

Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops**TWF/48/9****Forty-Eighth Session****Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada, September 18 to 22, 2017****Original:** English**Date:** September 7, 2017

DUS EXAMINATION OF MUTANT VARIETIES OF APPLE*Document prepared by the European Union**Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance***BACKGROUND**

1. The TWF, at its forty-seventh session in Angers, France, from November 14 to 18, 2016, received a presentation on “DUS examination of mutant varieties of apple” by an expert from the European Union. A copy of the presentation is provided in the Annex to document TWF/47/21.
2. The TWF agreed on the importance of exchanging information among PVP Offices about applications received at national level, especially for some apple mutation groups where similar varieties might be submitted in various countries. Such an exchange would help to allow all relevant varieties of common knowledge to be taken into consideration and, if appropriate, included in the growing trial for the examination of distinctness. It further agreed on the importance of exchanging information about rejected varieties, which might be the subject of ongoing procedures in other UPOV members.
3. The TWF agreed with the proposal made by the expert from the European Union to collect information on applications under process and existing varieties for certain apple mutation groups among UPOV members and to report to the next session of the TWF how this data has been/ could be used and what could be the possible next steps and solution (see document TWF/47/25 “Report”, paragraphs 67 to 69).

PROJECT

4. In a first instance and as a pilot, the European Union proposed that information be exchanged focusing on the ‘Gala’ apple mutation group. The reason is that varieties of this group are grown and applied for PBR worldwide, offering a wide geographical range potentially contributing to this survey. An excel sheet was designed to collect administrative and technical data and sent out to participants identified during the last TWF and also to TC representatives from UPOV members having practical experience for apple DUS testing but not included during the last TWF.
5. Eleven UPOV members participated (see table in the Annex of this document). 140 different records were communicated, out of which 85 different varieties were identified. It is still not excluded that the same variety bears different names within these 85 varieties. A first analysis reveals that nearly 75% of the varieties (63 out of 85) are only known by a single Authority. This result was communicated to participants in June and suggests room for improvement in the exchange of information on Gala mutant between UPOV members testing this species.
6. A first step could be to exchange descriptions. Some authorities provided a link to the available description (AU available in the last column of the excel sheet in the Annex), others provided directly the description in the spreadsheet (NZ). The most efficient way to exchange such descriptions could be discussed.
7. In a context where mutation varieties are potentially similar, it is probably desirable that some material is available for DUS testing authorities at some point. The name of the title holder is mostly indicated and that title holder should be the most reliable source of information to indicate whether material of the variety is available and where in a given territory. In case that material is not available, it could be deemed relevant to initiate procedures for importation of this material.

8. The TWF is invited to comment on these results and propose a follow-up.

[Annex follows]

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ANNEX

Please see the xls version

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