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TWA/45/8
ORIGINAL: English
DATE: June 23, 2016

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

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION FORM

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

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1.   The purpose of this document is to report on developments concerning the development of an electronic application form.

2.   The structure of this document is as follows:

3.   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
TWV:	Technical Working Party for Vegetables
TWPs:	Technical Working Parties
EAF:	Electronic Application Form
PV1:	Prototype electronic application form Version 1
PV2:	Prototype electronic application form Version 2

BACKGROUND

4.   The aim of the electronic application form project is to develop a multilingual, electronic form containing questions relevant for plant breeders' rights (PBRs) applications. As a first step, a prototype electronic form will be developed, covering all relevant information required for a PBR application in the members of the Union concerned and with questions translated in the relevant languages for the members of the Union concerned (see document CAJ/66/5 "Electronic Application Systems", paragraph 2).

5.   The background to the development of an electronic application form and developments prior to the forty-fourth session of the TWA are provided in document TWA/44/8 "Electronic Application Systems".

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2016

Developments concerning Prototype electronic application form Version 2 (PV2)

6.   On January 8, 2016, a meeting by electronic means (WebEx meeting) was organized to report on latest developments concerning PV2, including the crops to be tested in PV2, presentation of the technical architecture to be adopted for the system, and the tentative timetable for the test campaign.

7.   At the WebEx meeting held on January 8, 2016, it was agreed to add the following crops, in the following order of priority according to the interest of participating PVP Offices and breeders and the ability of the participating PVP Offices to provide relevant Technical Questionnaire information:

    1) Rose
    2) Soya Bean
    3) Lettuce
    4) Apple Fruit Varieties
    5) Potato.

8.   It was further agreed by the participants, that Rose and Soya Bean would be done as priority 1, while Lettuce, Apple and Potato would be incorporated in the prototype subject to the workload and comments received during the test campaign.

9.   The technical architecture has been designed and shared with participating members during the Web Ex meeting held on January 8, 2016. The architecture was built on the basis of PVP Offices needs and WIPO's infrastructure's requirements. The functionalities will be developed and tested during the test campaign from March 2016 to October 2016, as follows:

Test Campaign	Milestone Release (MR) Contents/ Functionalities to be tested
Release 1	Updated PVP-XML Application Form (AF) for new participants and new crops
Release 2	Updated PVP-XML Technical Questionnaire (TQ) for new participants and new crops, User feedback from MR1
Release 3	Authentication/Authorization, Multi-language feature, Add new participants (except BO, MX), user feedback from MR2
Release 4	Manage forms interface, Add BO and MX, Add crops (Rose+Soya Bean), user feedback from MR3
Release 5	Reuse TQ, user feedback from MR4
Release 6	Add Lettuce*, Payment, user feedback from MR5
Release 7	Add Apple Fruit Varieties*, Office/Breeder Preference Interface, integration with Genie DB and CPVO authorization service, user feedback from MR6
Release 8	Encryption, Secure RESTful services, Add potato*. user feedback from MR7
Final Release	User feedback from MR8 and Full prototype

*if time permits

Technical Committee

10.   The Technical Committee (TC), at its fifty-second session held in Geneva on March 14 to 16, 2016, considered document TC/52/7 "Electronic Application Systems" and received a presentation by the Office of the Union on the developments concerning the development of a prototype electronic form (see document TC/52/29 Rev. "Report", paragraphs 170 and 171).

11.   At the fifty-second session of the TC, the Delegation of Japan requested clarification of the language requirements for the EAF. The Office of the Union clarified that the EAF would allow users to view all questions in any of the languages of the participating UPOV members. However, users would be required to provide the requested information in a language accepted by the authority concerned. The acceptable language(s) would be indicated in the form (see document TC/52/29 Rev. "Report", paragraph 172).

Council

12.   The Council, at its thirty-third extraordinary session, held in Geneva on the afternoon of March 17, 2016, noted the work of the Consultative Committee at its ninety-first session, as reported in document C(Extr.)/33/3 "Report by the President on the work of the ninety-first session of the Consultative Committee", which included the following information concerning the EAF (see document C(Extr.)/33/3, paragraphs 15 to 18):

"15.   The Consultative Committee noted the developments concerning the development of a prototype electronic form and considered the plans for the development of the prototype electronic application form Version 2 (PV2).

"16.   The Consultative Committee noted the oral report by the Vice Secretary General of the Seventh Meeting on the Development of a Prototype Electronic Form ("EAF/7 meeting"), held on March 16, 2016, in which it was reported that the EAF/7 meeting had agreed:

        (a)   on the release of PVP-XML Version 2 (Version to be used for the Prototype_PV2);

        (b)   on the plan presented for the test campaign for PV2 and had noted that participating members should:
            –   create WIPO Accounts to access and use the prototype (PVP Offices & Breeders)
            –   provide terms and conditions when needed (PVP Offices)
            –   check mapping files: mandatory/optional elements (PVP Offices)
            –   provide bank account details and application fee (amount and currency) to be used (PVP Offices)
            –   develop the client interface to interact with EAF in form of system-to-system communication (if requested) (PVP Offices);

        (c)   that the Eighth Meeting on the Development of a Prototype Electronic Form ("EAF/8 meeting") would be held in Geneva on Monday October 24, 2016, starting at 6 p.m.

"17.   In relation to the possible implementation of an operational system, the Consultative Committee agreed the following:

        (a)   all legal requirements of the PVP Offices concerned would need to be met
            –   e.g. to clarify that the EAF does not represent an intermediary in the application process. The application would be made by the user with the PVP Office concerned;

        (b)   all questions would be available in the languages of the participating UPOV members;

        (c)   users would be required to provide information (answers) in a language accepted by the authority concerned (as indicated in the form);

        (d)   the following two options in relation to integration with PVP Offices systems:
            (i) Case 1: In the case of PVP Offices with no electronic system or who do not wish to integrate their existing system with the EAF, they would receive the submitted application data via:
                - e-mail or
                - regular mail/hand delivery
            (ii) Case 2: System-to-System communication
                - Synchronization for submitted application data
                - Validation of submitted application data and authorization through Web application;

(e)   all data would be encrypted and considered confidential;

(f)   that the EAF system should allow, if requested, for PVP Office fees to be collected by UPOV and distributed to the PVP Offices in a form and currency determined by the PVP Office concerned;

(g)   that the implementation of the EAF would not affect the fees that PVP Offices would receive per application;

(h)   for payment to cover the costs of the EAF, including UPOV charge per application, as follows:
  – CHF 150 / submitted application in 2017/2018
  – CHF 250 / submitted application from 2019 on;

(i)   that financial and administrative regulations and rules should be presented for approval at the EAF/8 meeting;

(j)   on the development of a program of training for PVP Offices and users, to be arranged in conjunction with the launch of the EAF;

(k)   on a program of publicity on the availability of the system for breeders to be organized in conjunction with the launch of the EAF;

(l)   on the need to develop an approach to add new crops more rapidly, for consideration at the EAF/8 meeting;

(m)   to make an initial assessment of the feasibility of including information for official variety list purposes, for consideration at the EAF/8 meeting.

"18.   The Consultative Committee agreed, subject to approval by the participants to the EAF project, the CAJ and the Consultative Committee, to seek the approval by the Council at its fiftieth session, to be held in Geneva on October 28, 2016, for the launch of the EAF at the end of 2016 or beginning of 2017."

Recent developments

13.   The TWPs, at their sessions, will receive an oral report on recent developments in relation to the project and the running test campaign for PV2.

> *14.   The TWA is invited to note the developments concerning the development of a prototype electronic form.*

[End of document]