



TWC/21/5

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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

GENEVA

**TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY
ON
AUTOMATION AND COMPUTER PROGRAMS**

**Twenty-First Session
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PROJECT TO CONSIDER THE PUBLICATION OF VARIETY DESCRIPTIONS

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

1. At its thirty-ninth session held in Geneva from April 7 to 9, 2003, the Technical Committee (TC) considered the proposals from the Technical Working Parties (TWPs) concerning the model study on the publication of variety descriptions. The purpose of this document is to explain the outcome of the discussions in the TC and to explain the program for the model study, which has been developed by the Office of the Union (Office) in conjunction with the coordinators for the species/crops included in the model study, the Chairman of the TC and the chairperson of the TWPs.
2. The discussions in the TC were based on document TC/39/9 and an oral report on the views of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on the Publication of Variety Descriptions (WG -PVD), which met on April 8, 2003. Document TC/39/9 and document CAJ/45/4 -TC/38/10, which contain the original project proposal as an annex, can be found on the UPOV Website.
3. The TC considered the proposal made by the Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs (TWC) at its twentieth session, held in Mexico City, June 17 to 20, 2002, that an expert from the TWC should attend the WG -PVD (see document TWC/20/7, paragraph 20). In response to this proposal the TC agreed that the Chairman of the TWC should be invited to participate in the WG -PVD.

4. On the basis of the proposals from the TWPs, and the proposal made by the WG -PVD for a study on rose, the TC agreed that the model study for the project on the publication of variety descriptions should be based on the species identified below, with the coordinators and interested parties as shown:

<u>Species/Crop</u>	<u>Proposing TWP</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>	<u>Interested Parties</u> ¹
Apple	TWF	GB	AR, BE, CA, CZ, DE, FR, GB, HU, LV, NL, NZ, CPVO
Barley	TWA	DK	AT, AR, CA, CL, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, HR, HU, NL, NZ, RO, RU, SE, ZA
Chinese Cabbage	TWV	JP	CN, DE, NL, JP, KR, PL, CPVO, ISF
Lettuce	TWV	NL	CZ, DE, FR, HU, NL, PL, ES, CPVO, ISF
Petunia	TWO	DE	AU, CA, DE, JP, NZ, KR, CPVO
Potato	TWA	NL/CPVO	AT, CA, CL, CZ, DE, EE, GB, IL, NL, NZ, ZA, CPVO
(Rose) ²	(TWO)	(NL)	(CA, KE, NL, CPVO)
Strawberry	TWF	IL	AR, CA, DE, ES, FR, HU, IL, KE, NZ, CP VO

¹ The Office requested that any other interested parties should notify the Office of the Union by the end of April 2003 if they wished to be included in the study for any of the species. Such additional notifications have been included in this table.

² With regard to a possible study on rose, it was agreed that considerations should be given to including only one type of rose in a study and that the matter should be discussed further by the TWO.

5. On the basis of the lists of soybean varieties in different countries, and lack of varieties in common between different countries, the TC concluded that it would not be appropriate to conduct a model study involving this species.

6. The TC agreed the following basis on which a program of work should be developed:

(a) As a first step in the model study, the TC agreed that the coordinators, in conjunction with the Office, should obtain lists of varieties and identify those varieties which appeared in the lists of more than one country. The coordinators should then seek descriptions on a manageable number of varieties for comparison. The descriptions should be according to the characteristics in the latest version of the UPOV Test Guidelines and the location at which the descriptions were reproduced should be clearly identified.

(b) It was recommended that the TWC should be invited to review the work conducted previously by the expert from Denmark, as reported in document TWA/29/19 (available on UPOV Website under TWA/29), and give it its advice on the management of the data. Furthermore, it was agreed that the delegate from Denmark, in conjunction with the Office, should develop some initial guidance for the coordinators to help in their planning and conduct of the study.

7. In accordance with the basis set out by the TC, the following program has been developed:

Step 1: Obtaining the lists of varieties (prior to each TWP meeting in 2003)

The Office, on behalf of the Coordinator, to request lists of varieties from the interested parties to be sent to the Coordinator, with copies to the Office. This request would be based on a standard format, with a deadline to be agreed with the Coordinator. After the deadline for replies, the Coordinator would identify those varieties which appeared in the lists of more than one country.

Step 2: Initial Guidance for conducting the study (prior to each TWP meeting in 2003)

Following the input from the TWC, at its session in June 2003, Mr. Gerhard Deneken (Denmark), in conjunction with the Office, to develop some initial guidance for the coordinators to help in their planning and conduct of the study. This is likely to include guidance on, for example: deciding on a manageable number of varieties to be included in the study; selection of characteristics on which the descriptions should be based; status of the description to be used; management of data received; and analysis and presentation of results.

Step 3: Planning the study (prior to each TWP meeting in 2003)

On the basis of the lists of varieties received from step 1 and initial guidance provided in step 2, the Coordinator to establish the study plan for consideration at the relevant TWP meeting in 2003. The study plan, at this stage, would recommend the list of varieties, characteristic to be described status of the description to be used and type of report to be produced.

Step 4: Presenting the study plan to the TWP meeting in 2003

The TWP to comment on the study plan developed by the Coordinator. Further interested parties may be identified at this stage.

Step 5: Starting the study

On the basis of the study plan, and subject to comments from the relevant TWP, the Office, on behalf of the Coordinator, to issue a request to all interested parties for variety descriptions in the agreed format. The information to be sent to the Coordinator, with a copy to the Office.

Step 6: Analyzing the results of the study

The Coordinator, with the assistance of Mr. Gerhard Deneken (Denmark) and the Office, if required, to analyze and prepare a report on the study on the basis of the guidance set out in steps 2, 3 and 4.

Step 7: Presenting the results of the study

The Coordinator would be invited to present the results of the study to the relevant TWP in 2004 and, thereafter, to the Ad hoc Working Group on the Publication of Variety Descriptions and TC in 2005.

8. *The TWC is invited to:*

(a) review the work conducted previously by the expert from Denmark, as reported in document TWA/29/19 and give its advice on the management of the data; and

(b) comment on the program set out in paragraph 7.