

Technical Working Party on Testing Methods and Techniques**TWM/4/2****Fourth Session****Cambridge, United Kingdom, June 2 to 5, 2026****Original:** English**Date:** July 3, 2026

REPORTS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION FROM MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS*Document prepared by the Office of the Union**Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance*

1. The Technical Committee (TC), at its forty-seventh session, held in Geneva from April 4 to 6, 2011, agreed to request the Office of the Union to invite experts to submit written reports to the Office of the Union in advance of the Technical Working Party (TWP) sessions in order that a document containing those reports could be prepared by the Office of the Union. The TC noted that TWP experts would be invited to make a brief oral summary of their written report at the session and would also be encouraged to make reports under the agenda item "Experiences with new types and species", as appropriate. The TC also noted that TWP experts would have an opportunity to raise questions concerning matters of interest (see document TC/47/26 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraphs 9 and 10).

2. Written reports were invited by the Office of the Union in Circular E-26/002 of January 12, 2026. The following report was received:

- ✓ Member of the Union: Annex: France

[Annex follows]

Number of applications:

In France, the DUS activity, either in the framework of national listing, or PBR, or in the framework of international cooperation for DUS testing, has slightly decreased in 2025 compared to previous years.

In 2025, 2191 applications were received for National listing, and for National or European Plant Breeders' Rights, or for international cooperation for DUS testing:

- 1380 are new applications
- 811 are requests for take-over reports for application already tested or in test.

See figures on the table below:

	National Listing	National PBR	EU PBR	International cooperation	total
Number of applications in 2025 for new testing	980	106	186	108	1380

Main activity remains on agricultural species.

In total in 2025, GEVES carried out more than 3100 DUS cycles, mainly on its premises.

Crop sector	Main species tested
Agricultural	Maize, oilseed rape, wheat, barley, sunflower, soybean
Vegetable	Lettuce, tomato, melon, cauliflower, pepper, squash
Fruit	Peach, vine, apple, sweet cherry, apricot, Japanese plum, pear
Ornamental	Hydrangea, Chrysanthemum, Buddlejia, Nerium, Lavandula, Salvia, Echinacea

Detailed figures can be found on the annual report available on our website.

Information on GEVES:

GEVES is the Examination Office of France, in charge of DUS and VSCU evaluation of new plant varieties and is designated as National Reference Laboratory in seed quality, GMO detection, plant health (matrix seeds).

GEVES website can be consulted here www.geves.fr

Description files can be found on the website for the varieties listed on the French catalogue. <https://www.geves.fr/catalogue-france/>

You can subscribe to our NEWSLETTER available both in French and in English to receive the latest information on GEVES's expert activities in plants and seeds, at national and international levels. Please subscribe here : <https://www.geves.fr/newsletter-en/>

The International System of Cooperation for DUS is active and efficient. For more information, the international cooperation service of GEVES can be contacted here: clarisse.leclair@geves.fr and camille.zitter@geves.fr
In 2025, the international cooperation service of GEVES received more than 800 takeover requests, mainly from the EU but also from all over the world.

Carole Dirwimmer continues in her role as the Chair of the UPOV Technical Working Party for Fruits (TWF).

Information on INOV:

The French National Office for PBR (INOV) has received 106 applications in 2025, out of which 98% were tested for DUS by GEVES.

INOV is involved in UPOV PRISMA for all genera and species.

INOV has announced the publication of its new fee schedule, which includes updated administrative fees. The fees relating to the DUS examination are those applied by the French or foreign Examination Office, in accordance with Article 2 of this decree. Regarding the procedure: the revision of INOV fees was jointly approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Economy and Finance, and is published in the form of a decree in the Official Journal. More information here [GEVES Newsletter n°68](#). Contact INOV : inov@geves.fr

Molecular markers in DUS testing:

Regarding the use of molecular markers, GEVES has provided data to the UPOV survey.

France is using in routine molecular markers for the management of variety collection according to UPOV guidance model "Combining Phenotypic and Molecular Distances in the Management of Variety Collections", for maize, sorghum, spring barley, durum wheat. Projects are ongoing on Oilseed rape and common wheat and being finalized for Hydrangea.

GEVES is using in routine several markers for several traits in the framework of UPOV model "Characteristic-Specific Molecular Markers", in accordance with the technical guidelines in force.

For more information on BMT, please contact: GEVES BIOGEVES rene.mathis@geves.fr.

Disease resistance tests in DUS testing:

Regarding the use of disease resistance characteristics, GEVES uses in routine disease resistance characteristics, processed in bio assays, for DUS results. GEVES provides also services, facilities, protocols, identified standards and strains for such activities to Examination Offices and seed companies, all over the world. For more information, please contact: GEVES SNES sophie.perrot@geves.fr

Digital phenotyping in DUS testing :

Regarding digital phenotyping for DUS testing, GEVES uses 2D image analysis on a routine basis, using detached plant organs that are scanned or photographed and then analyzed by AIM. GEVES is interested in developing the use of drones and pedestrian sticks to phenotype certain DUS characteristics, such as plant natural height for lucerne. For more information, please contact: GEVES clarisse.leclair@geves.fr

R&D projects:

GEVES is involved in several collaborative R&D projects dealing with DUS and co-founded by the CPVO:

- ToBrAg, project to update DUS resistance tests (biotests and markers) according to pests' evolution with the practical cases of resistance tests to ToBRFV for tomato and pepper, and the resistance test to Aphis gossypii on melon, together with the Netherlands (Kingdom of), Spain, Italy and breeders.
- SNPsNAP: "SNP markers for guiding DUS testing in winter oilseed rape: Validating the new model". It is the second follow up of an earlier project which validated a set of SNP markers for KasPAR assays on bulk samples as a tool for the management of the variety collection, together with Germany, Spain, Slovakia.
Lettuce project: International harmonization and validation of a SNP set for the management of lettuce variety collection, together with the Netherlands (Kingdom of), Germany, Spain.
- CPVO Tomato database: Development and implementation of an internationally accepted SNP database to assist the tomato DUS testing, together with the Netherlands (Kingdom of), Poland, Hungary, Spain, Italy.

GEVES is involved in the Belis project, funded by the European Union: Breeding European Legumes for Increased Sustainability. GEVES is contributing to the project through its work on optimizing DUS, with the use of molecular markers for the management of the *Pisum sativum* variety collection.

GEVES was involved in the INVITE project, funded by the European Union. One follow-up of INVITE, conducted by GEVES, is to explore the potential use of UPOV model Combining Phenotypic and Molecular Distances in the Management of Variety Collections for common wheat in France, and a presentation will be given during TWM et TWA meetings in 2026.

In 2024, the INVITE project validated the reproducibility of molecular markers associated with resistance/susceptibility to Tomato mosaic virus (ToMV), Tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV), and *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *lycopersici* race 1 (EU)/2 (US). Validation work continued in 2025 to verify specificity on tomato varieties registered in France and was successfully completed. These characteristic-specific molecular markers can now be used as an alternative to biotests in France.

GEVES is involved in Allegrodactyle: a French project to develop targeted molecular markers in cocksfoot. If successful, the final aim would be to describe cocksfoot variety collection and use these molecular data to guide the choice of varieties for relevant comparisons in the field.

[End of Annex and of document]