

Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops**TWF/53/10****Fifty-Third Session
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DUS EXAMINATION OF MUTANT VARIETIES OF APPLE*Document prepared by an expert from Canada**Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance*

The annex to this document contains a copy of a presentation “Apple mutants and disclosure of Parentage”, to be made by an expert from Canada, at the fifty-third session of the TWF.

[Annex follows]

 Canadian Food Inspection Agency / Agence canadienne d'inspection des aliments

Apple mutants and disclosure of Parentage

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Canada

Context

- This presentation is in response to paragraph 68 of last year's [TWF report](#), which states:

The TWF considered the potential confidentiality issue of disclosing the parentage of a protected variety when exchanging data among PVP Offices and/or making data publically available. The TWF agreed to invite the expert from Canada with the support of Australia, Brazil, European Union, France, Germany and Japan to identify potential confidentiality limitations and to share its findings with the TWF via a presentation at its fifty-third session. It was agreed by the TWF that until the information about confidentiality is clarified, the document collecting information among UPOV members, would not be made publically available.

Context

- Additional context:
 - paragraph 68 came about following the discussion on the possible development of a common database to hold information on apple varieties originating from mutations.
 - It was proposed that this could be done using the existing GENIE database and creating a mutant specific UPOV code.
 - This would indirectly mean public disclosure parentage
 - Some authorities expressed concern

Survey

- Question / request
 - Would your Plant Variety Protection Office have concerns with publically disclosing parentage of mutant apple varieties? If so, why?
 - Please provide any additional information that the TWF should take into consideration when/if contributing to a publically available database for accessing information on mutant apple varieties.
- Out of the 6 authorities that expressed interest, 3 authorities responded, including Canada

Result 1

- Our office does not have concerns with publicly disclosing parentage of granted mutant apple varieties. For varieties where testing is ongoing (i.e. not granted), we would have concerns disclosing parentage.

Result 2

- Our office is currently elaborating on a formal procedure for the disclosure of the breeding scheme for public access. We have for the moment a practical approach, the breeding scheme is not disclosed if the breeder requests confidentiality and it is not publicly available on the internet. As a consequence, we cannot systematically disclose the parentage of apple mutant varieties.

Result 3

- Our office encourages the public disclosure of parentage via our online varietal descriptions. However, our office respects requests to keep parentage confidential by ensuring that parentage is not included in the description. Therefore, we would have concerns with public disclosure of parentage without prior consent from the breeder.

Any additional comments?

Suggested path forward