

Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops

TWA/48/4

**Forty-Eighth Session
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COMMENTS ON TGP DOCUMENTS

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1. The purpose of this document is to report the comments on TGP documents made by the Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees (TWO), at its fifty-first session, held in Christchurch, New Zealand, from February 18 to 22, 2019, the Technical Working Party for Vegetables (TWV), at its fifty-third session, held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from May 20 to 24, 2019 and the Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops (TWF), at its fiftieth session, held in Budapest, Hungary, from June 24 to 28, 2019.

2. The structure of this document is as follows:

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3. The TWO, TWV and TWF considered document TWP/3/1 Rev. “TGP documents” (see documents TWO/51/12 “Report”, paragraph 8, TWV/53/14 “Report”, paragraph 8 and TWF/50/13 “Report”, paragraph 9).

POSSIBLE FUTURE REVISIONS OF TGP DOCUMENTS

TGP/7: Development of Test Guidelines

Characteristics which only apply to certain varieties

4. The TWO, TWV and TWF considered document TWP/3/9 (see documents TWO/51/12 “Report”, paragraphs 19 to 23 TWV/53/14 “Report”, paragraphs 12 to 16 and TWF/50/13 “Report”, paragraphs 11 to 13).

5. The TWO, TWV and TWF considered the request to provide suitable examples of quantitative and pseudo-qualitative characteristics to demonstrate how the proposed approach might be used in a way that would not present risks for decisions on distinctness.

6. The TWO agreed that when a structure was “absent or very weak” on a plant part, the observation of further characteristics on that structure could be difficult or impractical. For example, it would not be practical to observe “hair: color” on a plant part with “presence of hairs: absent or very weak”.

7. The TWO agreed that the following pseudo-qualitative characteristic from the Test Guidelines for Dahlia (TG/226/1) was a suitable example to demonstrate how the proposed approach might be used in a way that would not present risks for decisions on distinctness.

“(PQ) Flower head: type: single (1); semi-double (2); daisy-eyed double (3); double (4)”

8. The TWO agreed that the header of the characteristic should preferably contain the exclusion and, if necessary, an explanation may be provided in the Test Guidelines.

9. The TWV agreed that when a structure was “absent or weak” on a plant part, the observation of further characteristics on that structure could be difficult. For example in the Test Guidelines for Lettuce (TG/13/11), characteristic 3: “Plant: degree of overlapping of upper part of leaves”, indicated as QN, with states (1) “absent or weak, (2) medium, (3) strong. However the TWV agreed that in combination with the table provided in Chapter 5.3 of the Test Guidelines it reduced the risks for decisions on distinctness, and therefore encouraged the use of such tables when needed.

10. The TWV agreed that the following pseudo-qualitative characteristic from the Test Guidelines for Leaf Chicory (TG/154/4) was a suitable example to demonstrate how the proposed approach might be used in a way that would not present risks for decisions on distinctness:

“Characteristic 16: “Plant: head formation: absent (1); open (2); closed (3)

Characteristic 17: “Only for varieties with head formation...”

11. The TWF agreed that the following quantitative characteristic from the Test Guidelines for Fig (TG/265/1) was a suitable example to demonstrate how the proposed approach might be used in a way that would not present risks for decisions on distinctness.

“Characteristic 17 (QN): “Leaf: predominant type: entire (1); three-lobed (2); five-lobed (3)

Characteristic 18: “Only varieties with predominant leaf type: entire: Leaf: shape...”

TGP/14: Glossary of Terms Used in UPOV Documents

Color names for the RHS Colour Chart

12. The TWO, TWV and TWF considered document TWP/3/11 (see documents TWO/51/12 “Report”, paragraphs 27 to 29, TWV/53/14 “Report”, paragraphs 25 to 30 and TWF/50/13 “Report”, paragraphs 20 to 24).

13. The TWO and the TWV considered the proposal for the revision of the list of UPOV Color Groups in document TGP/14 “Glossary of Terms used in UPOV Documents” on the basis of the color groups set out in document TWP/3/11, Annex I. The TWO and the TWF agreed that the new list of UPOV Color Groups prepared on the basis of the Sixth Edition of the RHS Colour Chart should be proposed for inclusion in document TGP/14.

14. The TWO and the TWV considered the proposal for the revision of document TGP/14, Section 2, Subsection 3: “Color”, and Subsection 3: Annex: “Color names for the RHS Colour Chart”, to reflect the introduction of the revised list of UPOV Color Groups. The TWO and the TWF agreed that document TGP/14 should be revised to reflect the introduction of the new list of UPOV Color Groups on the basis of the proposal set out in document TWP/3/11, Annex II.

15. The TWV noted that RHS colour charts were not commonly used in the vegetable sector (for DUS examination).

TGP/15: Guidance on the Use of Biochemical and Molecular Markers in the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS)

New example: Characteristic-specific marker with incomplete information on state of expression

16. The TWO, TWV and TWF considered document TWP/3/12 (see documents TWO/51/12 “Report”, paragraphs 30 to 35, TWV/53/14 “Report”, paragraphs 21 to 24 and TWF/50/13 “Report”, paragraphs 25 to 29).

17. The TWO, TWV and TWF noted that the TC had agreed that document TGP/15 should be amended to clarify that it was the responsibility of the authority to decide on the reliability of the link between the gene and the expression of the characteristic.

18. The TWO, TWV and TWF noted that the TC had agreed to include an explanation in document TGP/15 that it would be the responsibility of the respective TWP and the TC to assess whether the reliability of the link between the gene and the expression of the characteristic was satisfied in order to include a method in the Test Guidelines.

19. The TWO, the TWV and TWF noted that the TC had agreed that a new example should be added to document TGP/15 to illustrate a situation where the characteristic-specific marker does not provide complete information on the state of expression of a characteristic.

20. The TWO, TWV and TWF agreed with the proposed example to be added to document TGP/15 to illustrate a situation where the characteristic-specific marker does not provide complete information on the state of expression of a characteristic, as set out in the Annex to document TWP/3/12.

21. The TWO noted that disease resistance characteristics were not commonly used in ornamental plants.

22. The TWV agreed that a new sentence should be added to TGP/15 in the case where a variety is claimed by the applicant to be resistant in the TQ but the marker test is negative, a bio-assay should be conducted/performed and be conclusive.

NEW PROPOSALS FOR REVISIONS OF TGP DOCUMENTS

TGP/7: Development of Test Guidelines

Procedure for partial revision of UPOV Test Guidelines

23. The TWO, TWV and TWF considered the proposal for the revision of document TGP/7 and noted that the TC had considered a proposal to revise the procedure for partial revisions of Test Guidelines (see documents TWV/53/14 "Report", paragraphs 31 and 32 and TWF/50/13 "Report", paragraphs 30 to 33).

24. The TWV and TWF welcomed the possibility to have an accelerated procedure for partial revisions of Test Guidelines, allowing the possibility for experts to come with new proposals in the course of the year, respecting the deadline agreed to prepare and circulate the document on time before the session, to allow sufficient time for consideration by members of the Union. The TWF highlighted the importance for all relevant TWP experts to be invited to comment on any proposal for new partial revisions of Test Guidelines in the forthcoming session and suggested, in that regard, to include all participants of the previous TWP session in the communication.

Presentation of full scale of notes for quantitative characteristics in Test Guidelines

25. The TWO, TWV and TWF considered the proposal for the revision of document TGP/7 and agreed that all states of expression for quantitative characteristics should be presented in Test Guidelines (see documents TWO/51/12 "Report", paragraphs 15 and 16, TWV/53/14 "Report", paragraphs 35 and 36 and TWF/50/13 "Report", paragraphs 36 and 37).

26. The TWO and the TWV recalled that guidance in document TGP/7 required quantitative characteristics with "1-9" scale to have example varieties for at least three states of expression and "1-5" / "1-4" / "1-3" scales for at least two states of expression. The TWO and the TWV agreed with the proposal to present all states of expression of quantitative characteristics in Test Guidelines and agreed that this would not change the minimum number of example varieties required in document TGP/7.

27. The TWF welcomed the proposal to present the full scale of notes for QN characteristics in Test Guidelines as it would provide greater clarity for DUS examiners, in particular in the case of testing at breeders' premises. It further agreed that it would improve the quality of the data provided.

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