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**INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF  
PLANTS**

Geneva

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

**Thirtieth Session**  
**Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, June 26 to 29, 2012**


ADDENDUM

REVISION OF DOCUMENT TGP/7:  
EXAMPLE VARIETIES

*Document prepared by experts from France*

The Annex to this document contains a copy of a presentation on example varieties that will be made at the Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs, at its thirtieth session.

[Annex follows]



# Example varieties

Technical Working Party on Automation and  
Computer Programs

Thirtieth Session

Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, June 26 to 29, 2012

*F. Boulineau, R. Brand, J. Guiard –  
08/03/2012*

## Example varieties

Tests guidelines includes list of characteristics, states of expression, example varieties and other information useful to describe varieties.

**Example varieties** are an important element for harmonization of descriptions:

- to define precisely a state/note,
- to compare descriptions at international level,
- to help new examiners in the knowledge of new species.

## Qualities for a Set of Example varieties

- well known material freely and easily accessible,
- covering the full range of species variability,
- expression must not change significantly with environment, (Low interaction variety x environment),

## Expansion of UPOV membership modifies the approach to define Example varieties

- Through the world,
- range of variation of a characteristic interferes with agroclimatic conditions,
  - depending on the geographic areas, parts of the variability is ignored, not grown, unknown...
- Examples: Radish, Black radish, Dikon types ...*
- availability of material limited due to phytosanitary requirements,
- **More and more difficulties to determine a common set of example varieties: partial set, only proposal from the leading experts, no or few efforts to check adequation....**

## How to improve the situation for Example varieties

Check if example varieties are necessary for each characteristic :

➤ **.QL, PQ : no need,**

UPOV recommends to use illustrations, drawings, digital pictures, colour chart....Explanations of the chap. 8 of guidelines, TGP/14 Glossary of terms used in guidelines.

➤ **.QN, PQ : impossible or very difficult,**

Refer to regional sets of example varieties.

## How to improve the situation for Example varieties

Refer to regional sets of example varieties :

- register in the test guidelines sets of example varieties with their adaptation to specific agroclimatic conditions, each member state choosing the most relevant one,
- Or let each member state or group of them to develop their own set.

## How to improve the situation for Example varieties

TWA agreed to improve the situation and to consider that regional sets of example varieties would be appropriate,

TWV agreed that example varieties would be useful :

- i) to establish a range of expression for characteristics they have no enough experience,
- ii) for inclusion in TQ to give guidance to applicants,

## How to improve the situation for Example varieties

TWO has experience on how to develop internationally set of example varieties (Petunia TWO/37/8), low interaction variety x environment, Calibration books ...

TWF recommends that subgroups adopt regional sets of example varieties, (North East Asia / Rice ).

## Comments by TC on March 2012

- ✓ Importance of the example varieties for harmonization between member states
- ✓ But difficulty to define a universal set of example varieties useful for all member states
- ✓ Nevertheless necessity to promote harmonization
- ✓ Use of drawings or illustration when example varieties are not necessary (QL or PQ characteristics)

## Comments by TC on March 2012

- ✓ Development of regional sets of examples varieties
- ✓ Establishment of a list of potential examples varieties by the leading expert instead of a limited list
- ✓ Exchange of variety descriptions between member states
- ✓ The TC agreed that experts from France will make a presentation of this topic to each TWP in 2012

## Comments received from New Zealand

✓ Generally the example varieties are mainly defined by the leading expert (LE) without strong involvement of the other experts.

Lot of emphasis must be put to establish a common set of example varieties, but it depends on species and types of characteristics (QN, QL, PQ)

Proposal:

- LE collects the example varieties proposed by the interested UPOV members with a description for each of these varieties

- LE compiles the proposals taking into account to the number of countries in common. Request for additional information on descriptions if necessary

- Based on the descriptions received, LE analyses the robustness of the levels of expression and establishes a proposal based on the most common varieties as a first priority for QN characteristics. This proposal included in the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft will be studied by the experts before the following session and discussed during the session.

- Finally the subgroup decides for which characteristic the example varieties will be proposed.

[End of Annex and of document]