

Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops**TWF/51/6 Add.****Fifty-First Session
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**ADDENDUM TO
ACCESS TO PLANT MATERIAL FOR THE PURPOSE OF MANAGEMENT OF VARIETY COLLECTIONS
AND DUS EXAMINATION***Document prepared by an expert from Italy**Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance*

The annex to this document contains a copy of a presentation “Access to plant material for the purpose of management of variety collections and DUS examination”, made by an expert from Italy at the fifty-first session of the Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops (TWF).

[Annex follows]

ACCESS TO PLANT MATERIAL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF

MANAGEMENT OF VARIETY COLLECTIONS

AND

DUS EXAMINATION

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UPOV Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops, Fifty-First Session, Nîmes, France, July 6 to 10, 2020

Basic situations

different combinations of situations may be the case in different countries

- **Scope of DUS trials, test conduct and responsibilities**
 - National/international; official test site/breeders' premises; Manager of test site/National Authority
- **Acquisition of material (geographical and ownership dimension) and possible sources**
 - Breeders, markets, collections
 - Protected/non protected
 - Locally/widely available
- **Types of reference varieties and their use in DUS trials**
 - "varieties of common knowledge"
 - Bibliographic/photographic material is useful for trial organization, however physical material is preferred for side-by-side comparison during trials



Basic situations - Conclusions



NEEDED:

Enhanced cooperation between Examination Offices and/or with breeders

PRACTICAL QUESTION:

Who has the responsibility for request/acquisition of reference varieties?

- manager of testing site or National Authority?



Main challenges

different combinations of situations may be the case in different countries, to be seen also in the context of different basic situations

- Sourcing and acquisition of material

- Identification of places where material is available
- Different languages
- Responses from curators
- Material not or no longer available
- Agronomic quality/physical condition of introduced material
- Phytosanitary status of material, regardless of official regulations
- Breeders reluctant to make material available, especially if testing site also conducts breeding activity



- Management of reference collections

- Ever-growing number of varieties to be introduced in reference collections and related costs for maintenance, description and documentation
- Legal responsibility of curator in case of subtraction, inappropriate use, unauthorized propagation of PVP material (on-site visits from the public, research and breeding activities

- Procedural aspects

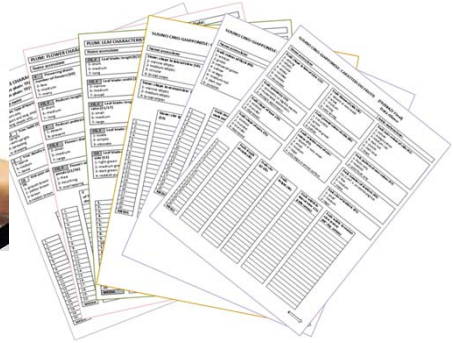
- National/international phytosanitary requirements at customs; quarantine aspects
- Test Guidelines outdated
- Use of different reference varieties in different countries might lead to different results in DUS testing

Main challenges - conclusions



Cooperation between Examination Offices and/or with breeders

Reduction of need to physical introduction of material into trial sites?



Possible solutions (1):

- Increase of cooperation among Examination Authorities/Managers of testing sites and collection holders
 - Facilitate access to information on available varieties (access to centralized national registers – facilitated by UPOV); increased use of international and/or regional databases
 - Use of a “UPOV standard letter” which helps to access material for PVP purposes
 - Enhanced use of finalized DUS reports from other countries (Cooperation is central element of UPOV)



Possible solutions (2):

- Enhancement of cooperation with breeders during the PVP procedure

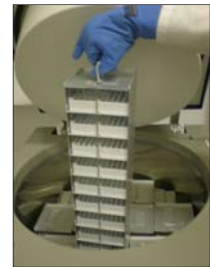
- raise breeders' awareness about the importance of reference varieties and advantages of DUS trials
 - mutual advantage over time – UPOV Convention
- use of a "Standard umbrella contract" for exchange of material which
 - guarantees proper use of the material
 - links granting of a PVP to the guarantee of future availability of material for DUS purposes



Possible solutions (3):

- Facilitation of work carried out at testing sites

- alternative procedures which guarantee the quality of DUS assessments, such as
 - Molecular characterization of varieties – protocols to be developed together with the BMT group;
 - Increased use of high quality images and video records;
 - 5G technologies for cross-country real time transmission of images and live videos for comparison;
 - Use of new technologies to map accessions and collect data (Rfid & field tablet , drone...)
 - Use of cultivars directly at the premises of breeders or authorized licensees
- alternative conservation/propagation systems for material



Possible solutions (4):

- **Updating of Test Guidelines to make sure that no outdated varieties are included (possibly also no local ones)**
 - **Regular and rapid revision of example varieties in TGs**
 - **obsolete varieties**
 - **locally restricted varieties**
 - **New procedures for proposal of cultivar upgrade or substitution**



QUESTIONS

- **WHERE ARE WE**
- **WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO**
- **HOW DO WE DO IT**

THANK YOU ...

FOR A

UNITED BRAINSTORM

[End of Annex and of document]