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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS
Geneva

TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY FOR FRUIT CROPS

Forty-Fifth Session
Marrakesh, Morocco, May 26 to 30, 2014

ADDENDUM TO DOCUMENT TWF/45/27

DURATION OF DUS TESTS IN THE FRUIT SECTOR

Document prepared by an expert from the European Union and France

Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance

1. The annex to this document contains a presentation made by an expert from the European Union at the forty-fifth session of the Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops, on a Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) project on "Reducing the number of obligatory observation periods in DUS testing for candidate varieties in the fruit sector".

[Annex follows]

ANNEX



CPVO
Community Plant Variety Office

Reducing the number of obligatory observation periods in DUS testing for candidate varieties in the fruit sector

Prepared by experts from France and the European Union

UPOV TWF
Marrakech, Morocco, May 28 to 30, 2014

Reducing the number of obligatory observation periods in DUS testing

- Background
- Objectives of the project
- Conclusions

Reducing the number of obligatory observation periods in DUS testing

Background

- DUS testing costs for fruits higher than in other crop sectors
- The CPVO has committed itself to investigate how such cost could be reduced
- Several options for a possible cost reduction which need further investigation have been identified
- One of them was the reduction of the number of obligatory DUS cycles for candidate varieties

Reducing the number of obligatory observation periods in DUS testing

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Objectives of the project

Partners of the project should investigate for the pilot species they are entrusted for the influence of the reduction of the number of observation periods issues on:

- the assessment of distinctness
- the assessment of uniformity
- the variety description

Including impact for new varieties bred by mutation

Reducing the number of obligatory observation periods in DUS testing

Objectives of the project

Species Name	DE	FR	PL	HU	IT	CZ	ES
<i>Prunus persica</i>		1			1		1
<i>Fragaria ananassa</i>	1		1	1			1
<i>Malus domestica</i>	1	1	1	1		1	
Vitis L.	1			1		1	1
<i>Rubus idaeus</i> L.	1		1	1			
Total	4	2	2	4	1	2	3

Varities where the CPVO technical protocol has been implemented and which have been registered (National Listing, National Plant Variety Rights, CPVO Plant Variety Rights) in the past 5 years have been considered

Reducing the number of obligatory observation periods in DUS testing

Objectives of the project

Deliverables:

- report on the 3 aspects of the project mentioned above, no particular format required
- opinion on the reduction of the duration of the DUS test for each subject matter

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Reducing the number of obligatory observation periods in DUS testing

- In the big majority of cases
 - the second year of observation confirms the result of the first year in respect of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability
 - context based on the current situation: variety descriptions made on the basis of 2 years of observations
- If the DUS test were to be limited to the first fruiting period, the reliability of the variety description would negatively be affected
 - in the first satisfactory fruiting period, trees are still young and do not express all of their typical characteristics yet

Reducing the number of obligatory observation periods in DUS testing

- Switching to a system where observations would be limited to the first fruiting period as a routine would have consequences on the assessment of Distinctness since variety descriptions issued after one year of observation and stored in databases would be less reliable
 - most participants were in favour to keep 2 periods of observation as a standard for all fruit species
- Idea to base variety descriptions on one year of observation but the second one
 - The situation needs to be assessed on a species basis
 - There are some situations like apple varieties issued from mutation where 2 years of observation are definitely necessary

Thank you for your attention

[End of Annex and of document]