

**Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops**

**TWA/48/8**

**Forty-Eighth Session  
Montevideo, Uruguay, September 16 to 20, 2019**

**Original:** English  
**Date:** September 4, 2019

---

**VARIETY TESTING IN ITALIAN PROTOCOLS – MICROSATELLITE FINGERPRINTING**

*Document prepared by an expert from Italy*

*Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance*

The annex to this document contains a copy of a presentation on “Variety testing in Italian protocols – microsatellite fingerprinting”, to be made at the forty-eighth session of the TWA.

[Annex follows]



# VARIETY TESTING IN ITALIAN PROTOCOLS

## MICROSATELLITE FINGERPRINTING

Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops


TWA/48

16-20 September 2019 MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY

GIOVANNI CORSI - CHIARA DELOGU - LORELLA ANDREANI

CREA-DC  
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCHER COUNCIL  
RESEARCH CENTER FOR PLANT PROTECTION AND CERTIFICATION

1



# Microsatellite Fingerprinting

## Summary:

- Microsatellite fingerprinting
- CREA DC protocols
  - Soybean
  - Rice
  - Khorasan wheat
- Other purposes

2



## Microsatellite Fingerprinting

**CREA-DC** protocols are based on Microsatellites, also known as **SSR** (*Simple Sequence Repeats*).

The **SSR** are short sequence of DNA consisting of multiple repetitions of a set of two to nine base pairs, used as a genetic marker when individuals differ in the number of repetitions.

The sequences close to SSR are usually highly conserved, consequently it is possible to select specific primers for the amplification of the fragment of interest by **PCR** (*Polymerase Chain Reaction*).

Codominant alleles are identified by the fragment length expressed in number of base pair.

The amplification of **SSR** and their separation by electrophoresis, will give origin to a typical profile for each individual/variety.

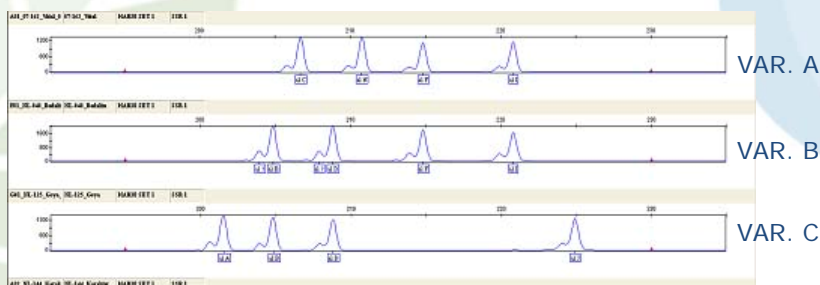
3



## Microsatellite Fingerprinting

### Aim

The molecular description is a useful tool for the varietal characterization. The genetic profiles can be used as a complement to the morphological descriptions.



4



## Variety Registration - Soybean

### Protocol


For a final judgement on uniformity, distinctness and stability

- ✓ **UPOV TG/80/6 01 April 1998**
- ✓ **National guidelines**  
<http://scs.entecra.it/prove%20iscrizioni/criteri/soia/Criteri-Soia-GU-50-1-03-2017-DM-13%20GENNAIO%202017.pdf>

must be followed.



Photo by CREA-DC




## Variety Registration - Soybean

The protocol includes the observation of 20 **SSR**.

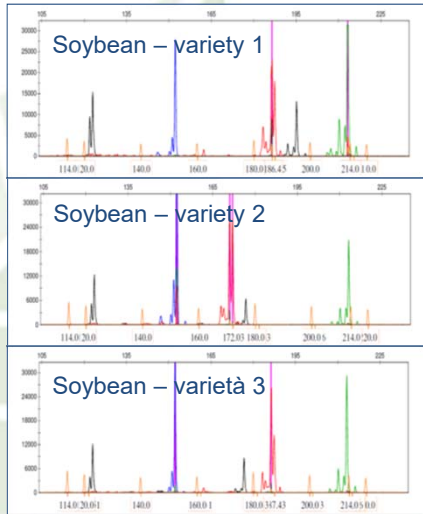
The choice was based on:

- **high polymorphism** (number of alleles per locus **SSR**);
- **good distribution** within the genome
- alleles **easily** and **unambiguously** **detectable**;
- amplification conditions that would enable the preparation of PCR **assays multiplex** in order to optimize work time and costs.



crea  
Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura  
e l'analisi dell'economia agraria

# Variety Registration - Soybean




Soybean – variety 1

Soybean – variety 2

Soybean – varietà 3

## Soybean Varietal description (20 SSR markers)

7



crea  
Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura  
e l'analisi dell'economia agraria

# Variety Registration - Soybean

Chromosome 1 Satt 129		Chromosome 2 Satt 216		Chromosome 3 Satt 152		Chromosome 4 A1277661		Chromosome 5 Satt 545	
Alleles (bp)	Example varieties	Alleles (bp)	Example varieties	Alleles (bp)	Example varieties	Alleles (bp)	Example varieties	Alleles (bp)	Example varieties
183	Tea	135	Tea	215	Brillante	209	Eiko	190	Eiko
201	Eiko	186	Taira	221	Eiko	212	Ascasubi	202	Tea
				224	Tea	227	Aires	205	Aires
				242	Taira				
Chromosome 6 Satt 277		Chromosome 7 Satt 680		Chromosome 8 Satt 177		Chromosome 9 Satt349		Chromosome 10 Satt 345	
Alleles (bp)	Example varieties	Alleles (bp)	Example varieties	Alleles (bp)	Example varieties	Alleles (bp)	Example varieties	Alleles (bp)	Example varieties
169	Tea	349	Tea	106	Eiko	195	Eiko	122	Tea
232	Eiko	376	Eiko	115	Tea	207	Ascasubi	123	Eiko
235	Hiriko	397	Aires			213	Tea	170	Taira
238	Ascasubi	400	Hilario						
Chromosome 11 Satt197		Chromosome 12 Satt353		Chromosome 13 Satt114		Chromosome 14 Satt577		Chromosome 15 Satt691	
Alleles (bp)	Example varieties	Alleles (bp)	Example varieties	Alleles (bp)	Example varieties	Alleles (bp)	Example varieties	Alleles (bp)	Example varieties
184	Demetra	153	Tea	75	Energy	175	Tea	177	PR91M10
199	Tea	168	PR91M10	90	Brillante	181	Demetra	180	Tea
		171	Energy	102	Demetra	184	Eiko	204	Eiko
				114	Eiko			207	Celma PZO
Chromosome 16 Satt249		Chromosome 17 Satt186		Chromosome 18 Satt115		Chromosome 19 Satt229		Chromosome 20 Satt614	
Alleles (bp)	Example varieties	Alleles (bp)	Example varieties	Alleles (bp)	Example varieties	Alleles (bp)	Example varieties	Alleles (bp)	Example varieties
240	PR91M10	184	Tea	132	Taira	295	Tea	277	PR91M10
243	Brillante	187	Eiko	150	Tea	298	PR91M10	299	Taira
273	Tea			153	Eiko			308	Tea
279	Eiko								

Selected SSR  
and Alleles  
catalog

8



## Variety Registration - Soybean

### Working Sample and Uniformity Threshold

For the varietal characterization 16 single seeds are tested.

If only one seed is different (off-type) 8 more seeds will be analyzed.

A variety is considered non-homogeneous if 2 off-type are retrieved out of 24 seeds.

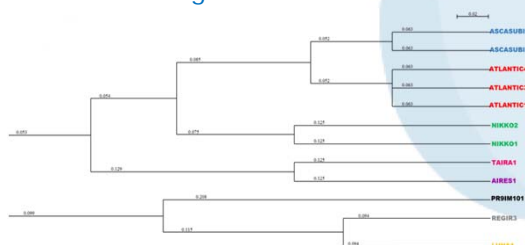
9



## Variety Registration - Soybean

### Evaluation of the results

The results are recorded on an electronic sheet and elaborated by a specific software<sup>1</sup> for the evaluation of genetic distance.



The molecular fingerprinting will be used to complete the varietal descriptions.

#### Literature

<sup>1</sup> = Felsenstein, J. 1989. PHYLIP - Phylogeny Inference Package (Version 3.2). Cladistics 5: 164-166.

10



## Variety Registration - Rice

### Protocol

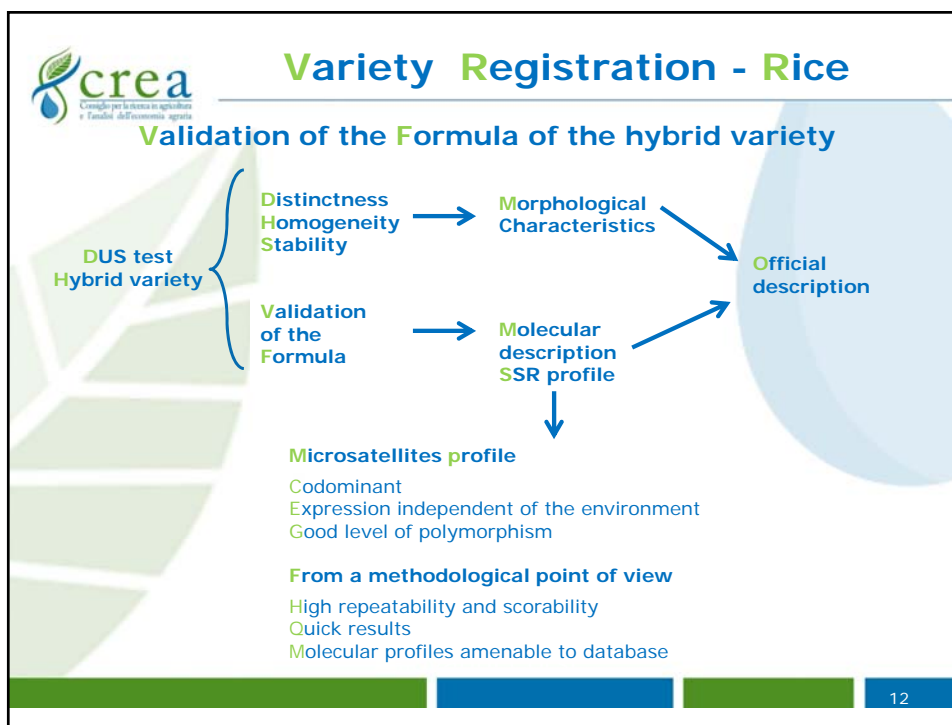
For a final judgement on uniformity, distinctness and stability

- ✓ **CPVO/TP-016/3 01 October 2015**
- ✓ **National guidelines**  
<http://scs.entecra.it/prove%20iscrizioni/criteri/riso/Criteri-Riso-GU-91-18-4-2014.pdf>

Must be followed.



Photo by Alessandra Sommovigo





## Variety Registration - Rice

### Molecular profile- Aims

- **Validation of the hybrid formula:**  
taking advantage of the codominant nature of SSR markers it is possible, through the description of parental lines, to infer the hybrid theoretical formula and compare it with that actually found in the hybrid variety in registration
- **Homogeneity evaluation:**  
the detection of the level and type of non-homogeneity (presence of different alleles at the same locus) in the pure lines will allow to explain the possible variability detected in the hybrid and will therefore be useful for the validation of the formula
- **Database:**  
The molecular fingerprinting will be used to complete the varietal descriptions

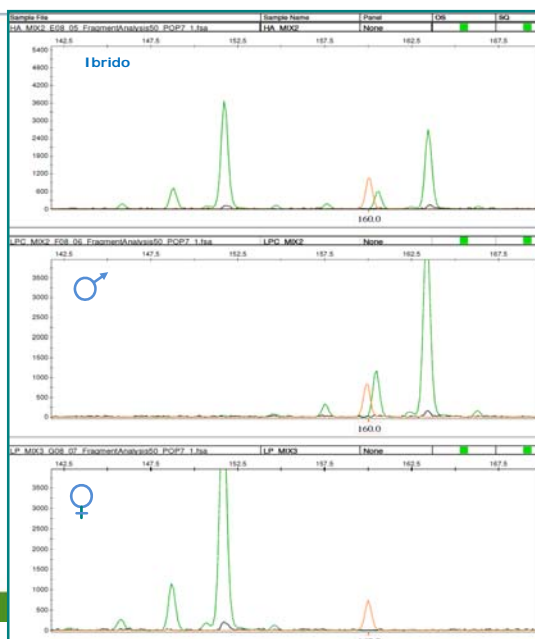
13




## Variety Registration - Rice

Rice varietal registration

Hybrid formula validation





crea  
Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura  
e l'analisi dell'economia agraria

# Variety Registration - Rice


Cr1		Cr2		Cr3		Cr7		Cr8		Cr9	
RM24		RM475		RM338		RM336		RM44		RM219	
Allel	Ref. Variety	Allel	Ref. Variety	Allel	Ref. Variety	Allel	Ref. Variety	Allel	Ref. Variety	Allel	Ref. Variety
RM24-a(167bp)	Loto	RM475-a(166bp)	IR64	RM338-a(174bp)	Aiace	RM336-a(134bp)	Venere	RM44-a(88bp)	Carnise	RM219-a(188)	Carnise
RM24-b(169bp)	Cripto	RM475-b(182bp)	S. Andrea	RM338-b(177bp)	IR64	RM336-b(146bp)	Arborio	RM44-b(98bp)	IR64	RM219-b(192)	Carnaroli
RM24-c(175bp)	Roma	RM475-c(214bp)	Vialone nano			RM336-c(152bp)	Koral	RM44-c(104bp)	Carnaroli	RM219-c(200)	Baldo
RM24-d(177bp)	Vialone nano	RM475-d(218bp)	Cripto			RM336-d(155bp)	S. Andrea	RM44-d(108bp)	S. Andrea	RM219-d(218)	IR64
RM24-e(181bp)	Aiace	RM475-e(222bp)	Loto			RM336-e(158bp)	Carnise	RM44-e(116bp)	Ariete		
						RM336-f(161bp)	Catelmochi	RM44-f(126bp)	Koral		
						RM336-g(164bp)	Thaibonnet				
						RM336-h(191bp)	IR64				
Cr4		Cr5		Cr6		Cr9		Cr11		Cr12	
RM252		RM164		RM253		RM215		RM202		RM235	
Allel	Ref. Variety	Allel	Ref. Variety	Allel	Ref. Variety	Allel	Ref. Variety	Allel	Ref. Variety	Allel	Ref. Variety
RM252-a(192bp)	Carnaroli	RM164-a(243bp)	IR64	RM253-a(127bp)	Baldo	RM215-a(147bp)	Tequing	RM202-a(155bp)	Gange	RM235-a(96bp)	Thaibonnet
RM252-c(194bp)	Aiace	RM164-b(254bp)	Carnaroli	RM253-b(129bp)	Carnaroli	RM215-b(149bp)	Baldo	RM202-b(157bp)	Thaibonnet	RM235-b(98bp)	Castelmochi
RM252-b(214bp)	IR64	RM164-c(264bp)	Selenio	RM253-c(131bp)	Arborio	RM215-c(151bp)	Carnaroli	RM202-c(171bp)	Baldo	RM235-c(100bp)	Selenio
		RM164-d(266bp)	Carnise	RM253-d(137bp)	Tequing	RM215-d(153bp)	Selenio	RM202-d(179bp)	Tequing	RM235-d(102bp)	S. Andrea
		RM164-e(294bp)	Venere	RM253-e(139bp)	IR64	RM215-e(155bp)	Ariete	RM202-e(183bp)	Rombo	RM235-e(110bp)	Tequing
		RM164-f(297bp)	Thaibonnet							RM235-f(132bp)	IR 64
		RM164-g(301bp)	Lemont								

Selected SSR  
and  
Alleles catalog

(12 SSR markers)

15

Selected SSR  
and  
Alleles catalog  
(12 SSR markers)

 <b>Variety Registration - Rice</b>													
Working Sample													
For the varietal characterization 10 single seeds of parental lines and 4 single seed for the Hybrid are tested.													
If, in the hybrid, only one seed is different (off-type) 6 more seeds will be analyzed.													
The analysis are performed for two years													



## Variety Registration – Khorasan wheat



Photo by Oriana Porfiri

The National guideline on


***Triticum turgidum* subsp *turanicum***  
(Jakubcz.) A. Löve & D. Löve

is currently under development.

The variety registration on voluntary bases prescribes:

- ✓ **Description of the morpho-physiological characteristics**
- ✓ **Genetic profile based on SSR**
- ✓ **VCU evaluation (productivity and quality)**

17



## Variety Registration – Khorasan wheat

**Aim:**  
description of the molecular profile as a complement to the morpho-physiological characterization.

**Protocol:**  
the analytical protocol adopted refers to the **\*Method of analysis 8.10.2 (DNA based method - Triticum)** published in **ISTA Standards 2019** (International Seed Testing Association) which includes the use of **14 prescribed SSR** markers.


It is possible to add additional markers to further investigate the varietal description.

The analysis will be performed for two years.

The molecular profile will be included in the description of the new variety.

\*method included in the scope of ISTA accreditation of the CREA DC laboratory

18

 **SSR Variety testing- other purposes**

Seed lot varietal identity and purity	Verification of the genetic quality of seeds lot by request of companies and farmers
Plant Breeders right protection	Agreement with the Italian Ministry of Agriculture and breeders organizations aiming to counter fraud in the seed sector
Traceability	Variety traceability of raw material (grains) and agricultural products upon request on food industries and large scale retailers

19



**Thank you for your attention**

20