

Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops

TWA/46/9

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REGIONAL SET OF EXAMPLE VARIETIES IN WHEAT FOR SOUTH AMERICA*Document prepared by an expert from Brazil**Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance*Background

1. The TWA, at its forty-third session, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, from November 17 to 21, 2014, received a report by the delegation of Brazil on regional trials being carried out by some South American countries to establish example varieties in wheat and soybean. The delegation of Brazil proposed to report on further developments to the TWA.
2. The TWA, at its forty-fifth session, held in Mexico City, from July 11 to 15, 2016, invited Brazil to prepare a document on "Regional set of example varieties in Wheat for South America" to be presented at its forty-sixth session.

Context

3. Document TGP/1/3 "General Introduction to the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability and the Development of Harmonized Descriptions of new Varieties of Plants" recommends that, where appropriate, example varieties shall be provided in the Test Guidelines to clarify the states of expression of a characteristic. According to document TGP 7 "Drafting of Test Guidelines" this clarification of the states of expression would be required to illustrate the characteristic and/or to provide the basis for ascribing the appropriate state of expression to each variety that would allow the development of internationally harmonized variety descriptions.
4. Despite the need of UPOV Test Guidelines to be suitable for the largest possible number of UPOV members, the availability of varieties in some genera and species may cause difficulties for world-wide harmonization of example varieties. In such cases, regional sets of example varieties could promote further harmonization in DUS examination and variety description.
5. Considering the aforementioned facts and the growing interchange of varieties among South American countries, it was decided to establish a set of common example varieties for regional harmonization.

Ring trials

6. Ring trials were conducted in 2014 and 2015. In 2014 the involved countries were: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. In 2015 Chile joined the group.
7. Initially it was agreed that Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay would indicate the varieties to be sown in the trials and that each country would send a sample of each variety to the others. Although the seeds were exchanged, there were delays in delivery and the sowing period was missed in some countries as well as the establishment of the trials was affected in others. No data was collected in 2014.
8. In 2015, a new attempt was made, this time with the inclusion of Chile and with a new set of varieties.
9. The trials were installed on July 2015.

10. In general, the trials were successful despite the late sowing and some issues (late time of development of some varieties, for example). The data collected suggested lack of calibration for observations with diverging results on qualitative characteristics. It was noted also that the set of characteristics examined was different according to the country.

11. Given the situations presented, it was not possible to complete the cooperation project so far. To reach the initially proposed goals, further data should be gathered in at least one more growing cycle with a set of harmonized characteristics and a joint calibration exercise for the different observers on the field.

Conclusion

12. Despite the constraints, it was an opportunity for learning and acquiring experience that can be useful for cooperation in the future. Furthermore, we note some points that would need special attention to contribute to the success of the project:

- To take into account the amount of time required to comply with phytosanitary regulations to exchange the seeds;
- To find ways of minimize the harmful climatic influence on the trials, either by increasing the number of planting sites, by improving the management, or by using irrigation, for example;
- To organize a calibration exercise for all examiners in the ring trial;
- To harmonize the national test guidelines used or define a set of harmonized characteristics for the study.

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