

**Technical Working Party on Testing Methods and Techniques**

**TWM/4/1 Rev.**

**Fourth Session**

**Cambridge, United Kingdom, June 2 to 5, 2026**

**Original:** English

**Date:** May 27, 2026

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**REVISED DRAFT AGENDA**

*prepared by the Office of the Union*

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1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda (document TWM/4/1 Rev.)
3. Matters for consideration
  - 3.1 Software and statistical analysis methods for DUS examination
    - (i) United Kingdom software innovations: DUST and COYUs (document TWM/4/11)
    - (ii) Guidance on extrapolation when using Combined Over-Years Uniformity (COYU) (document TWM/4/12)
    - (iii) Comparison of COYU method: spline vs moving average (document TWM/4/15)
    - (iv) Comparison of software for COYD, U (document TWM/4/28)
    - (v) Minimum distance of varieties (document TWM/4/3)
    - (vi) Kora: Digital management of variety collections (document TWM/4/14)
    - (vii) Work on molecular techniques in relation to DUS examination in Ukraine and short report of software and statistical analysis methods for DUS examination (document TWM/4/5)
    - (viii) Revision suggestions on document TGP/8 “Trial design and techniques used in the examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability” (document TWM/4/4)
  - 3.2 Phenotyping and image analysis
    - (i) Artemis - Digital solutions for climate-resilient agriculture (document TWM/4/18)
    - (ii) Development of an image-based test for soybean variety identification (document TWM/4/22)
    - (iii) Validation of an artificial intelligence-based method for varietal identification of wheat, barley and soybean seeds using optical markers (document TWM/4/29)
    - (iv) Phenotyping and image analysis at Naktuinbouw (document TWM/4/8)
    - (v) Image analysis in DUS testing (document TWM/4/19)
  - 3.3 Developments in molecular techniques and bioinformatics
    - (a) Cooperation between international organizations
      - (i) OECD seed schemes recent developments in the application of biochemical and molecular techniques “Towards enhanced OECD / ISTA / UPOV cooperation” (document TWM/4/27)

- (ii) Activities of the ISTA Variety Committee (VARCOM) (document TWM/4/23)
  - (iii) Molecular techniques: developments at UPOV (document TWP/10/4)
  - (iv) The OIV key actions on grapevine genetic resources and the publication of the 3rd edition of the OIV ampelographic descriptors (document TWM/4/20)
  - (v) Development of molecular marker panels for variety registration and trade control (document TWM/4/21)
  - (vi) Molecular markers: Public-private partnership, a Brazilian experience (document TWM/4/10)
  - (vii) Molecular markers for DUS test in Italy (document TWM/4/30)
  - (viii) CPVO co-funded project: International validation of a SNP marker set for tomato DUS testing (document TWM/4/26)
  - (ix) Survey on the use of molecular marker techniques 2026 (document TWP/10/4 Add.)
- (b) Reports of work on molecular techniques in relation to DUS examination
    - (i) CPVO R&D activities (document TWM/4/9)
    - (ii) Exploring the potential use of UPOV model “Combining phenotypic and molecular distances in the management of variety collections” for bread wheat in France (document TWM/4/24)
    - (iii) Exploring the use of genomic prediction approaches for variety collection management in barley (document TWM/4/17)
- (c) Management of databases and exchange of data and material
    - (i) Construction and application of molecular fingerprint databases for vegetable varieties (document TWM/4/13)
    - (ii) DUS Pheno/Geno database (document TWM/4/16)
    - (iii) Progress in the use of molecular markers to support tomato DUS testing at Naktuinbouw (document TWV/60/7-TWM/4/6)
- (d) The use of molecular techniques in the assessment of essential derivation
    - A strategy to establish Genetic Similarity (GS) thresholds to support Essentially Derived Variety (EDV) evaluation: (document TWM/4/25)
- (e) The use of molecular techniques for enforcement
    - New developments in the use of DNA techniques for PBR enforcement in Peru (document TWM/4/7)
4. Matters for information
- (a) Reports from members and observers (document TWM/4/2)
  - (b) Report on developments in UPOV (document TWP/10/6)
    - (i) Development of guidance and information materials (document TWP/10/1)
    - (ii) Notification of additional characteristics and states of expression (document TWP/10/2)
    - (iii) Measures to improve support provided for DUS examination (document TWP/10/3)
    - (iv) Technical Questionnaire, section 4.2: “Method of propagating the variety” (document TWP/10/5)
5. Date and place of the next session
6. Future program

7. Adoption of the Report on the session (if time permits)
8. Closing of the session

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