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**TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY ON AUTOMATION AND
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REVISION OF TGP/7:
QUANTITY OF PLANT MATERIAL REQUIRED

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

1. The Technical Committee (TC) at its forty-seventh session, held in Geneva from April 4 to 6, 2011, agreed that the guidance in document TGP/7, GN 7 “Quantity of plant material required”, as set out in the Annex of this document, should be extended to encourage Leading Experts to consider the quantity of plant material required in relation to the following factors (see document TC/47/26 “Report on the Conclusions”, paragraph 55):

- (i) Number of plants/ parts of plants to be examined
- (ii) Number of growing cycles
- (iii) Variability within the crop
- (iv) Additional tests (e.g. resistance tests, bolting trials)
- (v) Features of propagation (e.g. cross pollination, self pollination, vegetative propagation)
- (vi) Crop type (e.g. root crop, leaf crop, fruit crop, cut flower, cereal, etc.)
- (vii) Storage in variety collection
- (viii) Exchange between testing authorities
- (ix) Seed quality (germination) requirements
- (x) Cultivation system (outdoor/glasshouse)
- (xi) Sowing system
- (xii) Predominant method of observation (e.g. MS, VG)

2. The TC agreed that Additional Standard Wording (ASW) should be developed in order to provide guidance in the Test Guidelines on whether the quantity of plant material required in Chapter 2 of the Test Guidelines relates to both growing cycles in the case of Test Guidelines indicating two growing cycles (see document TC/47/26 “Report on the Conclusions”, paragraph 56).

3. The TC agreed that the guidance in document TGP/7, GN 7 should be extended to encourage Leading Experts to consider the quantity of plant material required for similar crops in order to seek consistency as far as that was appropriate. In that regard, it agreed that a summary of the following information should be prepared by the Office of the Union for all adopted Test Guidelines and made available to Leading Experts on the TG Drafters’ webpage in order that information on Test Guidelines for similar crops could be presented to the Subgroup of Interested Experts by the Leading Expert (see document TC/47/26 “Report on the Conclusions”, paragraph 57):

- (a) Chapter 2.3 Minimum quantity of plant material to be supplied by the applicant
- (b) Chapter 3.1 Number of growing cycles
- (c) Chapter 3.4.1 Each test should be designed to result in a total of at least X plants
- (d) Chapter 4.1.4 Number of plants / parts of plants to be examined for distinctness
- (e) Chapter 4.2 Number of plants to be examined for uniformity
- (f) Number of plants for special tests (e.g. disease resistance)

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

[Extract from document TGP/7/2, Annex 3: Guidance Notes (GN) for the TG Template]

“GN 7 (TG Template: Chapter 2.3) – Quantity of plant material required

“The drafter of the Test Guidelines should consider the following factors when determining the quantity of material required:

- “(a) Anticipated level of plant establishment, from submitted plant material, for field trials or other growing tests;
- “(b) Quantity of submitted plant material to be used for non-growing tests (e.g. erucic acid test for Rape seed);
- “(c) Quantity of submitted plant material to be used for quality checks on the submitted plant material (e.g. germination tests for seed);
- “(d) Quantity of submitted plant material to be used for reference samples;
- “(e) Rate of deterioration during storage.

“In general, in the case of *plants* required only for a single growing trial (e.g. no plants required for special tests or variety collections), the number of plants requested in Chapter 2.3 often corresponds to the number of plants specified in Chapters 3.4 “Test Design” and 4.2 “Uniformity”. In that respect, it is recalled the quantity of plant material specified in Chapter 2.3 of the Test Guidelines is the minimum quantity that an authority might request of the applicant. Therefore, each authority may decide to request a larger quantity of plant material, for example to allow for potential losses during establishment (see GN 7 (a)). In relation to the number of plants specified in Chapter 2.3, the number of plants/parts of plant to be examined (Chapter 4.1.4), should at least allow for the possibility of off-type plants within the tolerated number to be excluded from observations.”

[End of Annex and of document]