

Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees TWO/50/11

Fiftieth Session
Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, September 11 to 15, 2017

Original: English
Date: August 29, 2017

COMMENTS ON TGP DOCUMENTS

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

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1. The purpose of this document is to report the comments on TGP documents made by the Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops (TWA), at its forty-sixth session, held in Hannover, Germany, from June 19 to 23, 2017, and the Technical Working Party for Vegetables (TWV), at its fifty-first session, held in Roelofarendsveen, Netherlands, from July 3 to 7, 2017.

2. The structure of this document is as follows:

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3. The TWA and TWV considered TGP documents on the basis of documents TWP/1/1 Rev., TWP/1/9, TWP/1/11, TWP/1/12, TWP/1/13, TWP/1/15, TWP/1/17 Rev. and TWP/1/18. The TWV also considered document TWV/51/15 “Comments on TGP documents” (see documents [TWA/46/10](#) “Report”, paragraph 15 and [TWV/51/16](#) “Report”, paragraph 18).

TGP/5: Section 1: Model Administrative Agreement for International Cooperation in the Testing of Varieties

Confidentiality of molecular information

4. The TWA and the TWV considered document [TWP/1/9](#).

5. The TWA and the TWV considered the proposed guidance on confidentiality of molecular information for inclusion in document TGP/5, Section 1, as set out in document TWP/1/9, paragraph 4. The TWA and the TWV agreed that clarification was needed on whether the term “material” would also include “DNA material” and agreed to propose that Article 4(2) read as follows:

“(2) Except with the specific authorization of the Receiving Authority and the applicant, the Executing Authority shall refrain from passing on to a third person any material, including DNA, or molecular information of the varieties for which testing has been requested.”

6. The TWV recalled the decision by the TC at its fifty-third session (see document TC/53/31 “Report” paragraphs 180 and 182), and invited the TC to clarify its view in relation to inviting members to make molecular information available for inclusion in publicly available databases (e.g. GENIE) and, on the other hand, requesting to review existing guidance to increase the confidentiality of molecular information.

TGP/7: Development of Test Guidelines

Duration of DUS tests in the fruit sector

7. The TWA and the TWV considered document [TWP/1/11](#).
8. The TWA and the TWV considered the proposed revision of document TGP/7 to clarify the duration of DUS testing, as set out in document TWP/1/11, paragraph 11. The TWA and the TWV agreed that the term “normally” was preferred and should be used throughout the guidance in ASW 2.
9. The TWV agreed that the reference to negative conclusion should be deleted as it remains exceptional cases, and that in most of the cases the testing of a variety may be terminated with a positive conclusion on DUS. In that respect the TWV agreed with the TWA that the current standard wording in Test Guidelines allowed the examination of a candidate variety to be terminated earlier in case the differences observed between varieties were so clear that more than one growing cycle was not necessary.
10. The TWV agreed with the TWA that it should be possible to terminate earlier the examination of a candidate variety (e.g. during the establishment period of the trial) and agreed to propose that particular situations should be addressed as Guidance Note in document TGP/7 instead of amending the standard wording, clarifying that it is the decision of the Authorities to decide whether or not to terminate earlier the examination.

Characteristics which only apply to certain varieties

11. The TWA and the TWV considered document [TWP/1/12](#).
12. The TWV agreed with the TWA on the possibility to exclude varieties from observation on the basis of a preceding pseudo-qualitative or quantitative characteristic under particular circumstances, such as the impossibility to describe an organ that was not present in a variety or when variation existed only within a particular group of a crop.
13. The TWV recalled the importance to refer to a table of grouping within a species, such as in the Test Guidelines for lettuce (see document TG/13/11(proj.5), chapter 5.3). The TWV agreed that the approach of excluding varieties from observation on the basis of preceding PQ or QN characteristics should be used carefully and based on experience and discussions during the drafting of Test Guidelines, in order to be fully aware on the consequences.

TGP/10: Examining uniformity

Assessing Uniformity by Off-Types on Basis of More than One Growing Cycle or on the Basis of Sub-Samples

14. The TWA and the TWV considered document [TWP/1/17 Rev.](#)
15. The TWA and the TWV considered the draft guidance presented in Annexes I and II of document TWP/1/17 Rev. as amended by the TWPs, at their sessions in 2016, for inclusion in a future revision of document TGP/10 “Examining Uniformity”.
16. The TWA and the TWV agreed to propose that the new sentence introduced in the draft guidance, Annex I, should be amended to read as follows:

“It is important to identify whether differences in number of off-types between growing cycles were due to biological environmental reasons or sampling variation.”

17. The TWA agreed to propose a more general criteria for a variety to be rejected after a single growing cycle for inclusion in the different approaches of the draft guidance to read as follows:

“If in the first growing cycle a variety exceeds a predefined upper limit of off-types the variety may be rejected after a single growing cycle.”

18. The TWA agreed that the upper limit of off-types could be defined by each authority according to the approaches used for the assessment of uniformity by off-types.

19. The TWA noted that guidance in document TGP/8/2: Part II: Section 8: “The method of uniformity assessment on the basis of off-types” would be revised in order to reflect the practice within members of the Union on the use of methods for more than one single test (year), in conjunction with the revision of document TGP/10 on “Assessing Uniformity by Off-Types on the Basis of More than One Growing Cycle or on the Basis of Sub-Samples”.

20. The TWA received the following presentations comparing the possible effect on uniformity decisions between Approaches 1 and 3 in document TWP/1/17 Rev., as reproduced in the Annexes to documents [TWA/46/4](#) and [TWA/46/4 Add.](#) (in alphabetical order):

(a)	“Effect of different approaches for the assessment of uniformity by off-types – examples for Barley”, prepared by an expert from Germany
(b)	“Assessing Uniformity by Off-types on the basis of more than one Growing Cycle: examples from the Netherlands”, prepared by an expert from the Netherlands
(c)	“Assessing uniformity by off-types on the basis of more than one growing cycle in wheat” prepared by an expert from Poland
(d)	“The United Kingdom’s Experience with Winter Oilseed Rape (WOSR)” prepared by an expert from the United Kingdom

21. The TWA noted the approaches used for the assessment of uniformity by off-types in Germany and Poland for cereals, in the Netherlands for tomato and in the United Kingdom for oilseed rape.

22. The TWV agreed to propose a further clarification to the new sentence introduced in the draft guidance, Annex I, for all approaches to read as follows:

“It is important to identify whether differences in number of off-types between growing cycles were not due to biological environmental reasons or sampling variation.”

23. The TWV agreed to propose to modify the sentence for Approach 1 as follows:

“Furthermore, ~~on the basis of a clear lack of uniformity, a~~ if a variety clearly exceeds in the first growing cycle the allowed number of off-types in two growing cycles, the variety may be rejected after a single growing cycle.

24. The TWV agreed to recall that in the vegetable sector, Approach 1 was the most commonly used.

25. The TWV noted that a proposal for revision of guidance in document TGP/8/2: Part II: Section 8: “The method of uniformity assessment on the basis of off-types”, would be considered in document TWP/1/1 Rev. “TGP Documents”.

26. The TWV received a presentation on “Assessing Uniformity by Off-types on the Basis of More than One Growing Cycle: examples from NL” by an expert from the Netherlands. A copy of the presentation was provided in the Annex to document [TWV/51/5](#).

TGP/14: Glossary of Terms Used in UPOV Documents

Illustrations for shape and ratio characteristics

27. The TWA and the TWV considered document [TWP/1/18](#).

28. The TWA and the TWV agreed that no additional examples were available at this time for improving the guidance on providing illustrations for shape and ratio characteristics in document TGP/14.