

**Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs TWC/38/4**

**Thirty-Eighth Session  
Alexandria, United States of America, September 21 to 23, 2020**

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**COMMENTS ON TGP DOCUMENTS**

*Document prepared by the Office of the Union*

*Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance*

1. The purpose of this document is to report the comments on TGP documents made by the Technical Working Party for Vegetables (TWV)<sup>1</sup>, Technical Working Party for Ornamental Crops and Forest Trees (TWO)<sup>2</sup>; Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops (TWA)<sup>3</sup> and Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops (TWF)<sup>4</sup> at their sessions in 2020.

2. The structure of this document is as follows:

BACKGROUND .....	1
MATTERS FOR ADOPTION BY THE COUNCIL IN 2020.....	1
POSSIBLE FUTURE REVISIONS OF TGP DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION DOCUMENTS .....	2
TGP/8: Trial Design and Techniques Used in the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability.....	2
New proposals for revisions of TGP documents and information documents .....	3

3. 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
- TWV: Technical Working Party for Vegetables
- TWPs: Technical Working Parties

**BACKGROUND**

4. The TWV considered document TWP/4/1 (see document TWV/54/12 “Report”, paragraphs 30 to 32). The TWO considered documents TWP/4/1 “Development of TGP and information (INF) documents” and TWO/52/10 “Comments on TGP documents” (see document TWO/52/11 “Report”, paragraphs 8 to 25). The TWA considered documents TWP/4/1 and TWA/49/6 “Comments on TGP documents” (see document TWA/49/7 “Report”, paragraphs 8 to 25). The TWF considered document TWP/4/1 and TWF/51/9 “Comments on TGP documents” (see document TWF/51/10 “Report”, paragraphs 21 to 38).

**MATTERS FOR ADOPTION BY THE COUNCIL IN 2020**

5. The TWV, TWO, TWA and TWF noted the matters concerning documents TGP/5, TGP/7, TGP/14, TGP/15, UPOV/INF/12, UPOV/INF/16 and UPOV/INF/22 to be proposed for adoption by the Council at its

<sup>1</sup> at its fifty-fourth session, hosted by Brazil and held via electronic means, from May 11 to 15, 2020  
<sup>2</sup> at its fifty-second session, hosted by the Netherlands and held via electronic means, from June 8 to 12, 2020  
<sup>3</sup> at its forty-ninth session, hosted by Canada and held via electronic means, from June 22 to 26, 2020  
<sup>4</sup> at its fifty-first session, hosted by France and organized by electronic means, from July 6 to 10, 2020

fifty-fourth ordinary session, to be held in Geneva on October 30, 2020, subject to approval by the CAJ, at its seventy-seventh session, to be held in Geneva on October 28, 2020.

6. The TWO agreed to propose the following editorial correction to the text of document TGP/5, Section 6:

- To capitalize first letter and add full stop at end of sentence to read: “(If the variety is distinct, uniform and stable.)”

7. The TWO agreed to propose the following editorial correction to the text of document TGP/7, section “Characteristics which only apply to certain varieties”:

- To delete quotation marks from state of expression to read: “(PQ) Only varieties with: Presence of hairs: Other than absent or very weak (1): Hair: color”

8. The TWO noted that the TC had agreed the proposal for revision of document TGP/5, Section 6, to be proposed for adoption by the Council at its fifty-fourth ordinary session, to be held in 2020. The TWO agreed to propose that the following changes were considered by the TC for a future revision of document TGP/5, Section 6:

Chapter: UPOV Report on Technical Examination

- Item 13 to read “Testing ~~station~~ site(s) and place(s)”
- New item: Date and document number of UPOV Test Guidelines
- New item: Date and/or document number of Reporting Authority’s test guidelines

Chapter: UPOV Variety Description

- Item 11 to read “Testing ~~station~~ site(s) and place(s)”

9. The TWF noted the comments made by the TWO, at its fifty-second session, and agreed with the proposal by the TWO to replace “testing station” by “testing site” in a future revision of document TGP/5, Section 6, as follows:

Chapter: UPOV Report on Technical Examination

- Item 13 to read “Testing ~~station~~ site(s) and place(s)”

Chapter: UPOV Variety Description

- Item 11 to read “Testing ~~station~~ site(s) and place(s)”

10. The TWO considered the explanation to item 16 “Similar Varieties and Differences from These Varieties”, as presented in the Annex to Chapter “UPOV Variety Description”. The TWO noted there were different interpretations among participants on the sentence: “Only those characteristics that show sufficient differences to establish distinctness should be given.” The TWO agreed to invite the European Union to make a presentation on “providing information on ‘Similar Varieties and Differences from These Varieties’” at its fifty-third session.

## POSSIBLE FUTURE REVISIONS OF TGP DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

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

#### *Data processing for the production of variety descriptions for measured quantitative characteristics*

11. The TWV, TWO, TWA and TWF considered document TWP/4/10.

12. The TWV, TWA and TWF considered the different approaches to convert observations into notes for producing variety descriptions for measured quantitative characteristics, as presented in document TWP/4/10, Annexes III to VII, and information, if any, that could facilitate their application.

13. The TWV noted the comments provided by the European Union and Germany on the methods described in the Annexes of document TWP/4/10 and agreed to request the following additional information:

Annex III, French Method 2:

- Please describe what are the variables “a” and “B” in the regression model “ $Y = a + Bx$ ”;
- Please provide an explanation on the graphic “Example for the characteristic flowering time of sunflower” in particular whether each blue dot in the graphic is an example variety and how the blue dots are calculated (a value per variety but calculated over years?).
- Please clarify the scale of the graph. Note 10 should not be possible according to the characteristic

Annex IV, Japanese method:

- Please clarify whether the word “distance” used in the text means “width of class”

Annex VI, German method, slide 16:

- Please clarify whether the difference between the states of expression is always the same (6 cm);
- Please clarify whether example varieties are taken into account.

14. The TWO considered the different approaches to convert observations into notes for producing variety descriptions for measured quantitative characteristics, as presented in document TWP/4/10, Annexes III to VII, and agreed that the approaches were primarily aimed at species with larger sample sizes and multi-year data sets, which was not often the case for ornamental species.

15. The TWF agreed with the comment made by the TWO, at its fifty-second session, that the different approaches to convert observations into notes for measured quantitative characteristics presented in document TWP/4/10 were primarily aimed at species with larger sample sizes and multi-year data sets. The TWF agreed that this was not often the case for fruit crops, especially when using small samples sizes.

16. The TWA agreed that all mentions to “Adjusted Full Assessment Table (FAT)” in document TWP/4/10, Annex II, should be amended to read “Adjusted Fundamental Assessment Table (FAT)”.

17. The TWA noted that the document provided a summary of approaches developed for different testing conditions and agreed that it would not be necessary to request further information to facilitate their application at this stage.

18. The TWF noted that characteristics assessed on the basis of measurement of a number of individual plants or parts of plants (MS) were being included in Test Guidelines and agreed to invite members to report on the approaches used to convert observations to notes, at its fifty-second session.

*The Combined Over Years Uniformity Criterion (COYU)*

19. The TWV, TWO and TWA considered document TWP/4/11.

20. The TWA agreed that the COYU method was frequently used in the examination of agricultural crops and thanked the experts from the United Kingdom for the improvements to the method of calculation and its implementation in a new COYU package.

New proposals for revisions of TGP documents and information documents

*TGP/7: Development of Test Guidelines*

Links to relevant TGP documents guidance in Test Guidelines

21. The TWO and the TWA noted the invitation to the TWPs to propose relevant guidance in TGP documents that could have links displayed in Test Guidelines.

22. The TWO and the TWA agreed that the following links should be considered for inclusion in Test Guidelines:

- Chapter 4.1.3 “Clear Differences” - link to document “General Introduction” (document TG/1/3);
  - Chapter 4.2 “Uniformity” – links to documents “General Introduction” (document TG/1/3) and TGP/13 “Guidance for new types and species” for advice on using the Test Guidelines for varieties with other types of propagation;
  - Chapter 5.4 “Guidance for the use of grouping characteristics” - links to documents “General Introduction” (document TG/1/3) and TGP 9 “Examining Distinctness”.
  - Chapter 8.2 “Explanations for individual characteristics” - link to document TGP 14 “Glossary of terms used in UPOV documents”, section 2: Botanical terms, to avoid inconsistencies between Test Guidelines in relation to explanations for simple characteristics.
23. In relation to the link provided for Chapter 4.2, the TWA agreed that the following links should be considered for inclusion in Test Guidelines:
- Chapter 4.2 “Uniformity” – links to documents “General Introduction” (document TG/1/3); TGP/13 “Guidance for new types and species” for advice on using the Test Guidelines for varieties with other types of propagation; and to document TGP/8, Part II, relevant to the specific Test Guidelines.

Procedure for partial revision of UPOV Test Guidelines

24. The TWF considered whether an accelerated procedure for partial revision of Test Guidelines would be required and noted the amount of time required to provide advance notice about new proposals. The TWF agreed that existing possibilities to propose partial revision of Test Guidelines during TWF meetings and TC meetings should be used by members, as appropriate.
25. The TWF agreed to propose that meetings via electronic means were considered for advancing discussions on Test Guidelines during the period between TWP sessions.

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