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REVISION OF DOCUMENT TGP/8: PART II: TECHNIQUES USED IN DUS EXAMINATION, NEW SECTION 11: EXAMINING DUS IN BULK SAMPLES

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1. The purpose of this document is to report on developments concerning guidance on examining DUS in bulk samples for inclusion in a future revision of document TGP/8.

BACKGROUND

2. The Technical Committee (TC), at its forty-eighth session, held in Geneva, from March 26 to 28, 2012, considered document TC/48/19 Rev. "Revision of Document TGP/8 "Trial Design and Techniques Used in the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability"".
3. The TC, at its forty-eighth session, agreed that the new section 11 on examination of DUS in bulk samples should be redrafted with assistance from DUS experts in Denmark in order to focus on guidance for DUS examiners and should replace detailed statistical models with a general reference to suitable statistical methods. It was also agreed that the example of sugar beet should be replaced by a crop for which there were UPOV Test Guidelines (see document TC/48/22 "Report on the Conclusions" paragraph 55).
4. The TC, at its forty-ninth session, held in Geneva, from March 18 to 20, 2013, considered document TC/49/28 "Revision of document TGP/8: Part II: Techniques used in DUS Examination, New Section 11: Examining DUS in Bulk Samples". The Annex to document TC/49/28 contained the proposed text for New Section 11 – Examining DUS in Bulk Samples, as prepared by Mr. Kristian Kristensen (Denmark). The amendments to the text considered by the TWPs at their sessions in 2012 were indicated by highlighting and strikethrough for deletions and highlighting and underlining for additions. A copy of document TC/49/28 is reproduced on the webpage of the forty-seventh session of the TWC (http://upov.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=25643).

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2013

5. The Enlarged Editorial Committee (TC-EDC), at its meeting on January 9 and 10, 2013, considered the proposed text for New Section 11 – Examining DUS in Bulk Samples, as presented in document TC-EDC/Jan13/15 Rev., and made the following proposals:

General remarks	to consider replacing the current proposal with guidance on the use of characteristics examined on the basis of bulk samples, in order to ensure that the characteristics fulfill the basic requirements for a characteristic (see General Introduction, Chapter 4.2.1). In particular, the TC-EDC proposed that Leading Experts of Test Guidelines could be requested to provide data from different years to demonstrate that the expression of the characteristic is "sufficiently consistent and repeatable in a particular environment" (see General Introduction, Chapter 4.2.1 (b)).
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6. The TC, at its forty-ninth session, held in Geneva, from March 18 to 20, 2013, agreed to replace the proposed text for new Section 11 "Examining DUS in Bulk Samples" in the Annex to document TC/49/28 with guidance on the use of characteristics examined on the basis of bulk samples, in order to ensure that the characteristics fulfill the basic requirements for a characteristic. In particular, it agreed that Leading Experts of Test Guidelines could be requested to provide data from different years to demonstrate that the expression of the characteristic is "sufficiently consistent and repeatable in a particular environment". It was further agreed that, on the basis of information provided to the TWPs, consideration could be given to statistical analysis for such characteristics (see document TC/49/41 "Report on the conclusions", paragraph 64).

7. *The TWC is invited to:*

(a) note that the TC agreed to replace the proposed text for new Section 11 "Examining DUS in Bulk Samples" in the Annex to document TC/49/28 with guidance on the use of characteristics examined on the basis of bulk samples, in order to ensure that the characteristics fulfill the basic requirements for a characteristic; and

(b) consider the proposal that Leading Experts of Test Guidelines could be requested to provide data from different years to demonstrate that the expression of the characteristic is "sufficiently consistent and repeatable in a particular environment".

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