial about new species, we use this method. But, we seek more effective method to reduce the yearly variation for concerned species which we have examined for many years.
- 2.1.2 The method with FAT is used for this purpose. We make FAT as the adjustable base only for the species that had examined in sufficient number of DUS growing trials. FAT is adjusted every year to correct yearly variations of data.

2.2 [What is FAT?]

- 2.2.1 FAT is the table of assessment that made from the enough experimental data about the species. In the concrete, one of the experimental data is “Proposition by experts”. It is the table that is based on the expert’s experience and knowledge, and the table covers the full ranges of variations that the species or variety groupings show under the normal growth. The other of the experience is “Accumulated statistical data.” It is the data accumulated about several example varieties in sufficient number of DUS growing trials. We try to accumulate the data from sufficient number of growing trials. But it needs long time to accumulate the data in one site for many times. Before we get enough data to make FAT, we set the notes based on example variety’s data from one growing trial and our experiences. If we estimate the data accumulated in certain place for one species are enough stable, we make FAT based on the data. FAT is available only for species that had examined for sufficient experience of DUS growing trial about several example varieties.

2.3 [Composition of FAT]

2.3.1 Table 1 shows the part of example FAT, the characteristic “length of leaf blade”. There are nine notes. In the note 5,
Range : 70-79 mm
Interval : 10 mm,
Median : 75 mm
Standard example variety of the note 5 : ‘EV-B’

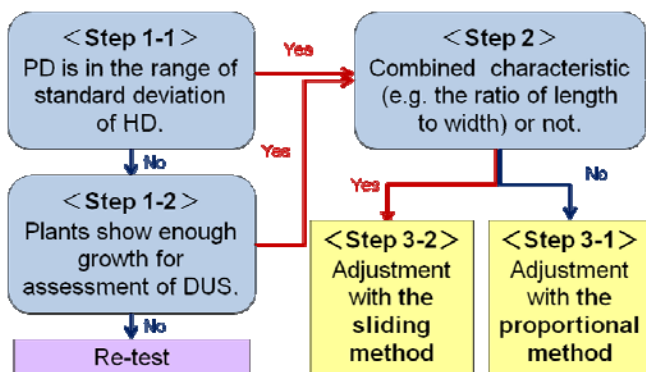
Table 1: Example FAT for the characteristic “ length of leaf blade”

Characteristics	Note	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Length of leaf blade (mm)			40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110
	Range	~ 39	~ 49	~ 59	~ 69	~ 79	~ 89	~ 99	~ 109	~
	Interval		10	10	10	10	10	10	10	
	Median		45	55	65	75	85	95	105.	
	Example variety			EV-A		EV-B				

2.4 [Practical adjusting methods for use of FAT]

2.4.1 【Overview of the methods】

2.4.1.1 There are two methods in adjustment of FAT. One is the proportional method, the other is the sliding method. PD indicates Present data, the data of the example variety measured in this time. HD indicates Historical data, the mean of the data of the example variety measured in sufficient times of DUS growing trial.



*PD: Present data = The data of Example Variety measured in this time

HD: Historical data = Mean of the Data of Example Variety measured in sufficient number of DUS growing trial

Fig. 1: Flow chart of the practical adjusting method with FAT

2.4.1.2 Figure 1 shows the practical adjusting method.

Step 1-1: Check whether PD is in the range of standard deviation of HD

Step 1-2: Check whether plants show satisfactory growth for assessment of DUS

Step 2 : Check whether the characteristic is combined characteristic or not.

Step 3-1: Adjustment FAT with the proportional method

Step 3-2: Adjustment FAT with the sliding method

2.4.2 【Step 1-1: Check whether PD is in the range of standard deviation of HD】

2.4.2.1 We confirm the example variety’s normal growth by checking step 1-1. If step 1-1 is not satisfied, we should check whether the growing trial can be done reasonably and properly or not.

2.4.2.2 The examples are as follows.

Characteristic “length of leaf blade”

HD: 74.0mm

Standard deviation: 5.01

Range of the standard deviation: 69.0-79.0mm

2.4.2.2.1 If PD is 70.3mm, PD is in the range of standard deviation of HD. → Go to step 2

2.4.2.2.2 If PD is 83.6mm, PD is out of the range of standard deviation of HD. → Go to step 1-2.

2.4.3 **【Step 1-2: Check whether plants show satisfactory growth for assessment of DUS】**

2.4.3.1 The purpose of step 1-2 is to check whether the growing trial can be done reasonably and properly or not.

2.4.3.2 If the example variety we expect to use for adjustment doesn't show satisfactory growth, we can use another example variety (which shows satisfactory growth and has enough experimental data) for adjustment of FAT. In this case, we estimate plants in this growing trial shows satisfactory growth for evaluation of DUS. → Go to step 2

2.4.3.3 In the case other varieties also show unusual growth, we should try to make clear the reason with assistance of the plant species expert. After taking into account the distance from the range of standard deviation of HD and the advice of our expert and examiner, we estimate whether we can evaluate DUS in this growing trial.

We can evaluate DUS. → Go to step 2

We can't evaluate DUS. → Re-test

2.4.4 **【Step 2: Check whether the characteristic is combined characteristic or not】**

2.4.4.1 The purpose of step 2 is to decide which method, the proportional method or the sliding method, is more suitable for the characteristic. In the proportional method, range and interval of notes are adjusted at once. In the sliding method, range is adjusted on the one hand and interval is not changed. It means that the proportional method is not suitable for the characteristics that need fixed interval. In the concrete, the combined characteristics are generally stable than other characteristics and they need fixed interval. In such case, the sliding method is applied.

2.4.4.2 Characteristic “length of leaf blade”

It is not the combined characteristic. → Go to step 3-1

2.4.4.3 Characteristic “Leaf: ratio length/width”

It is the combined characteristic. → Go to step 3-2

2.4.5 **【Step 3-1: Adjustment FAT with the proportional method】**

2.4.5.1 We calculate the proportion of the measured data in this time to the mean of the historical data about an example variety. FAT multiplied by the proportion gives the adjusted table of assessment in this time.

2.4.5.2 The examples are as follows.
Characteristic “length of leaf blade”
PD: 70.3mm
HD: 74.0mm
Proportion (PD/HD) =0.95

2.4.5.3 The upper line of Figure 2 is FAT expressed in a number line. FAT multiplied 0.95 gives the adjusted table of assessment of this time, the lower line.

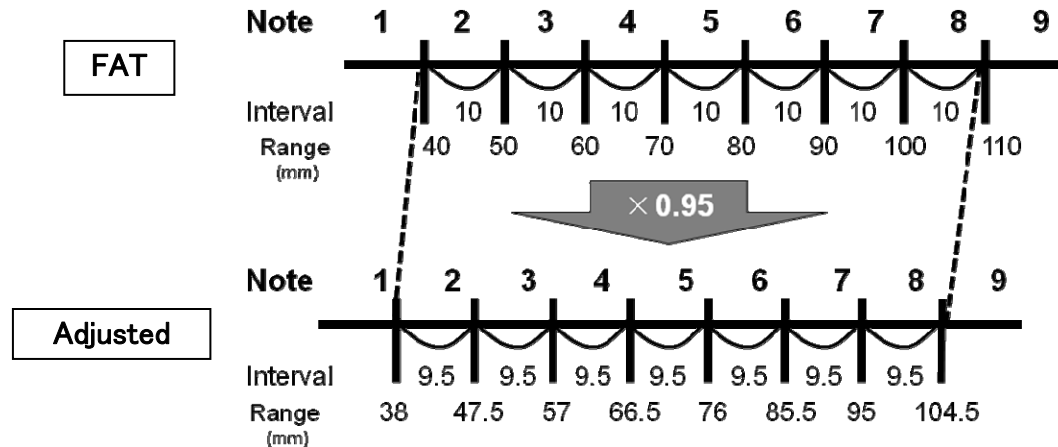


Fig.2: Adjustment FAT with the proportional method

2.4.5.4 We take the note 5 as an example,
The minimum of the range is 70. 70 multiplied by 0.95 make 66.5.
The maximum of the range is 80. 80 multiplied by 0.95 make 76.
The interval of the note 5 changes from 10 to 9.5.

2.4.6 【Step 3-2: Adjustment FAT with the sliding method】

2.4.6.1 We do subtraction the mean of the historical data from the measured data in this time about an example variety. FAT added to the difference is the adjusted table of assessment in this year.

2.4.6.2 The examples are as follows.
Characteristic “Leaf: ratio length/width”
PD of the example variety of the note 5 (EV) is 1.16.

2.4.6.3 The upper line of Figure 3 is FAT expressed in a number line. PD of EV, 1.16 is allocated in the note 4 in FAT. We should adjust FAT as the median of the note 5 becomes the same value to PD of EV, 1.16. FAT subtracted 0.19 gives the table of assessment of this time, the lower line.

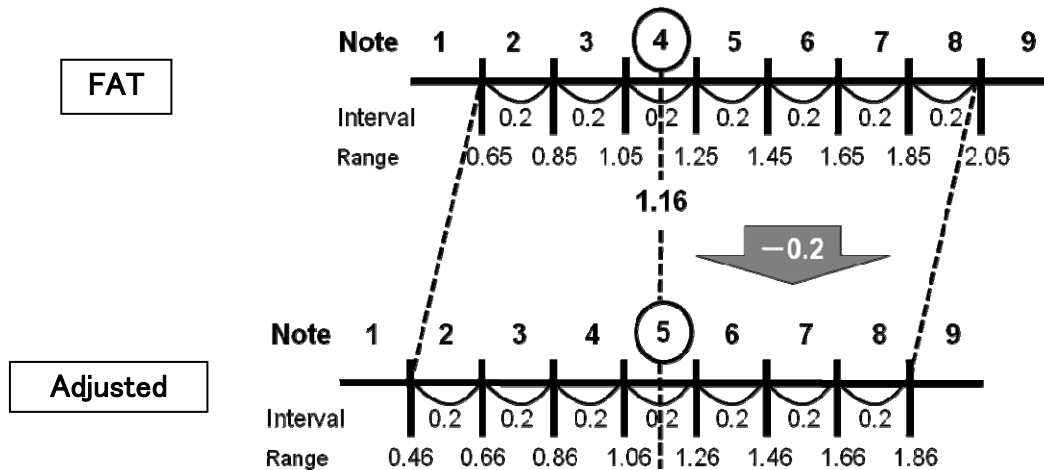


Fig.3: Adjustment FAT with the sliding method

2.4.6.4 We take “the note 5” as an example.

The minimum of the range $1.25 - 0.19 = 1.06$.

The maximum of the range $1.45 - 0.19 = 1.26$.

The interval is not adjusted.

The median of the note 5 = PD of EV, 1.16.

2.4.6.5 Generally, there are several example varieties in a characteristic. But we select one example variety from them for adjustment of FAT. We basically use the least variable example variety during many years’ DUS growing trials about each characteristic.

2.5 [Difference between self-pollinated varieties and cross-pollinated varieties]

2.5.1 We use the same method to self-pollinated varieties and cross-pollinated varieties. But the adjustable range changes according to dispersion of HD of example variety. Because our methods are based on the data of example variety, the propagation type of example variety is automatically reflected in the adjustable range.

2.5.2 Table 2 shows the example data. In general, there is tendency that the dispersion of the self-pollinated varieties is lower than that of the cross-pollinated varieties. In this example, HD of two varieties is the same. But the dispersion of self-pollinated varieties example variety is lower than that of cross-pollinated varieties.

Table 2: Example data of self-pollinated example variety and cross-pollinated example variety

Trial number	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	Historical Data(HD)	Dispersion	Standard deviation	Coefficient of variance
Self E.V.	80	84	81	83	86	88	83	80	87	88	84.0	9.78	3.13	11.64
Cross E.V.	75	84	74	83	87	96	84	75	88	94	84.0	59.11	7.69	70.37

*E.V.is example variety

2.5.3 Figure 4 shows the normal curve of two varieties of different propagating type. The curve of self-pollinated example variety is narrower than that of cross-pollinated example variety. As I said earlier, if the data of this year is in the range of standard deviation, we can adjust FAT. Therefore, the adjustable range of self-pollinated varieties becomes narrower than that of cross-pollinated ones automatically.

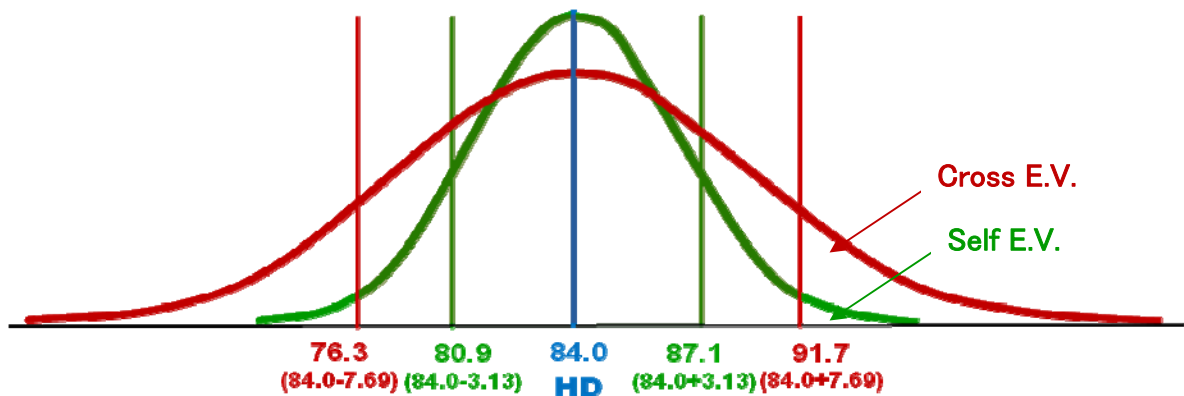


Fig.4: Normal curve of self-pollinated example variety (Self EV) and cross-pollinated example variety (Cross EV)

3. Conclusions

3.1 We have two methods to adjust FAT. One is the proportional method, and the other is the sliding method. In the proportional method, we calculate the proportion of the measured data in this time to the mean of the historical data (HD) about example variety. FAT multiplied by the proportion is the adjusted table of assessment in this time. The sliding method is applied to the characteristics that need fixed interval. We do subtraction the mean of the HD from the measured data in this time about example variety. We can get the adjusted table of assessment in this time by adding the difference to FAT.

3.2 We use the same method to self-pollinated varieties and cross-pollinated varieties to assess the quantitative characteristics. The difference between self-pollinated varieties and cross-pollinated varieties is the allowable range of the value of PD to estimate whether we can adjust the FAT or not. The adjustable range changes according to dispersion of HD of an example variety. Generally, the adjustable range of self-pollinated varieties becomes narrower than that of cross-pollinated varieties because the dispersion of the former is narrower than that of latter. Because our methods are based on the enough experimental data of example variety, the dispersion of HD according to the propagation type of example variety is automatically reflected in the adjustable range.

[Annex IX follows]

TGP/8 PART II: TECHNIQUES USED IN DUS EXAMINATION

New Section - Guidance of data analysis for blind randomized trials (Drafters: France and Israel to provide examples)

Notes

43. Comments: proposed by the TC at its forty-fifth session.

[Annex X follows]

TGP/8 PART II: TECHNIQUES USED IN DUS EXAMINATION

New Section - Statistical methods for visually observed characteristics (Drafter to be agreed)

Notes

44. Comments: the TC at its forty-sixth session requested the TWC to investigate this subject for possible inclusion in the revision of document TGP/8.

[DRAFT TEXT FOLLOWS]

Section 10 – Minimum number of comparable varieties for the Relative Variance Method

THE COMBINED OVER-YEARS METHOD FOR NOMINAL CHARACTERISTICS

Summary of requirements for application of the method

The method is appropriate to use for assessing distinctness of varieties where:

- The characteristic is nominal and recorded for individual plants (usually recorded visually)
- There are some differences between plants
- The observations are made over at least two years or growing cycles on a single location
- There should be at least 20 degrees of freedom for estimating the random variety-by-year interaction term.
- The expected number of plants for each combination of variety and note should be at least one – and for most of the combinations the number should be at least 5.

Summary

The method can be considered as an alternative to the χ^2 -test for independence in a contingency table. The χ^2 -test only takes the variation caused by random sampling into account and may thus be too liberal if additional sources of variation are present. The combined over-years method for nominal characteristics takes other sources of variation into account by including a random variety-by-year interaction term (as for the COYD method described in TGP/8/1 Part II: 3). The inclusion of the random effect is expected to decrease the number of distinct pairs of varieties compared to the χ^2 -test for independence, but to better ensure that the decisions are consistent over coming years. The method is based on a generalisation of the traditional analyses of variance and regression methods for normally distributed data, which are called “generalized linear mixed models”.

The combined over-years method for nominal characteristics involves

- Calculating the number of plants for each note for each variety in each of the two or three years of trials, which results in a 3-way table (see the example)
- Analyse the data using appropriate software
- Compare each candidate to the reference varieties and the other candidates at the appropriate level of significance to see which varieties the candidate is distinct from
- Check if the variety-by-year interaction term for distinct pairs is considerably larger than the average for all variety pairs

Technical description of the method

The method is based on a generalized linear mixed model using the generalized logit as link function assuming that the data are multinomial distributed (for more information on generalised linear mixed models see e.g. McCulloch and Searle, 2001 or Agresti, 2002). The model resembles the COYD method for normally distributed characteristics by including the year×variety interaction as a random effect. However, for each of the $n-1$ notes of a nominal characteristic there will be a random effect which is assumed to be normally distributed with a constant variance. The model can be written as:

$$(Y_{1,jk}, Y_{2,jk}, Y_{3,jk}, \dots, Y_{n,jk}) \text{ are multinomial distributed with parameters } (\pi_{1,jk}, \pi_{2,jk}, \pi_{3,jk}, \dots, \pi_{n,jk})$$

$$\log\left(\frac{\pi_{ijk}}{\pi_{njk}}\right) = \mu_i + \beta_{ij} + \delta_{ik} + E_{ijk} \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2, \dots, n-1$$

where

Y_{ijk} is the number of plants for variety j in year k for note i

μ_i is the effect of note i ($i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n-1$)

β_{ij} is the effect of variety j for note i ($i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n-1, j = 1, 2, 3, \dots, v$)

δ_{ik} is the effect of year k for note i ($i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n-1, k = 1, \dots, y$)

E_{ijk} is the random effect of variety j in year k for note i ($i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n-1, j = 1, 2, 3, \dots, v, k = 1, \dots, y$)

E_{ijk} is assumed to be normally distributed with mean zero and a constant variance for each of the $n-1$ levels of the note, i.e. $E_{ijk} \square N(0, \sigma_i^2)$

n, v and y are the number of notes, varieties and years, respectively

In the formulation above it is assumed that the last note (number n) is taken as the reference note in the generalized logit. For improving the performance of the analyses it is recommended to ensure that the note used as the reference is the note that occurs most often (Agresti, 2002). The estimates of the parameters μ_i , δ_{ik} , and β_{ij} can be used to estimate the relative number of plants with a given note for each variety, and the differences between pairs of varieties can be quantified and tested by estimating the differences between $\beta_{ij} - \beta_{il}$ for each of the $n-1$ notes. The overall test will be the result of a contrast for each of those notes using an F-test with $n-1$ degrees of freedom in the numerator, whereas the degrees of freedom in the denominator will depend on the actual pair of varieties and the size of the random variety-by-year interaction, but will usually be in the range between $(y-1)(v-1)$ and $(n-1)(y-1)(v-1)$. The relative number of plants for each note and variety may be calculated as follows:

First calculate: $\hat{P}_{ij} = \hat{\mu}_i + \hat{\beta}_{ij} + \frac{1}{y} \sum_k^y \hat{\delta}_{ik}$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, n-1$ and each variety, j

$$\text{Then calculate } \hat{\pi}_{ij} = \begin{cases} e^{\hat{P}_{ij}} / (1 + \sum_{l=1}^{n-1} e^{\hat{P}_{lj}}) & \text{for } i = 1, 2, \dots, n-1 \\ 1 - \sum_{l=1}^{n-1} \hat{\pi}_{lj} & \text{for } i = n \end{cases}$$

where

$\hat{\pi}_{ij}$ is the estimated relative number of plants with note i for variety j

Other terms as defined above.

As a large year×variety interaction for a specific pair of varieties may cause that pair to be distinct, for instance if a very large difference occurs in one of the years but not in other years. To avoid that situation the year×variety interaction for each pair of varieties is compared to the average year×variety pair interaction using the quotient between the mean square for the interaction of the actual pair of varieties and the average interaction of all variety pairs. This quotient is here called F_3 and may be based on a joint contrast for the interaction of each of the $n-1$ notes. This will result in a quotient (F_3) which it is suggested is tested approximately by assuming that the quotient is F-distributed with $(n-1)(y-1)$ and $(n-1)(y-1)(v-1)$ degrees of freedom. The F_3 may be calculated as:

$$F_{3jl} = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_i T_{ijl} / \bar{T}_{i..}$$

where

F_{3jl} is the quotient based on the mean interaction, called the F_3 , for variety pair j, l

T_{ijl} is the mean square for the j, l pair of varieties for note i .

$\bar{T}_{i..}$ is the average mean square of all pair of varieties for note i .

It may be valuable also to calculate a quotient that can be used to get a measure of how much each variety contributes to the interaction. Such a quotient, called F_4 , may be based on a joint contrast for the interaction of each of the $n-1$ notes. This will result in a quotient (F_4) which it is suggested is tested approximately by assuming that the quotient is approximately F-distributed with $(n-1)(y-1)$ and $(n-1)(y-1)(v-1)$ degrees of freedom. The F_4 -value may be calculated as:

$$F_{4j} = \frac{1}{(n-1)(y-1)} \sum_i \left(\sum_k \hat{E}_{ijk}^2 / MS_{Ei} \right)$$

where

F_{4j} is the quotient based on the mean interaction, called the F_4 , for variety j

$MS_{Ei} = \frac{1}{(v-1)(y-1)} \sum_{j,k} \hat{E}_{ijk}^2$ is the mean square of the interaction terms for note i

More details on the method and comparison of the method with other methods can be found in Kristensen (2011?).

Example

For demonstration a subset of varieties from a DUS experiment with sugar beets was chosen. The notes for hypocotyl colour (Table 1) were analysed. Because some varieties had notes with zero plants in both years, there were difficulties in meeting the requirements mentioned above. Therefore, the varieties M, N, O, Q, R, S and V were excluded from the analyses shown here.

The estimated percent of plants in each note for each variety are shown in table 2.

Treating varieties A and B as candidates and the remaining varieties C, D, ..., U, as reference varieties, the F-values and the P-values for testing the hypothesis of no difference between candidate and reference varieties were calculated. The F-values and the P-values are shown in Table 3. The F3-values and their significances are also shown in Table 3.

Using the 1% level of significance as a decision rule for comparing the candidates with the reference varieties, we found that candidate A was distinct from 7 of the other varieties, while candidate B was distinct from 5 of the other varieties. The largest F3-values were found for the variety pairs B-K and A-K. This seemed to be caused mainly by variety K, which had many green and no red hypocotyls in year 1, but few green and many red hypocotyls in year 2.

Table 1. Number of individual with each note for hypocotyl colours for some varieties in sugar beets

Variety	Colour							
	1 Green		2 White		3-5 Red ¹		7 Orange	
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 1	Year 2	Year 1	Year 2	Year 1	Year 2
A	30	21	9	1	15	25	46	53
B	5	9	9	5	48	46	38	40
C	0	3	17	12	31	35	52	50
D	1	0	7	8	71	77	21	15
E	0	3	5	0	80	72	20	25
F	30	28	0	4	30	30	40	38
G	33	25	12	2	16	24	39	49
H	72	76	2	4	3	2	23	18
I	3	2	4	2	37	29	56	67
J	82	82	2	0	7	5	9	13
K	52	7	16	33	0	44	32	16
L	50	37	17	9	5	12	28	42
M	0	0	12	2	58	56	30	42
N	0	0	9	8	74	69	17	23
O	0	0	12	10	58	65	30	25
P	25	22	0	10	17	11	58	57
Q	0	0	0	10	65	64	35	26
R	0	0	0	0	75	55	25	45
S	0	0	6	1	53	61	41	38
T	83	92	5	1	3	1	9	6
U	54	30	12	13	3	4	31	53
V	0	0	6	18	71	63	23	19

¹⁾ Sum of three different reddish colours (pink, red and dark red)

Table 2. Estimated percent of plants for each note of each variety

Variety	Colour			
	1 Green	2 White	3-5 Red	7 Orange
A	25.8	3.9	19.8	50.5
B	7.0	6.8	47.2	39.1
C	1.5	14.3	33.0	51.1
D	0.5	7.5	74.2	17.8
E	1.5	1.8	74.7	22.0
F	29.1	1.7	30.1	39.2
G	29.5	5.6	20.1	44.8
H	74.1	2.9	2.5	20.5
I	2.5	2.9	33.0	61.6
J	82.2	0.9	6.0	11.0
K	27.7	29.3	14.0	29.0
L	44.0	12.7	8.0	35.2
P	23.9	3.4	14.1	58.7
Q	88.0	2.5	2.0	7.5
U	41.7	12.8	3.5	42.0

Table 3. Differences and F₃ values together with P-values for relevant pairs of varieties

Variety	Candidate A				Candidate B			
	F	P _{dif.}	F ₃	P _{F3}	F	P _{dif.}	F ₃	P _{F3}
A	-	-	-	-	2.34	0.1157	0.50	0.6855
B	2.34	0.1157	0.50	0.6855	-	-	-	-
C	5.70	0.0062	0.57	0.5829	2.06	0.1432	0.02	0.9826
D	6.29	0.0033	0.50	0.6485	2.05	0.1404	0.42	0.7800
E	5.40	0.0063	0.41	0.6601	1.35	0.2866	0.19	0.8542
F	0.52	0.6757	1.20	0.2671	3.20	0.0522	0.50	0.7097
G	0.16	0.9224	0.01	0.9976	2.79	0.0786	0.46	0.7701
H	6.91	0.0036	0.94	0.4998	14.33	<.0001	0.15	0.9024
I	5.44	0.0073	0.24	0.7018	2.27	0.1143	0.24	0.9500
J	10.36	0.0004	0.19	0.8365	17.65	<.0001	0.18	0.9506
K	2.19	0.1361	3.17	0.0405	4.54	0.0189	4.31	0.0071
L	2.02	0.1621	0.11	0.9719	6.55	0.0051	0.64	0.7790
P	0.21	0.8896	1.79	0.0934	2.67	0.0847	0.92	0.4270
T	13.62	<.0001	0.65	0.7695	21.42	<.0001	0.05	0.9946
U	2.34	0.1202	0.52	0.7387	7.38	0.0027	1.18	0.8181

The F_4 values for each variety in the analysis of the hypocotyl colours are shown in Figure 1. The largest F_4 value was found for variety K. The value seemed to be extremely large and an explanation for the unusual result should be sought.

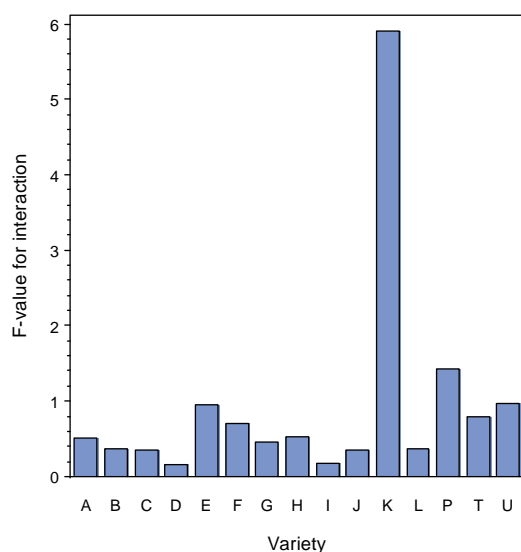


Figure 1: F_4 -values for each variety's contribution to the interaction for nominal characteristic hypocotyl colour

Software

The procedure GLIMMIX of SAS (SAS Institute Inc., 2010) can be used to estimate the parameters of the generalised linear mixed model, and the data-step facilities (and/or the procedure IML) of the same package can be used for the remaining calculations. However, similar facilities may be found in other statistical packages.

THE COMBINED OVER-YEARS METHOD FOR ORDINAL CHARACTERISTICS

Summary of requirements for application of the method

The method is appropriate to use for assessing distinctness of varieties where:

- The characteristic is ordinal and recorded for individual plants (usually recorded visually)
- There are some differences between plants
- The observations are made over at least two years or growing cycles on a single location
- There should be at least 20 degrees of freedom for estimating the random variety-by-year interaction term.
- The distribution of the characteristic should be unimodal, i.e. notes with large number of plants should occur next to each other, zeros at one or both ends of the scale should not cause problems as long as most varieties have plants that fall in different notes
- The total number of plants for each variety should not be too low, at least 5 times the number of notes the variety covers

Summary

The method can be considered as an alternative to the χ^2 -test for independence in a contingency table. The χ^2 -test only takes the variation caused by random sampling into account and may thus be too liberal if additional sources of variation are present. Also the χ^2 -test does not take the ordering of the notes into account. The combined over-years method for ordinal characteristics takes other sources of variation into account by including a random variety-by-year interaction term (as for the COYD method described in TGP/8/1 Part II: 3). It takes the ordering of notes into account by using a cumulative function over the ordered notes. The inclusion of the random effect is expected to decrease the number of distinct pairs of varieties compared to the χ^2 -test for independence, but to better ensure that the decisions are consistent over coming years. Taking the ordering of notes into account is expected to increase the power of the test and thus to increase the number of distinct pairs.

The method is based on a generalisation of the traditional analyses of variance and regression methods for normally distributed data, which are called “generalized linear mixed models”.

The combined over-years method for nominal characteristics involves

- Calculating the number of plants for each note for each variety in each of the two or three years of trials, which results in a 3-way table (see the example)
- Analyse the data using appropriate software
- Compare each candidate to the reference varieties and the other candidates at the appropriate level of significance to see which varieties the candidate is distinct from
- Check if the variety-by-year interaction term for distinct pairs is considerably larger than the average for all variety pairs

Technical description of the method

The method is based on a generalized linear mixed model using the cumulative logit as link function assuming that the data are multinomial distributed (for more information on generalised linear mixed models see e.g. McCulloch and Searle, 2001 or Agresti, 2002). The model resembles the COYD method for normally distributed characteristics by including the year×variety interaction as a random effect. The model can be written as:

$(Y_{1jk}, Y_{2jk}, Y_{3jk}, \dots, Y_{njk})$ are multinomial distributed with parameters $(\pi_{1jk}, \pi_{2jk}, \pi_{3jk}, \dots, \pi_{njk})$

$$\log \left(\frac{\sum_{l=1}^i \pi_{ljk}}{\sum_{l=i+1}^n \pi_{ljk}} \right) = \mu_i + \beta_j + \delta_k + E_{jk}$$

where

Y_{ijk} is the number of plants for variety j in year k for note i

μ_i is the effect of note i ($i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n-1$)

β_j is the effect of variety j ($j = 1, 2, 3, \dots, v$)

δ_k is the effect of year k ($k = 1, \dots, y$)

E_{jk} is the random effect of variety j in year k . E_{jk} is assumed to be normally distributed with zero mean and constant variance, i.e. $E_{jk} \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$

n, v and y are the number of notes, varieties and years, respectively

The estimates of the parameters μ_i , δ_k and β_j can be used to estimate the relative number of plants with a given note for each variety, and the differences between the estimates of $\beta_j - \beta_l$ can be used to quantify and test the difference between variety j and variety l . The average relative number of plants for each note and variety can be calculated by the formulas:

First calculate: $\hat{P}_{ij} = \hat{\mu}_i + \hat{\beta}_j + \frac{1}{y} \sum_k \hat{\delta}_k$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, n-1$ and each variety, j

$$\text{Then calculate } \hat{\pi}_{ij} = \begin{cases} e^{\hat{P}_{ij}} / (1 + e^{\hat{P}_{ij}}) & \text{for } i = 1 \\ e^{\hat{P}_{ij}} / (1 + e^{\hat{P}_{ij}}) - e^{\hat{P}_{i-1j}} / (1 + e^{\hat{P}_{i-1j}}) & \text{for } i = 2, 3, \dots, n-1 \\ 1 - e^{\hat{P}_{i-1j}} / (1 + e^{\hat{P}_{i-1j}}) & \text{for } i = n \end{cases}$$

where

$\hat{\pi}_{ij}$ is the average relative number of plants with note i for variety j

As a large year×variety interaction for a specific pair of varieties may cause that pair to be distinct, for instance if a very large difference occurs in one of the years but not in other years. To avoid that situation the year×variety interaction for each pair of varieties is compared to the average year×variety pair interaction using the quotient between the mean square for the interaction of the actual pair of varieties and the average interaction of all variety pairs. This quotient is here called F_3 . This will result in a quotient (F_3) which it is suggested is tested approximately by assuming that the quotient is F-distributed with $y-1$ and $(y-1)(v-1)$ degrees of freedom. The F_3 value is calculated as:

$$T_{jl} = \frac{1}{y-1} \begin{cases} (\hat{E}_{j1} - \hat{E}_{j2} - \hat{E}_{l1} + \hat{E}_{l2})^2 & \text{for } y=2 \\ (\hat{E}_{j1} - \hat{E}_{j3} - \hat{E}_{l1} + \hat{E}_{l3})^2 + (\hat{E}_{j1} - 2\hat{E}_{j2} + \hat{E}_{j3} - \hat{E}_{l1} + 2\hat{E}_{l2} - \hat{E}_{l3})^2 & \text{for } y=3 \end{cases}$$

$$F_{3jl} = T_{jl} / \bar{T}_{..}$$

where

F_{3jl} is the quotient, called the F_3 value, for variety pair j, l

$$\bar{T}_{..} = \frac{1}{v(v-1)/2} \sum_{j < l} T_{jl}^2$$
 is the average mean square for all pairs of varieties

It may be valuable also to calculate a quotient that can be used to get a measure of how much each variety contributes to the interaction. Such a quotient, called F_4 , may be based on the interaction terms. This will result in a quotient (F_4) which it is suggested is tested approximately by assuming that the quotient is approximately F-distributed with $(y-1)$ and $(y-1)(v-1)$ degrees of freedom. The F_4 -value is calculated as:

$$F_{4j} = \frac{1}{y-1} \sum_k \hat{E}_{jk}^2 / MS_E$$

where F_{4j} is the quotient, called the F_4 value, for variety j

More details on the method and comparison of the methods with other methods can be found in Kristensen (2011?).

Example

For demonstration a subset of varieties from a DUS experiment with winter wheat was chosen. The notes for anthocyanin coloration on coleoptiles (Table 4) were analysed.

The estimated percent of plants in each note for each variety are shown in table 5.

Table 4. Number of individual plants with each note for anthocyanin coloration on coleoptiles for some varieties in winter wheat

Variety	Note									
	1 absent or very weak		3 weak		5 medium		7 strong		9 very strong	
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 1	Year 2	Year 1	Year 2	Year 1	Year 2	Year 1	Year 2
A	98	86	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
B	4	14	14	65	178	20	0	0	0	0
C	6	0	32	6	56	83	0	4	0	0
D	1	4	5	13	75	82	17	1	1	0
E	84	62	106	19	3	0	0	0	0	0
F	96	100	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
G	96	100	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
H	77	84	23	16	0	0	0	0	0	0
I	8	4	15	16	55	69	4	1	0	0
J	95	93	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0

Table 5. Estimated percent of plants for each note of each variety

Variety Note

	1 absent or very weak	3 weak	5 medium	7 strong	9 very strong
A	97.9	1.9	0.1	0.0	0.0
B	3.9	36.5	59.1	0.6	0.0
C	1.4	17.8	79.1	1.5	0.1
D	0.4	6.1	88.2	5.1	0.2
E	62.9	33.7	3.4	0.0	0.0
F	98.9	1.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
G	98.9	1.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
H	81.0	17.6	1.4	0.0	0.0
I	2.0	23.1	73.8	1.1	0.0
J	98.6	1.3	0.1	0.0	0.0

Treating varieties *A* and *B* as candidates and the remaining varieties *C*, *D*, ..., *J* as reference varieties, the *F*-values and the *P*-values for testing the hypothesis of no difference between candidate and reference varieties were calculated. The *F*-values and the *P*-values are shown in Table 6. The F_3 -values and their significances are also shown in Table 6.

For the data shown here candidate *A* could be separated from 4 of the other varieties when using a 1% level of significance while candidate *B* could be separated from 5 of the other varieties. The F_3 values were not significantly larger than 1 for any of the tested variety pairs shown in table 3. The largest F_3 was found for the variety pair B-C and seemed to be caused by a stronger anthocyanin coloration of variety B than variety C in year 1 while in year 2 the anthocyanin coloration was stronger in variety C than in variety B. The second largest F_3 was found for the variety pair A-B and here the stronger anthocyanin coloration of variety B in 2007 seemed to be the cause.

Table 6. Differences and F_3 values together with *P*-values for relevant pairs of varieties

Variety	Candidate A				Candidate B			
	Difference	$P_{\text{Difference}}$	F_3	P_{F_3}	Difference	$P_{\text{Difference}}$	F_3	P_{F_3}
A	-	-	-	-	7.06	0.0009	2.47	0.1503
B	7.06	0.0009	2.47	0.1503	-	-	-	-
C	8.11	0.0004	0.38	0.5548	1.04	0.4648	4.78	0.0566
D	9.33	0.0001	1.42	0.2644	2.26	0.1327	0.15	0.7111
E	3.33	0.0471	0.67	0.4353	-3.73	0.0232	0.57	0.4691
F	-0.61	0.7152	1.56	0.2425	-7.68	0.0008	0.10	0.7551
G	-0.61	0.7152	1.56	0.2425	-7.68	0.0008	0.10	0.7551
H	2.41	0.1319	0.21	0.6612	-4.66	0.0079	1.25	0.2920
I	7.77	0.0005	0.03	0.8561	0.71	0.6176	1.92	0.1992
J	-0.40	0.8088	1.68	0.2273	-7.46	0.0009	0.08	0.7882

The F_4 values for each variety in the analysis of anthocyanin coloration on coleoptiles are shown in Figure 2. It is seen that only two varieties have a value larger than 1. The largest F_4 is found for variety *C*.

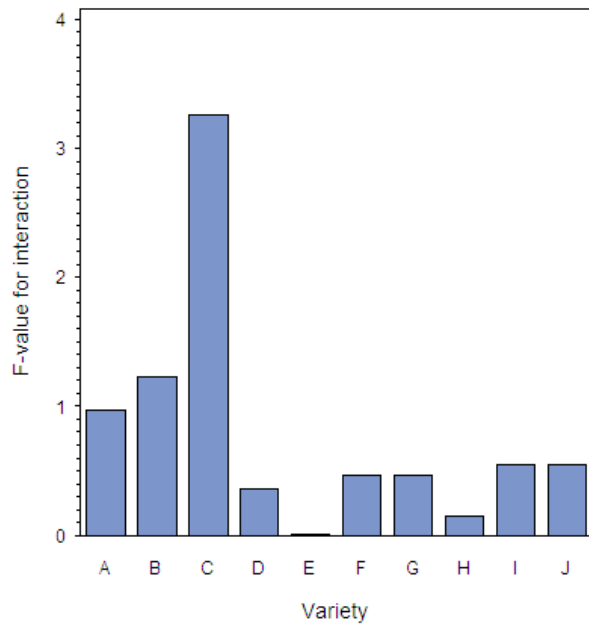


Figure 2 F_4 -values for each variety's contribution to the interaction for ordinal characteristic anthocyanin coloration on coleoptiles

Software

The procedure GLIMMIX of SAS (SAS Institute Inc., 2010) can be used to estimate the parameters of the generalised linear mixed model, and the data-step facilities (and/or the procedure IML) of the same package can be used for the remaining calculations. However, similar facilities may be found in other statistical packages.

THE COMBINED OVER-YEARS METHOD FOR BINOMIAL CHARACTERISTICS

Summary of requirements for application of the method

The method is appropriate to use for assessing distinctness of varieties where:

- The characteristic is recorded for individual plants (usually recorded visually) using a scale with only 2 levels (such as present/absent or similar)
- There are some differences between plants
- The observations are made over at least two years or growing cycles on a single location
- There should be at least 20 degrees of freedom for estimating the random variety-by-year interaction term.
- The expected number of plants for each combination of variety and note should be at least one – and for most of the combinations the number should be at least 5.

Summary

The method can be considered as an alternative to the χ^2 -test for independence in a contingency table. The χ^2 -test only takes the variation caused by random sampling into account and may thus be too liberal if additional sources of variation are present. The combined over-years method for ordinal characteristics take other sources of variation into account by including a random variety-by-year interaction term (as for the COYD method described in TGP/8/1 Part II: 3). The inclusion of the random effect is expected to decrease the number of distinct pairs of varieties compared to the χ^2 -test for independence, but to better ensure that the decisions are consistent over coming years.

The method is based on generalisation of the traditional analyses of variance and regression methods for normally distributed data, which are called “generalized linear mixed models”.

The combined over-years method for binomial characteristics involves

- Calculating the number of plants for each note for each variety in each of the two or three years of trials, which results in a 3-way table
- Analyse the data using appropriate software
- Compare each candidate to the reference varieties and the other candidates at the appropriate level of significance to see which varieties the candidate is distinct from
- Check if the variety-by-year interaction term for distinct pairs is considerably larger than the average for all variety pairs

Technical description of the method

The method is based on a generalized linear mixed model using the logit as link function assuming that the data are binomial distributed (for more information on generalised linear mixed models see e.g. McCulloch and Searle, 2001 or Agresti, 2002). However, the binomial distribution is a simplified case of the multinomial distribution and because of there are only two levels there will be no distinction between nominal and ordinal scale. The methods described in section xx.xx and xx.xx for “The Combined Over-Years Method for Nominal Characteristics” and “The Combined Over-Years Method for Ordinal

Characteristics”, respectively both reduce to the same method for binomial distributed data when only two possible notes are present. Thus for more details on the method, the reader should consult either of those two methods, and the method will not be described further here.

References and literature

Agresti, A., 2002, Categorical data analysis, 2nd edition. Wiley & Sons, Inc. 710 pp.

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McCulloch, C.E. and Searle, S.R., 2001, Generalized, Linear, and Mixed Models. John Wiley & Sons, Inc; New York. 325 pp.

SAS Institute Inc. 2010, SAS/STAT® 9.22 User’s Guide. Cary, NC: SAS Institute Inc. 8460 pp. (online access: <http://support.sas.com/documentation/cdl/en/statug/63347/PDF/default/statug.pdf>, accessed 15th November 2010)

[Annex XI follows]

TGP/8 PART II: TECHNIQUES USED IN DUS EXAMINATION

New Section - Guidance for the development of variety descriptions (Drafter to be agreed)

Notes

45. Comments: the TC at its forty-sixth session requested that, in the revision of document TGP/8, consideration should be given to guidance on the development of variety descriptions with information from:

- (i) more than one growing cycle in one location, and
- (ii) more than one location

46. In the establishment of guidance for the development of variety descriptions, the Technical Working Parties (TWPs) are invited to consider the discussions at the CAJ in respect to the status and use of the “official” variety description (see document CAJ/61/8, paragraphs 1, 2 and 6 and the examples provided in the annexes to this document)

[Annex XII follows]

TGP/8 PART II: TECHNIQUES USED IN DUS EXAMINATION

*Section 4 – 2x1 % Method - Minimum number of degrees of freedom for the 2x1% Method
(Drafter to be agreed)*

Notes

47. The TWC at its twenty-seventh session proposed to are commendation in the number of degrees of freedom for the 2x1% Method of at least 10, and preferably at least 20, degrees of freedom. The TC at its forty-sixth session agreed not to include the recommendation in document TGP/8/1 and that the proposal of the TWC be further discussed for a future revision of document TGP/8.

[Annex XIII follows]

TGP/8 PART II: TECHNIQUES USED IN DUS EXAMINATION

Section 9 - The Combined-Over-Years Uniformity Criterion (COYU) - Minimum number of degrees of freedom for COYU

Notes

48. The TWC at its twenty-seventh session proposed to change the recommendation in the minimum number of degrees of freedom for COYU to “there should be at least 10, and preferably at least 20, degrees of freedom for the varieties-by-years mean square in the COYD analysis of variance, or if there are not, then Long-Term COYD can be used”. The TC at its forty-sixth session agreed to maintain the previous recommendation of 20 degrees of freedom and to consider the proposal of the TWC for a future revision of document TGP/8.

[Annex XIV follows]

TGP/8 PART II: TECHNIQUES USED IN DUS EXAMINATION

Section 10 – Minimum number of comparable varieties for the Relative Variance Method (Drafter: Nik Hulse (Australia)).

Notes

49. The TC at its forty-sixth session agreed that a recommendation on the minimum number of comparable varieties to be included in the trial in the Relative Variance Method be included in a revision of document TGP/8.

[DRAFT TEXT FOLLOWS]

MINIMUM NUMBER OF COMPARABLE VARIETIES FOR THE RELATIVE VARIANCE METHOD

Note: Uniformity assessment on the basis of the Relative Variance method is set out in Chapter 10 of TGP/8/1. The first two paragraphs of 10.1 should be numbered 10.1.1 and 10.1.2 respectively and it is proposed that the following text is inserted;

10.1.3 Chapter 5 of the document “Examining Uniformity”, TGP/10/1 explains that where it is not possible to visualize off-types then a comparison is made to comparable varieties as follows;

“5.1 The General Introduction, Chapter 6.4, explains that, in cases where there is a high level of variation in the expressions of characteristics for the plants within a variety, it is not possible to visualize which plants should be considered as off-types and the off-type approach for the assessment of uniformity is not appropriate. It clarifies that in such cases, uniformity can be assessed by considering the overall level of variation, observed across all the individual plants, to determine whether it is similar to comparable varieties. In this approach, relative tolerance limits for the level of variation are set by comparison with comparable varieties, or types, already known (“standard deviations approach”). The standard deviations approach means that a candidate variety should not be significantly less uniform than the comparable varieties.”

10.1.4 In many situations relatively large scale trials are conducted with a large number of comparable varieties. In these cases an approach such as COYU may be considered appropriate. However, in trials where the number of available comparable varieties is typically low the Relative Variance method may be used.

10.1.5 For example, Chapter 7 of TGP/8/1 describes the Match approach and the varieties included in the trial as follows;

“7.2.3 The Match method typically involves relatively small scale trials where the number of varieties in the trials is limited to the candidate varieties and the most similar varieties of common knowledge.”

10.1.6 Comparable varieties can be considered to be those that are similar in their relevant characteristics to the candidate variety and are sufficiently uniform. Consequently, the number of comparable varieties used for examining uniformity is determined by the number of similar varieties included in the trial for the purpose of examining distinctness.

10.1.7 Other varieties may be included in the trial for reasons other than that they are the most similar varieties to the candidate. For example, check or example varieties may be included to verify the expression of particular characteristics. The DUS examiner can exclude these as comparable varieties in the examination of uniformity.

[Annex XV follows]

TWA/40/14
ANNEX XV

Title of document		2011						2012						2013					
		TC-EDC	TC/47	CAJ/63	TWPs	CAJ/64	C/45	TC-EDC	TC/48	CAJ/65	TWPs	CAJ/66	C/46	TC-EDC	TC/49	CAJ/67	TWPs	CAJ/68	C/47
TGP/8 PART I: DUS TRIAL DESIGN AND DATA ANALYSIS																			
Annex I	New Section 2 - Data to be recorded (<i>Drafter: Mr. Uwe Meyer (Germany)</i>)				x						x								
Annex II	New Section 3 - Control of variation due to different observers (<i>Drafter: Mr. Gerie van der Heijden (Netherlands)</i>)				x						x								
Annex III	New Section 6 – Data processing for the assessment of distinctness and for producing variety descriptions (<i>Drafters: experts from Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Kenya and the United Kingdom</i>)				x						x								
Annex IV	New Section – Information of good agronomic practices for DUS field trials (<i>Drafters: Mrs. Anne Weitz (European Union) and Argentina and France to contribute[1]</i>)				x						x								
TGP/8 PART II: TECHNIQUES USED IN DUS EXAMINATION																			
Annex V	Section 1: The GAIA Methodology New Section after Section COYU Statistical Methods for Very Small Sample Sizes (<i>Drafter: Mr. Gerie van der Heijden (Netherlands)</i>)				x						x								
Annex XII	Section 4 – 2x1 % Method - Minimum number of degrees of freedom for the 2x1% Method (<i>Drafter: Mrs. Sally Watson (United Kingdom)[2]</i>)				x						x								
	Section 5: Pearson's Chi Square Test Applied to Contingency Tables				x						x								
Annex XIII	Section 9 - The Combined-Over-Years Uniformity Criterion (COYU) - Minimum number of degrees of freedom for COYU (<i>Drafter: Mrs. Sally Watson (United Kingdom)[3]</i>)				x						x								
Annex XIV	Section 10 – Minimum number of comparable varieties for the Relative Variance Method (<i>Drafter: Nik Hulse (Australia)</i>)				x						x								
Anex VI	New Section 11 Examining DUS in bulk samples (<i>Drafter: Mr. Kristian Kristensen (Denmark)</i>)				x						x								
Annex VII	New Section 12 - Examining characteristics using image analysis (<i>Drafter: Mr. Gerie van der Heijden (Netherlands)</i>)				x						x								
Annex VIII	New Section 13 - Methods for data processing for the assessment of distinctness and for producing variety descriptions: (<i>Drafters: Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Kenya and the United Kingdom</i>)				x						x								
Annex IX	New Section - Guidance of data analysis for blind randomized trials (<i>Drafter: France^[4] and Israel^[5] to provide examples</i>)				x						x								
Annex X	New Section - Statistical methods for visually observed characteristics (<i>Drafter: Denmark, France and the United Kingdom²</i>)				x						x								
Annex XI	New Section - Guidance for the development of variety descriptions (<i>Drafter to be agreed</i>)				x						x								

[1] Offer made at the 39th TWA Session
[2] Agreed by the TWC at its 28th Session
[3] Agreed by the TWC at its 28th Session
[4] Agreed at the TWZ at its 39th Session
[5] Agreed at the TWV at its 44th Session