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TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY ON AUTOMATION AND COMPUTER PROGRAMS

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ADDENDUM TO TGP DOCUMENTS

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

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1. The purpose of this document is to report the comments on TGP documents made by the Technical Working Party for Vegetables (TWV), at its forty-ninth session, held in Angers, France, from June 15 to 19, 2015.

2. The structure of this document is as follows:

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TGP documents

3. The TWV considered developments concerning TGP documents on the basis of document TWV/49/3 (see document TWV/49/32 "Report", paragraph 16).

TGP Documents

Program for the development of TGP documents

4. The TWV noted the program for the development of TGP documents, as set out in the Annex to document TWV/49/3.

5. The TWV considered the TGP documents below on the basis of document TWV/49/3 "TGP documents" and other documents, as indicated.

TGP/7: Development of Test Guidelines

Revision of document TGP/7: Drafter's Kit for Test Guidelines

6. The TWV considered document TWV/49/12.

7. The TWV noted that all Leading Experts had prepared the draft Test Guidelines for discussion during the TWP sessions in 2015 using the web-based TG Template.

8. The TWV noted that all Interested Experts had been required to provide their comments on draft Test Guidelines for discussion during the TWP sessions in 2015 using the web-based TG Template.

9. The TWV noted the issues being addressed in response to the comments by Leading and Interested Experts that participated in the testing of the 2015 prototype of the web-based TG Template, as set out in paragraphs 13 and 14 of document TWV/49/12, and agreed with the proposed solutions for those issues:

- Allow use of italics and underlined text
- Improve the organization of images in explanation of characteristics (Chapter 8.2)
- Improve formatting of the Test Guidelines generated
- Provide a print preview for each Chapter
- Allow inclusion of annexes and/or growth stage keys (Chapter 8.3)
- Ensure compatibility with different web browsers versions
- Provide a link to templates for grids for shape characteristics that include ratio elements
- Enable printing of comments by interested experts sorted by Interested Expert or characteristic
- Provide more options in Chapter 4 "Assessments" for complex arrangements of Uniformity assessment.

10. The TWV further proposed the following improvements:

- Addition of hyperlinks in the exported documents to the symbols indicating that a characteristic has explanations covering individual and/or several characteristics in the Table of Characteristics in order to facilitate navigation in the document
- Addition of disclaimer for Leading Expert that all text, photographs, illustrations or other material used in the Test Guidelines that is subject to third party rights have the necessary permission for use by the third party.
- Possibility to adapt Standard and Additional Standard Wording to mushrooms (e.g. replacement of "plant material" by "material", "plants" by "fruit bodies")
- Possibility to display large tables in landscape format, such as for indication of growth types.
- Possibility for Interested Experts to provide illustrations

11. The TWV considered the proposal to standardize the format of the Table of Characteristics in all Test Guidelines with a structure as set out in paragraph 15 of document TWV/49/12. In order to clarify that the row with the indications of types of expression, methods of observations, explanations and growth stages was not related to the header above (which indicated the UPOV language), the TWV proposed to add borders between the information on types of expression, methods of observations, explanations and growth stages. The TWV further requested that the states of expression in the exported documents be clearly linked to the respective notes, particularly when a large number of example varieties was added.

12. The TWV agreed that subject to the above modifications Version 1 of the web-based TG Template would be a useful tool for the drafting of Test Guidelines and acknowledged the support provided to experts who used the web-based TG Template for the creation of the TWV draft Test Guidelines.

13. The TWV highlighted the importance of appropriate training on the use of the web-based TG Template in conjunction with the TWP sessions for Leading and Interested Experts using the system.

14. The TWV agreed that a detailed proposal for the revision of document TGP/7 reflecting the introduction of the web-based TG Template be presented to the TWP sessions and the TC in 2016, after Version 1 is finalized.

15. The TWV noted the timetable for development of the web-based TG Template, as set out in paragraphs 17 to 19 of document TWV/49/12.

Revision of document TGP/7: Use of Proprietary Photographs and Illustrations in Test Guidelines

16. The TWV considered document TWV/49/13.

17. The TWV agreed with the proposed guidance for inclusion in a future revision of document TGP/7 in relation to text, photographs or illustrations that could be subject to third party rights, as follows:

“In the case of text, photographs, illustrations or other material that are subject to third party rights, it is the responsibility of the author of the document, including Test Guidelines, to obtain the necessary permission of the third party. Material must not be included in documents where such permission is required but has not been obtained.”

18. The TWV recommended to add a disclaimer in relation to text, photographs or illustrations in the web-based TG template.

Revision of document TGP/7: Regional Sets of Example Varieties

19. The TWV considered document TWV/49/14.

20. The TWV agreed to include guidance in document TGP/7 on the definition of “region” in order to justify a regional set of example varieties in Test Guidelines. However the TWV suggested that a “region” should be defined by environmental conditions rather than geographical borders.

21. The TWV highlighted that the purpose of the UPOV Test Guidelines was international harmonization and therefore was not in favor of regional sets of example varieties as a common practice. However, the TWV agreed that, in the case of the establishment of a regional set of example varieties, the relevant TWPs should determine the basis on which the region would be established for a regional set of example varieties (e.g. by an exchange of information, or by a ring-test).

TGP/8: Trial Design and Techniques Used in the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability

Revision of document TGP/8: Part I: DUS Trial Design and Data Analysis, New Section: Minimizing the Variation due to Different Observers

22. The TWV considered document TWV/49/15.

23. The TWV agreed that the draft guidance in the Annex to document TWV/49/15 should continue to be developed for inclusion in a future revision of document TGP/8 on minimizing the variation due to different observers.

24. The TWV suggested that further consideration should be given to guidance on PQ characteristics and proposed the development of another section in the document to explain non-parametric methods. The TWV also encouraged the other TWPs to consider whether further work should be done on PQ characteristics in the draft guidance.

Revision of document TGP/8: Part II: Selected Techniques Used in DUS Examination, Section 9: the Combined-Over-Years Uniformity Criterion (COYU)

25. The TWV considered document TWV/49/16.

26. The TWV noted that the participants of the exercise to test the software on the new method for the calculation of COYU should:

- (i) seek to define probability levels to match decisions using the previous COYU method;
- (ii) run the test for rejection probabilities of 1, 2 and 5% levels; and
- (iii) assess whether the results are consistent in all crops

27. The TWV noted that the expert from the United Kingdom had distributed the software module for calculation of COYU and the guidance document to the participants of the exercise.

28. The TWV noted that the experts from Czech Republic, France, Finland, Germany, Kenya, Poland and United Kingdom would participate in the exercise to test the new software on COYU.

29. The TWV noted that a report on the practical exercise and the development of DUST module would be presented at the thirty-third session of the TWC by an expert from the United Kingdom.

Revision of document TGP/8: Part II: Selected Techniques used in DUS Examination, New Section: Examining DUS in Bulk Samples

30. The TWV considered document TWV/49/17.
31. The TWV considered the information provided by an expert from the Netherlands on the example of a bulk characteristic in the Netherlands: Content of Glycoraphanin, as reproduced in Annex II to document TWV/49/17.
32. The TWV noted that the TC, at its fifty-first session, had agreed that further information on fulfilling the requirements of a DUS characteristic should be provided in the example of a characteristic examined on the basis of a bulk sample, and in that regard, considered a discussion paper provided by an expert from the Netherlands on uniformity requirements in bulk characteristics, as reproduced Annex I to document TWV/49/17.
33. The TWV agreed that characteristics examined on the basis of bulk samples should be assessed on the basis of the number of plants recommended in the Test Guidelines under Chapter 4.1.4.
34. The TWV noted that the TC, at its fifty-first session, had agreed to consider further whether the analysis of individual plants to validate characteristics examined on the basis of bulk samples was necessary, and the possible cost implications, and had invited alternative approaches for the examination of uniformity to be proposed.
35. The TWV noted that the TC, at its fifty-first session, had agreed that the determination of states of expression should be based on existing variation between varieties and considering environmental influence.
36. The TWV invited the expert from the Netherlands, with support from the European Union, France and Germany, to continue the work done for improving the discussion paper, and to clarify the possible approaches feasible in the framework of DUS examination and in relation to a specific characteristic compared to the version presented to the TWV.
37. The TWV noted that France, at the fifty-first session of the TC, had offered to provide other examples of characteristics based on bulk samples and invited other members to provide examples, particularly for vegetable crops.
38. The TWV further agreed that characteristics to be examined on the basis of bulk samples should be carefully considered before inclusion in Test Guidelines.

Revision of document TGP/8: Part II: Selected Techniques Used in DUS Examination, New Section: Data Processing for the Assessment of Distinctness and for Producing Variety Descriptions

39. The TWV considered document TWV/49/18.
40. The TWV noted that the TWC and the TWA had agreed that the guidance on “Different forms that variety descriptions could take and the relevance of scale levels”, as reproduced in Annex I to document TWV/49/18, should be used as an introduction to future guidance to be developed on data processing for the assessment of distinctness and for producing variety descriptions.
41. The TWV noted that the TWC had agreed to compare the results of the practical exercise presented by the different participants to identify differences in the results obtained for further understanding of the different methodologies, for consideration at the thirty-third session of the TWC, to be held in Natal, Brazil, from June 30 to July 3, 2015.
42. The TWV noted that the European Union had reported to the TC that the project on a ring test on Apple for the management of variety description to be launched in 2015 had been suspended.

TGP/10: Examining Uniformity

Revision of document TGP/10: Assessing uniformity by off-types on basis of more than one growing cycle or on the basis of sub-samples

43. The TWV considered document TWV/49/9.

44. The TWV agreed with the draft guidance for inclusion in a future revision of document TGP/10, as presented in Annexes I and II to document TWV/49/9.

[End of document]