

## Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops

TWF/54/6

Fifty-Fourth Session  
Nîmes, France, July 3 to 7, 2023

Original: English  
Date: June 7, 2023

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**INFORMATION ON MUTANT VARIETIES OF APPLE USEFUL FOR DUS EXAMINATION**

*Document prepared by an expert from the European Union*

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1. Apple is a crop grown worldwide, which mutates easily. Breeders are often looking for similar characteristics in mutations and apply for plant variety protection in various countries when they manage to discover and develop an interesting variety. These varieties originating from mutation are potentially similar with the need to compare them side by side in DUS trials. As a consequence, TWF experts felt the need in the past to exchange information on applications and registered varieties in some apple mutation groups and have been doing so for several years.
2. The TWF considered in its last session whether to create a common database for mutant varieties of apple to be made available on the UPOV website. The group noted the limitations to disclosing the parentage of candidate varieties in some countries and invited the European Union to review the previous practice of collecting information on applications filed for the protection of mutant varieties of apple and report the outcome at the next session. The TWF agreed that the information collected should only be shared among authorities and not to be made publicly available.
3. Exchanges of information were limited in the past to some mutation groups ('Gala', 'Fuji', 'Cripps Pink', 'Jonagold', 'Elstar'). It is proposed to enlarge the exchange to all apple mutants; this information is useful for the organisation of DUS testing for any country receiving an application for a mutant variety within the species.
4. From a practical perspective, the exchange took place with the help of a spreadsheet disseminated by email to experts of the TWF. This exchange is easy to put in place but depending on the number of contributions, may generate an important number of emails and some work to consolidate contributions.
5. The alternative could consist in posting an editable version of the excel file at the basis of the exchange on a website with access restricted to TWF experts, ideally on the UPOV website. Whenever an application for an apple mutation variety is filed, authorities could complement the list, indicating the parent variety and/or the parent group.
6. This excel spreadsheet could contain a limited number of information for easier contributions, as a proposal:
  - Country*
  - Breeder's reference*
  - Denomination*
  - Parent Variety or group*
  - Type of procedure: PBR/other*
  - Variety status: application / registered / rejected / Terminated*
  - Application date (if any)*
  - Granting date (if any)*
  - Title holder's name*
7. In addition, an added value could be to post the technical questionnaire or the variety description where it exists on this restricted area.
8. The advantage would be a central place for an expert to track varieties and identify new ones. Authorities at the origin of the information could be approached in case of need.

9. Experts are invited to express their views on this proposal and the UPOV Office to feedback on its feasibility.

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