



TWA/26/3

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**INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS**  
GENEVA

**TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY  
FOR  
AGRICULTURAL CROPS**

**Twenty-Sixth Session  
Montevideo, November 10 to 14, 1997**

DRAFT REPORT ON THE SUBGROUP MEETING ON SUNFLOWER HELD AT  
LE MAGNERAUD, FRANCE, ON JULY 16 AND 17, 1997

*prepared by the Office of the Union*

Opening of the Meeting

1. The meeting was held in the GEVES station Le Magneraud where the participants were welcomed by its director, Mr. Bernard Aizac. The meeting was opened by Mr. Aubrey Bould, United Kingdom, Chairman of the Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops. The list of participants appears in the Annex to this report.

Revision of the Test Guidelines for Sunflower

2. The only item on the Agenda was the revision of the Test Guidelines for Sunflower (TG/81/3/(proj.)). The basis of discussions was document TWA/26/2 prepared by experts from France. The Subgroup finally made the following main changes in that document:

(i) Subject of these Guidelines: The Subgroup agreed that the document would comprise inbred lines, hybrids and open-pollinated varieties of *Helianthus annuus L.* and would not exclude ornamental varieties. It would not cover *Helianthus debilis Nutt.* which thus should be deleted from the Technical Questionnaire.

(ii) Methods and Observations: All observations should be made on the main stem.

(iii) Table of Characteristics: There would be only one single Table of Characteristics with one single scale of expressions for all groups of varieties mentioned under (i).

### Characteristics

- 1 To have the bracketed content deleted and to be split into two characteristics with the states: a) “absent,” “present” and b) “weak,” “medium,” “strong”
- 3 To have the states: oblong (1), oblong to lanceolate (2), lanceolate (3), lanceolate to triangular (4), triangular (5), triangular to cordate (6), cordate (7), cordate to rounded (8), rounded (9); the drawing for “oblong” to be improved and with an explanation that only the general shape is observed, ignoring certain details covered by further characteristics
- 4 To read: “Leaf: green color,” with the states “light, medium, dark”
- 6 To have the first state amended to read: “very fine or isolated” and to receive a drawing for that state
- 7 To have the addition “through middle of leaf” and the additional states “very concave (1)” and “very convex (9)” with additional drawings and the Notes for the existing states to be “3, 5, 7”
- 8 To have the states “none (1), weakly expressed (2), strongly expressed (3)” and to receive drawings for explanation
- 9(a) To have a new characteristic included reading: “Leaf blade: attitude (E4)” with the states “semi-erect (1), horizontal (2), semi-drooping (3)”
- 10 To have the words “intensity of” deleted
- 12 To read: “Head: density of ray flowers” with the states “weak (3), medium (5), strong (7)”
- 13 To receive drawings and to have the states “fusiform (1), ovate elongated (2), ovate rounded (3), rounded (4)”
- 13(a) To have a new characteristic provisionally included, reading: “Ray flower: disposition (F.3.2)” with the states: “flat (1), edges curved inwards (2), twisted (3), slightly recurved to back of head (4), strongly recurved to back of head (5);” to be checked during the year on the right choice of states of expression

- 15 To have the states “ivory (1), light yellow (2), medium yellow (3), dark yellow (4), orange (5), purple (6), reddish brown (7), multicolored (8)”
- 17 To be split into two characteristics with the states: a) “absent, present” and b) “very weak, weak, medium, strong, very strong”
- 21 To read: “Bract: green color of external part” with the states “light (3), medium (5), dark (3)”
- 21(a) To have a new characteristic included, reading: “Bract: attitude in relation to head (M3)” with the states “not embracing (1), partly embracing (2), fully embracing (3)”
- 22 To be placed after characteristic 27, to be observed at “M 3” stage and to have the bracketed content deleted
- 23 To have provisionally the states “horizontal (1), inclined (2), vertical (3), half turned down with straight stem (4), half turned down with curved stem (5), fully turned down with straight stem (6), fully turned down with slightly curved stem (7), fully turned down with strongly curved stem (8), overturned (9)” with a drawing for each state
- 24 To have the bracketed content deleted
- 25 To have the states “strongly concave (1), weakly concave (2), flat (3), weakly convex (4), strongly convex (5), deformed (6),” with drawings for each state
- 26 To have the word “high” replaced twice by “tall”
- 27 To receive explanations on the exclusion of environmental branching during observation
- 28 To have the states “only basal branching (1), predominantly basal branching (2), full branching (3), predominantly top branching (4), only top branching (5)”
- 29 to 35 To be observed at stage “M 4”
- 30 To have the states “elongated (1), ovoid elongated (2), ovoid round (3), rounded (4)”
- 31,33 To have the drawings deleted
- 32 To have the states “white (1), whitish grey (2), grey (3), light brown (4), dark brown (5), purple (6), black (7)”
- 33 To have the states “none (1), weakly expressed (2), strongly expressed (3)”
- 34 To read: “Seed: basic color of stripes” with the states “white (1), grey (2), brown (3), black (4)”
- 35 To have the states “only marginal (1), only central (2), over whole surface (3)” with new drawings for each state”

3. The Subgroup did not have time to discuss the Technical Notes, the Technical Questionnaire, the Annex with the electrophoresis characteristics and the order of characteristics, the attribution of asterisks (\*) or the indication of example varieties. All experts were asked to make proposals in writing to the expert from France (Mr. Cellier), before October 15, 1997.

4. The expert from Spain inquired on the opinion of breeders if characteristics on the oil content or the percentage of oleic acid were included in the Test Guidelines. The breeders present expressed their hesitations to accept such characteristics for DUS testing. If accepted as characteristics disease resistance characteristics should also be included.

5. The experts from France were asked to prepare a new document on the basis of the above decisions and comments to be received, if possible before the next session of the TWA scheduled for November 10 to 14, 1997. They should also obtain the copyright for the use of the key for the development stages of sunflower and the full citation of the code and obtain information on the second code added always in brackets after the code used.

#### Ring Test on Electrophoresis

6. In the morning of July 17, 1997, Mrs. Bourgoïn explained shortly the philosophy and methods on the basis of which the Annex to TWA/26/2 had been prepared namely in the same way as the annexes to the Test Guidelines for Maize, Wheat and Barley. The Subgroup agreed to set up a ring test with less than 10 samples of well known public lines and hybrids with 20 to 30 seeds each to study the method. The experts from France, Germany, Hungary, Spain and the Ukraine (and possibly also Argentina) agreed to participate in that ring test. By October 15, 1997, the detailed method and plant material would be distributed by France (Mrs. Bourgoïn). The results should be returned to her before February 1, 1998. If experts wanted to include a certain line or hybrid in the test, they should contact Mrs. Bourgoïn as soon as possible.

#### Visits

7. In the afternoon of July 16, 1997 the Subgroup visited the trial fields at Le Magneraud where it discussed in front of the plants several questions which had come up during the discussions in the meeting room. In the morning of July 17, the Subgroup visited the GEVES laboratory named BIOGEVES since June 1997 and received an overview on the routine tests made and on the research of new methods, especially of biomolecular markers.

[Annex follows]

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