

Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops**TWF/49/8****Forty-Ninth Session****Santiago de Chile, Chile, November 19 to 23, 2018****Original:** English**Date:** November 13, 2018

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 PRESENTED AT THE TWF/48

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 was 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 in 2017 (see table in the Annex of document TWF/48/9). 140 different records were communicated, out of which 85 different varieties were identified. It was 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 2017 and suggested room for improvement in the exchange of information on Gala mutant between UPOV members testing this species.
6. A first step was identified as 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 would 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 was invited to comment on these results and propose a follow-up.

CONCLUSIONS FROM THE TWF/48

9. The TWF considered document TWF/48/9, and received a presentation on a “DUS examination of mutant varieties of apple” by an expert from the European Union, a copy of which is provided in document TWF/48/9 Ad. (see document TWF/48/13 “report”, paragraphs 101 to 105).

10. The TWF agreed that in the case of DUS examination of mutant varieties of apple the exchange of information among DUS offices was important in order to ensure that the authorities were aware of all potentially existing similar varieties. It further agreed that the information provided in TQ Section 6 was not always sufficiently informative and, therefore, good coordination among offices was required.

11. The TWF agreed that the expert from the European Union should coordinate a project to exchange information among authorities involved in DUS testing for apple to share information on the following principle:

- by electronic means;
- twice a year, probably in January and July when trials are planned in the northern and southern hemisphere respectively;
- including information on Gala and Fuji types or other mutant types at a later stage;
- including information on the most similar varieties grown by the authorities in the DUS trials.

12. The TWF further agreed that it would be useful to approach the breeders to check availability of plant material from all varieties listed as mutants in each territory.

13. The TWF invited the expert from the European Union to report on the work done at its next session.

DEVELOPMENTS SINCE TWF/48

14. The exercise was renewed in March/April 2018 and extended to mutants of ‘Fuji’. Eight UPOV members replied. Additional mutants of ‘Gala’ were mentioned by Argentina (AR), Czech Republic (CZ), New Zealand (NZ) and the European Union (QZ). It could be noted that 9 new mutants were applied in the EU since the last exercise. The excel sheet (see table in the Annex I of this document) contains now 154 records representing 93 varieties.

15. For ‘Fuji’, 9 countries provided data and the table contains 83 records and 55 varieties (see table in the Annex II of this document). Please note that the status of protection of these varieties is not up to date.

16. The TWF is invited to comment on these results and indicate how they make use of this table. The TWF is invited to propose a follow-up.

[Annex follows]

TWF/49/8

ANNEX

Please see the xls version

[End of document]