



TWC/34/6

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: May 2, 2016

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

Geneva

TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY ON AUTOMATION AND COMPUTER PROGRAMS

Thirty-Fourth Session Shanghai, China, June 7 to 10, 2016

VARIETY DESCRIPTION DATABASES

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this document is to report on developments since the thirty-third session of the Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs (TWC), concerning variety description databases.
2. The TWC is invited to note the developments reported in this document and, in particular, that:
 - (a) the TC, at its fifty-second session, agreed to invite members of the Union to make presentations at the next session of the BMT on how databases containing molecular data might be developed in UPOV; and
 - (b) the outcome of discussions during the BMT on how databases containing molecular data might be developed in UPOV would be reported to the TC at its fifty-third session.
3. The structure of this document is as follows:

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4. The following abbreviations are used in this document:

TC:	Technical Committee
TC-EDC:	Enlarged Editorial Committee
TWA:	Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops
TWC:	Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs
TWF:	Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops
TWO:	Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees
TWPs:	Technical Working Parties
TWV:	Technical Working Party for Vegetables

BACKGROUND

5. At its forty-fifth session, held in Geneva from March 30 to April 1, 2009, the TC noted from the developments reported in document TC/45/9 "Publication of Variety Descriptions" that members of the Union were developing databases containing morphological and/or molecular data and, where considered appropriate, were collaborating in the development of databases for the management of variety collections, particularly on a regional basis. The TC agreed that it could be beneficial to offer the possibility for members of the Union to report on that work in a coherent way to the TC, the TWPs and the BMT. On that basis, the TC agreed to replace the agenda item "Publication of variety descriptions" with an item for "Variety description databases" on the agendas of the forthcoming sessions of the TC, TWPs and the BMT. In that respect, it recalled the importance of the list of criteria for consideration for the use of descriptions obtained from different locations and sources as set out in document TC/45/9, paragraph 3. The TC also agreed that the information presented would not need to be related to the publication of descriptions (see document TC/45/16 "Report", paragraph 173).
6. Developments prior to 2015 are presented in document TC/52/9 "Variety description databases".

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2015

Technical Working Parties

7. At their sessions in 2015, the TWV, TWC, TWA, TWF and TWO considered documents TWV/49/6, TWC/33/6, TWA/44/6, TWF/46/6 and TWO/48/6 "Variety description databases", respectively (see documents TWV/49/32 "Report", paragraphs 124 to 126; TWC/33/30 "Report", paragraphs 92 to 95; TWA/44/23 "Report", paragraphs 100 to 102; TWF/46/29 Rev. "Revised Report", paragraphs 122 to 125; and TWO/48/26 "Report", paragraphs 120 and 122).
8. The TWV, TWA, TWF and TWO noted that the TWC had invited an expert from China to present the analysis of variance for the interaction "variety x location" (environment) of the QN characteristics considered in the study using the statistical module of the new software "DUSTC" developed by China for presentation at its thirty-third session.
9. The TWV, TWC, TWA, TWF and TWO noted that the TC had agreed to include a discussion item on facilitating the development of databases at its fifty-second session.
10. The TWC considered a presentation by an expert from China on the analysis of variance for the interaction "variety x location" (environment) of QN characteristics. A copy of the presentation is provided in document TWC/33/27 Rev. "Revised Analysis of Variance for "Variety x Location" (Environment) Interaction of QN Characteristics".
11. The TWC noted the demonstration of the DUSTC software, made by an expert from China.
12. The TWF noted the experiences of members on management and use of databases and agreed that databases for fruit crops containing morphological and/or molecular data could be useful for grouping varieties and organizing the growing trials and for the analysis of distinctness. The TWF noted the variation due to different locations on the expression of characteristics and agreed that this variation should be taken into consideration when using variety descriptions.

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2016

Technical Committee

Discussion session

13. The TC, at its fifty-second session, held in Geneva from March 14 to 16, 2016, received the following presentations on facilitating development of databases (in order of presentation):

Facilitating development of databases for DUS examination	France (Mr. Richard Brand)
Facilitating development of databases	Netherlands (Mr. Kees van Ettehoven)

14. The TC considered discussions on facilitating the development of databases and agreed to invite members of the Union to make presentations at the next session of the BMT on how databases containing molecular data might be developed in UPOV. It noted that the outcome of those discussions would be reported to the TC at its fifty-third session under the agenda item "Variety description databases" (see document TC/52/29 Rev. "Revised Report", paragraph 206).

Variety description databases

15. The TC considered document TC/52/9 and noted that there had been a discussion on facilitating the development of databases under agenda item 3 (c) "Facilitating development of databases" at the fifty-second session of the TC (see document TC/52/29 Rev. "Revised Report", paragraphs 181 to 184).

16. The TC noted that the TWC, at its thirty-third session, had received a presentation by an expert from China on the analysis of variance for the interaction "variety x location" (environment) of QN characteristics using the statistical module of the new software "DUSTC" developed by China, a copy of which is provided in document TWC/33/27 Rev.

17. The TC noted that the TWF, at its forty-sixth session, had agreed that databases for fruit crops containing morphological and/or molecular data could be useful for grouping varieties and organizing the growing trials and for the analysis of distinctness.

18. The TWC is invited to note the developments reported in this document and, in particular, that:

(a) the TC, at its fifty-second session, agreed to invite members of the Union to make presentations at the next session of the BMT on how databases containing molecular data might be developed in UPOV; and

(b) the outcome of discussions during the BMT on how databases containing molecular data might be developed in UPOV would be reported to the TC at its fifty-third session.

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