

# Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops

TWF/52/8

**Fifty-Second Session**  
**Zhengzhou, China, July 12 to 16, 2021**

**Original:** English  
**Date:** July 8, 2021

## COMMENTS ON GUIDANCE AND INFORMATION MATERIALS

*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 guidance and information materials made by the Technical Working Party for Vegetables (TWV)<sup>1</sup>, the Technical Working Party for Ornamental Crops and Forest Trees (TWO)<sup>2</sup> and the Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops (TWA)<sup>3</sup> at their sessions in 2021.

2. The structure of this document is as follows:

DOCUMENTS FOR ADOPTION IN 2021 .....	1
Review of document UPOV/INF/17 "Guidelines for DNA-Profiling: Molecular Marker Selection and Database Construction ('BMT Guidelines')" .....	1
Development of document UPOV/INF/23 "UPOV Code System" .....	2
DOCUMENTS FOR ADOPTION AFTER 2021 .....	2
Revision of document TGP/5 "Experience and cooperation in DUS testing", Section 6 "UPOV Report on Technical Examination and UPOV Variety Description" .....	2
<i>Testing facility and location</i> .....	2
<i>Additional information to be included in DUS test reports</i> .....	2
TGP/8 Trial Design and Techniques Used in the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (Revision) .....	3
(i) <i>Data Processing for the Production of Variety Descriptions for Measured Quantitative Characteristics</i> .....	3
<i>The Combined-Over-Years Uniformity Criterion (COYU)</i> .....	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

### DOCUMENTS FOR ADOPTION IN 2021

Review of document UPOV/INF/17 "Guidelines for DNA-Profiling: Molecular Marker Selection and Database Construction ('BMT Guidelines')"

4. The TWV, TWO and TWA agreed with the revision of document UPOV/INF/17/1 on the basis of document UPOV/INF/17/2 Draft 5 and document TWP/5/7, Annex II (see documents TWV/55/16 "Report", paragraph 50, TWO/53/10 "Report", paragraph 58 and TWA/50/9 "Report", paragraph 87).

<sup>1</sup> At its fifty-fifth session, hosted by Turkey and held via electronic means from May 3 to 7, 2021

<sup>2</sup> At its fifty-third session, hosted by the Netherlands and held via electronic means from June 7 to 11, 2021

<sup>3</sup> At its fiftieth session, hosted by the United Republic of Tanzania and held via electronic means, from June 21 to 25, 2021

Development of document UPOV/INF/23 “UPOV Code System”

5. The TWV, TWO and TWA, at their sessions in 2021, agreed with the proposal for amending the UPOV code system to provide information on variety types, groups and denomination class, as set out in document UPOV/INF/23/1 Draft 2 (see documents TWV/55/16 “Report”, paragraph 73, TWO/53/10 “Report”, paragraph 38 and TWA/50/9 “Report”, paragraph 48).

6. The TWA proposed to consider a limit to the number of characters used in the appended element, to avoid unnecessarily long extensions (see document TWA/50/9 “Report”, paragraph 49).

DOCUMENTS FOR ADOPTION AFTER 2021

Revision of document TGP/5 “Experience and cooperation in DUS testing”, Section 6 “UPOV Report on Technical Examination and UPOV Variety Description”

7. The TWV, TWO and TWA considered document TWP/5/14.

*Testing facility and location*

8. The TWV, TWO and TWA agreed with the proposal to amend document TGP/5 Section 6, chapters “UPOV Report on Technical Examination” and “UPOV Variety Description”, as follows (see documents TWV/55/16 “Report”, paragraph 19, TWO/53/10 “Report”, paragraph 19 and TWA/50/9 “Report”, paragraph 19):

Chapter: UPOV Report on Technical Examination

13. Testing ~~station~~ facility(ies) and ~~place~~ location(s)

[...]

16. Date and document number of UPOV Test Guidelines

17. Date and/or document number of Reporting Authority's test guidelines

Chapter: UPOV Variety Description

Item 11 to read “Testing ~~station~~ facility(ies) and ~~place~~ location(s)”

9. The TWO agreed that the term “testing facility” could better describe the situation when the authority utilizes breeders' premises or other areas, in addition to officially run testing stations. The TWO agreed that the term “location” would not change the current requirement of providing the locality where examination was conducted.

10. The TWO noted the cross-references to “testing station” and “place” in document TGP/5 Section 6 and agreed to propose to update the document according to the new proposed wording (“Testing facility and location”) in Chapter “UPOV Variety Description”, items 16.2 and 18 (see document TWO/53/10 “Report”, paragraphs 20 and 21).

*Additional information to be included in DUS test reports*

11. The TWV and TWO considered the proposal to revise document TGP/5, Section 6 “UPOV Report on Technical Examination and UPOV Variety Description” to include additional information in DUS test reports.

12. The TWV agreed that the proposed additional information was not useful for individual DUS test reports and presented practical difficulties for reporting authorities. The TWV agreed that the proposed additional information should be provided through other means, such dedicated information platforms and specified in cooperation agreements, where appropriate (see document TWV/55/16 “Report”, paragraph 20).

13. The TWO agreed with the TWV that the proposed additional information was not useful for individual DUS test reports and presented practical difficulties for reporting authorities (see document TWO/53/10 “Report”, paragraphs 22 to 24).

14. The TWO considered whether alternative approaches to provide the desired information might be appropriate. The TWO agreed that authorities should communicate regarding varieties for inclusion in trials before commissioning examination or request further information for particular cases.

15. The TWO noted the comments from Australia and New Zealand that information on the most similar variety and differences from the candidate variety were important for utilizing existing DUS test reports. The TWO recalled that authorities were invited to provide this information in Item 16 of the “UPOV Variety Description”.

16. The TWA considered the proposal to revise document TGP/5, Section 6 “UPOV Report on Technical Examination and UPOV Variety Description” to include additional information in DUS test reports. The TWA agreed with the TWV and TWO that the proposed additional information was not useful for individual DUS test reports and presented practical difficulties for reporting authorities. The TWA agreed with the TWO that authorities should communicate with regard to varieties for inclusion in trials before commissioning examination, or request further information for particular cases (see document TWA/50/9 “Report”, paragraph 20).

TGP/8 Trial Design and Techniques Used in the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (Revision)

*(i) Data Processing for the Production of Variety Descriptions for Measured Quantitative Characteristics*

17. The TWV, TWO and TWA considered document TWP/5/10 (see documents TWV/55/16 “Report”, paragraphs 21 to 24, TWO/53/10 “Report”, paragraphs 25 to 28 and TWA/50/9 “Report”, paragraphs 21 to 24).

18. The TWV, TWO and TWA noted that the TC had agreed to invite the TC Chairperson in conjunction with the Office of the Union to develop proposals on next steps for developing guidance, to be presented to the TWPs and the TC at their sessions in 2021.

19. The TWV, TWO and TWA agreed with the inclusion of the guidance on “Different forms that variety descriptions could take and the relevance of scale levels” in document TGP/8 Part I Section 2 “Data to be recorded” as new Section 2.5.

20. The TWV, TWO and TWA agreed to invite members of the Union to propose the inclusion of software incorporating their methods for converting observations into notes in document UPOV/INF/16 or document UPOV/INF/22, as appropriate, with a reference to the availability of such methods in document TGP/8 Part I, new Section 2.5

*The Combined-Over-Years Uniformity Criterion (COYU)*

21. The TWV, TWO and TWA considered document TWP/5/11 (see documents TWV/55/16 “Report”, paragraphs 25 to 31, TWO/53/10 “Report”, paragraphs 29 to 33 and TWA/50/9 “Report”, paragraphs 25 to 30).

22. The TWV, TWO and TWA considered the proposed revision of document TGP/8, Section 9 “The Combined-Over-Years Uniformity Criterion (COYU);” on the basis of the draft presented in the Annexes to document TWP/5/11.

23. The TWV, TWO and TWA noted the report from the expert from the United Kingdom that DUS Centers in that country would evaluate the COYU Splines software on a range of crops in 2021 and that the COYU Splines method likely to be implemented from 2022.

24. The TWV agreed to invite the United Kingdom to make a presentation at its fifty-sixth session to report on the evaluation of COYU Splines for any vegetable crops.

25. The TWA agreed to invite the expert from the United Kingdom at the TWA to make a presentation and report developments at its fifty-first session.

26. The TWV, TWO and TWA noted that evaluation versions of software for COYU Splines in both “R” and “DUSTNT” software would be released in 2021. The TWV, TWO and TWA noted the expression of interest by experts from China, Finland, France and the United Kingdom to review the COYU Splines software.

27. The TWV, TWO and TWA noted the invitation for members to participate in a test campaign of the COYU Splines software in 2021.

28. The TWA noted the report from an expert from France that the COYU Splines software was under evaluation in that country. The TWA agreed to invite the expert from France to make a presentation and report developments at its fifty-first session.

29. The TWV, TWO and TWA noted the request that the TWC would prepare a report of the results of the test campaign of the COYU Splines software for consideration by the TC, at its fifty-seventh session, in conjunction with the revision of document TGP/8.

30. The TWO recalled that COYU was not commonly used for ornamental plants.

[End of document]