



TWA/45/21

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

Geneva

**TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY FOR AGRICULTURAL CROPS****Forty-Fifth Session  
Mexico City, Mexico, July 11 to 15, 2016**

## POSSIBLE REVISION OF THE TEST GUIDELINES FOR RICE

*Document prepared by the Office of the Union**Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this document is to present a proposal by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) for the revision of the Test Guidelines for Rice.
2. The TWA is invited to consider the proposal to revise the Test Guidelines for Rice (document TG/18/8) with a view to further harmonization with the IRRI Genebank Descriptors.

## BACKGROUND

3. The Office of the Union was contacted on June 25, 2015, by Mr. Ruaraidh Sackville Hamilton, Head, Genetic Resources Center, the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), on the possibility to revise the Test Guidelines for Rice (document TG/18/8) with a view to further harmonization with the IRRI Genebank Descriptors.
4. The TWA, at its forty-fourth session, held in Obihiro, Japan, from July 6 to 10, 2015, noted that the Office of the Union had been contacted by IRRI with a view to the possibility of initiating a revision of the Test Guidelines for Rice. The TWA agreed that the information submitted by IRRI to the Office of the Union should be circulated for consideration by the TWA (see document TWA/44/23 "Report", paragraph 114).
5. On February 16, 2016, by means of Circular E-16/030, the following files provided by IRRI were sent to the TC and the TWA:
  - An analysis comparing the current UPOV Test Guidelines with the old IRRI Genebank Descriptors (Excel file);
  - The revised IRRI Genebank Descriptors - revised to better harmonize with UPOV (PDF file);
  - A draft proposal for revision of the Test Guidelines for Rice (Word file, proposed characteristics in blue without numbering).
6. The files provided by IRRI are available on the website of the forty-fifth session of the TWA ([http://www.upov.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting\\_id=38796](http://www.upov.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=38796)).

PROPOSAL

7. It is proposed that the TWA consider the proposal by IRRI to revise the Test Guidelines for Rice. In case a revision of the existing Test Guidelines would be needed, it is proposed that the TWA consider whether a full revision or a partial revision should be undertaken and agree the Leading Expert to coordinate the work of the Subgroup of Interested Experts.

*8. The TWA is invited to consider the proposal to revise the Test Guidelines for Rice (document TG/18/8) with a view to further harmonization with the IRRI Genebank Descriptors.*

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