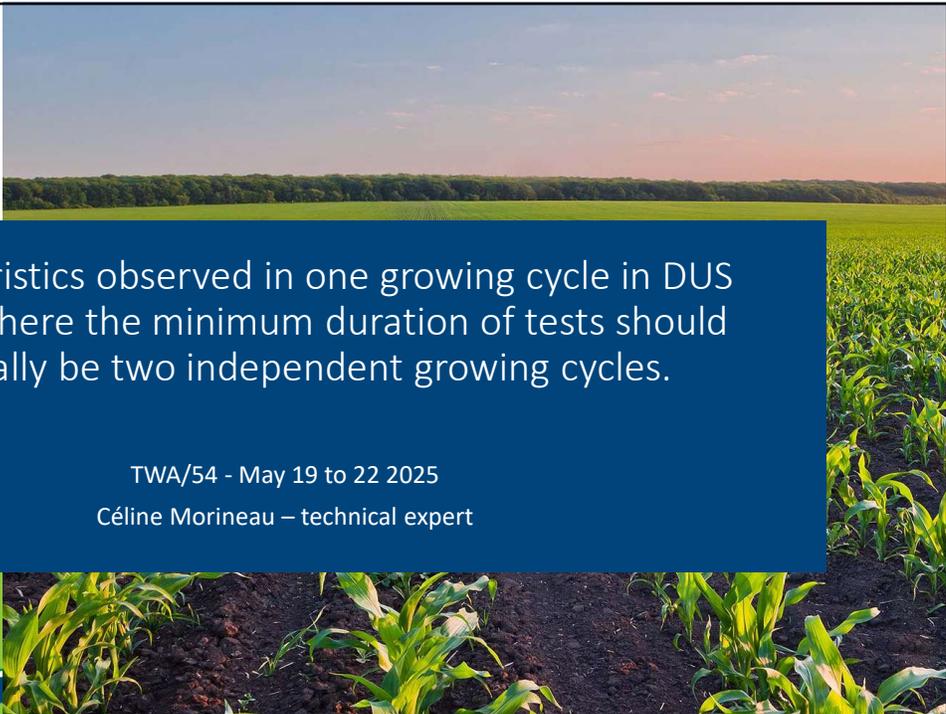


Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops**TWA/54/3****Fifty-Fourth Session****Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, May 19 to 22, 2025****Original:** English**Date:** April 23, 2025

CHARACTERISTICS OBSERVED IN ONE GROWING CYCLE IN DUS TESTING WHERE THE MINIMUM DURATION OF TESTS SHOULD NORMALLY BE TWO INDEPENDENT GROWING CYCLES*Document prepared by an expert from the European Union**Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance*

The annex to this document contains a copy of a presentation “Characteristics observed in one growing cycle in DUS testing where the minimum duration of tests should normally be two independent growing cycles”, to be made by an expert from the European Union, at the fifty-fourth session of the TWA.

[Annex follows]

Characteristics observed in one growing cycle in DUS testing where the minimum duration of tests should normally be two independent growing cycles.

TWA/54 - May 19 to 22 2025
Céline Morineau – technical expert

1



Background of the discussion

- In number of species, the CPVO Technical Protocols specify that "*The minimum duration of the test should normally be two independent growing cycles*", which could be interpreted as requiring all characteristics to be observed twice.

The wording comes from UPOV (TGP7-Development of test guidelines) :

ASW 2 (Chapter 3.1) – Number of growing cycles

(a) *Single growing cycle*

"The minimum duration of tests should normally be a single growing cycle."

(b) *Two independent growing cycles*

"The minimum duration of tests should normally be two independent growing cycles."

- In practice: in multiannual testing some certain characteristics listed in the protocols are observed by DUS examiners only during one growing cycle.

-> Need to clarify the situation in EU



2



Procedure MEO24-04.4 - Objectives

This procedure aims to:

- **Harmonise** the practice among Examination offices (EOs) in EU, agreeing on the following:

It is acceptable to conduct **one observation** under conditions and/or when it has been demonstrated that **a second observation will not lead to more certainty or a different result** as regards to distinctness, uniformity or the description of the characteristic.
- **Present example situations** when certain characteristics of the CPVO technical protocols (TPs) can be observed in one growing cycle, where it is defined in the Technical Protocol that the minimum duration of tests should normally be two (or more) independent growing cycles.
- Give guidance on how to reflect it in CPVO TPs.



3

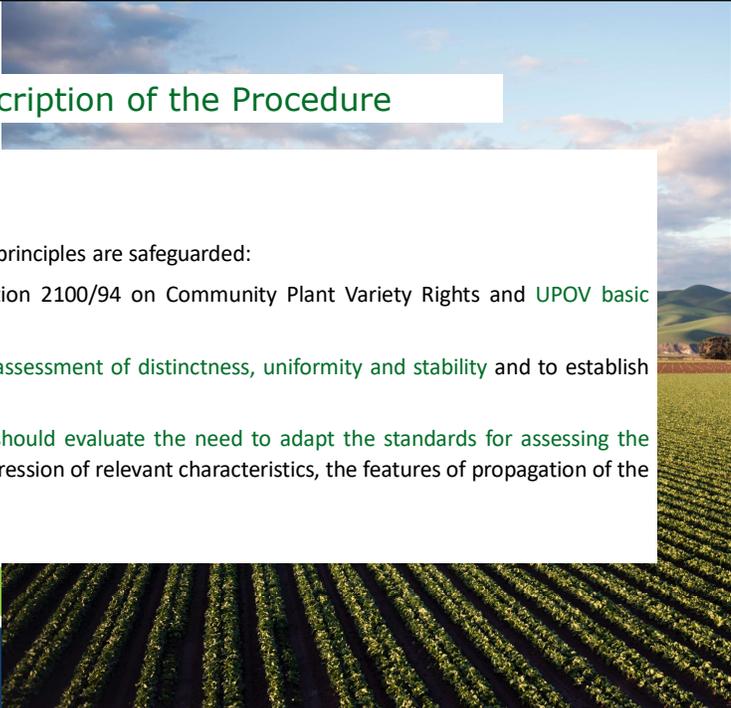


Procedure MEO24-04.4 – Description of the Procedure

Basics Principles

DUS experts must ensure that the following basic principles are safeguarded:

- The requirements for DUS of Council Regulation 2100/94 on Community Plant Variety Rights and **UPOV basic principles should be respected**.
- It must be ensured that **all standards for the assessment of distinctness, uniformity and stability** and to establish the variety description are met.
- When deemed appropriate, **the DUS expert should evaluate the need to adapt the standards for assessing the uniformity**, considering the variation in the expression of relevant characteristics, the features of propagation of the variety, and the influence of the environment.



4



Procedure MEO24-04.4 – Description of the Procedure

Example of characteristics where observations in one growing cycle can apply (list not exhaustive)

- Characteristics observed by defined method only on submitted samples, when the sample is submitted only once (e.g., color of the seeds, germity, ploidy)
- Characteristics known from the experience of the DUS examiner to be consistent and not requiring repetition (e.g., parthenocarpy, ploidy, seasonal type, flower color, characteristics observed in a bolting trial, sterility, certain disease resistance characteristics).



5



Procedure MEO24-04.4 – Description of the Procedure

Precautions to be taken during the examination of characteristics observed in one growing cycle

- The observation of the relevant characteristic(s) should be **repeated in case of invalid results** obtained from the first observation. In such cases, the final results are still based on only one observation.
- An **additional observation should be made to confirm the results in case of any doubts or issues encountered during the first observation** (e.g. discrepancies with TQ, uniformity issue, discrepancy in the resistance test). In such cases, results will be based on more than one period of observation.



6



Procedure MEO24-04.4 – Description of the Procedure

Follow-up: Revision of CPVO TPs for individual characteristics

The long-term objective is to identify, for each protocol that foresees multi-annual testing, the characteristics for which the possibility of a single observation may apply.

- ⇒ There was a preference for improving the respective explanation in chapter 8 of the concerned technical protocols.
- ⇒ Another possibility could be to add a standard wording under “Chapter 3.1 – Number of growing cycle”

Additional characteristics

- Same principle should apply to additional characteristics.
- The method and the number of observations should be indicated in the request.

7

Questions to TWA

This CPVO procedure aims to lay down general principles to be implemented for all CPVO TPs.

But

what about the species tested according to UPOV Test guidelines?

-> should this be reflected also in TGP7 and Test guidelines where relevant?

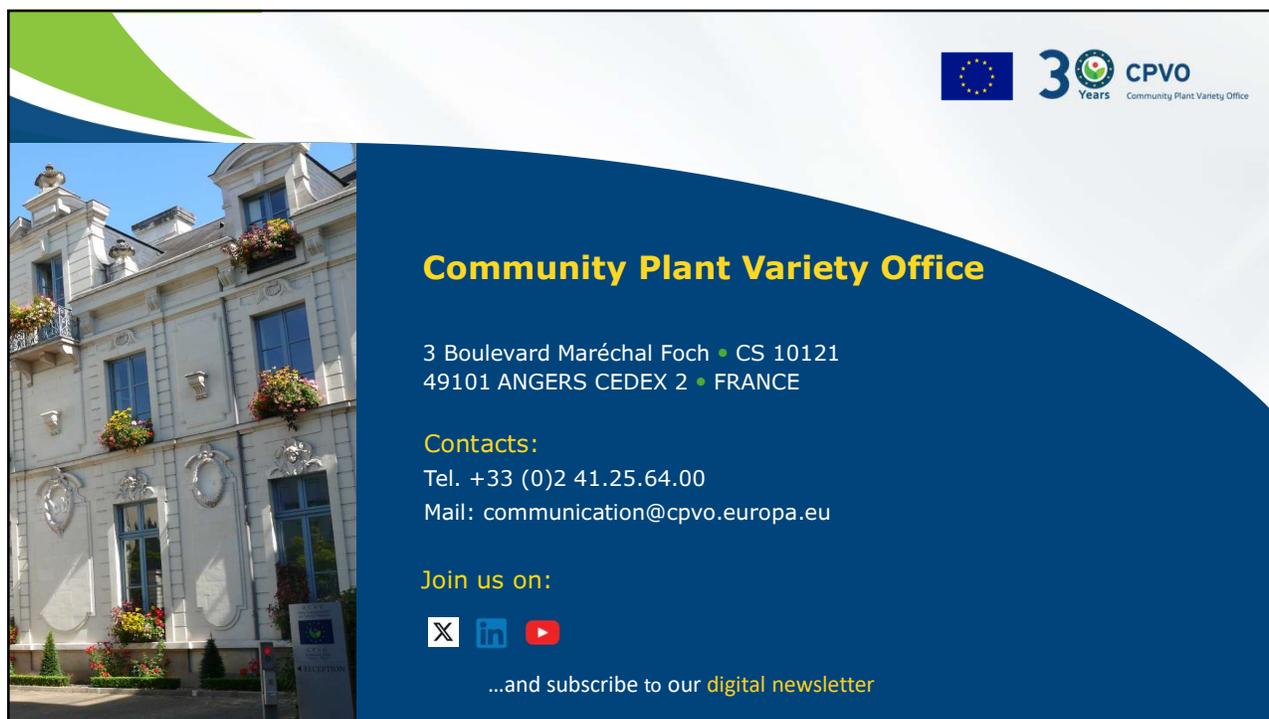
what about the species tested according to national protocols?

-> any feedback from other UPOV members regarding this matter?

-> if this practice also exists, how do you cover it in your protocols/procedure?



8

A banner for the Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO). On the left is a photograph of a grand, light-colored building with ornate architectural details and flower boxes. The right side of the banner has a dark blue background with white and yellow text. At the top right, there are logos for the European Union and CPVO's 30th anniversary. The main title 'Community Plant Variety Office' is in yellow. Below it, the address is listed in white. Contact information (phone and email) is also in white. Social media icons for X, LinkedIn, and YouTube are shown in white. A call to action to subscribe to a digital newsletter is at the bottom in white.

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