

**Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees**
**TWP/3/2**

Fifty-First Session

Christchurch, New Zealand, February 18 to 22, 2019

**Original:** English

**Date:** January 23, 2019

**Technical Working Party for Vegetables**

Fifty-Third Session

Seoul, Republic of Korea, May 20 to 24, 2019

**Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops**

Fiftieth Session

Budapest, Hungary, June 24 to 28, 2019

**Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops**

Forty-Eighth Session

Montevideo, Uruguay, September 16 to 20, 2019

**Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs**

Thirty-Seventh Session

Hangzhou, China, October 14 to 16 (morning), 2019

**VARIETY DESCRIPTION DATABASES**

*Document prepared by the Office of the Union*

*Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance*

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. The purpose of this document is to report on developments concerning variety description databases since the 2018 session of the Technical Working Parties (TWPs).

2. The TWPs are invited to note that the TC, at its fifty-fourth session:

(a) agreed with the TWF that the initial step before building any database should be to agree on the information to be shared, the format to exchange and store the information; and

(b) agreed with the proposal by the BMT that, as a first step, discussions on databases should address the issues of how to overcome ownership matters, confidentiality, access to data and material, authorization for work to be performed and availability of results and information to partners.

3. The following abbreviations are used in this document:

TC:	Technical Committee
TC-EDC:	Enlarged Editorial Committee
TWA:	Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops
TWC:	Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs
TWF:	Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops
TWO:	Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees
TWV:	Technical Working Party for Vegetables
TWPs:	Technical Working Parties

4. The structure of this document is as follows:

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## BACKGROUND

5. Developments prior to 2018 are presented in document TWP/2/2 “Variety description databases”.

## DEVELOPMENTS IN 2018

### Technical Working Parties

6. The TWA, TWC, TWV and TWF, at their sessions in 2018, considered document TWP/2/2 “Variety description databases” (see documents TWA/47/7 “Report”, paragraphs 90 and 91; TWC/36/15 “Report”, paragraphs 70 to 73; TWV/52/20 “Report”, paragraphs 98 and 99; and TWF/49/12 “Report”, paragraph 94).

7. The TWC noted the report on discussions at the TWF about the work conducted by France for the establishment of a database for Peach varieties using the GEMMA database and agreed to clarify that data for any crop or species could be stored using GEMMA.

8. The TWC noted the report by the European Union that a GEMMA database for potato varieties containing molecular information was being currently developed with the support of information technology experts from France and the participation of several PVP offices.

9. The TWV received a presentation on databases in the European Union by an expert from the European Union. A copy of the presentation is provided in document [TWV/52/16](#) “European Union databases.”

### Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques and DNA-Profiling in Particular

10. The BMT, at its seventeenth session, held in Montevideo, Uruguay, from September 10 to 13, 2018, considered document BMT/17/11 “Construction of a European Potato database with varieties of common knowledge and its implementation in the potato DUS testing system: Part I: Construction, maintenance and use of the common database” and received a presentation by Ms. Beate Rucker (Germany), a copy of which was provided as document BMT/17/11 Add. (see document BMT/14/25 “Report”, paragraphs 51 to 53).

11. The BMT considered document BMT/17/12 “Construction of a European Potato database with varieties of common knowledge and its implementation in the potato DUS testing system: Part II: Generation of molecular data” and received a presentation by Mr. Alex Reid (United Kingdom), a copy of which was provided as document BMT/17/12 Add.

12. The BMT considered document BMT/17/15 “A DNA database for Rose: Development and validation of a SNP marker set” and received a presentation by Ms. Hedwich Teunissen (Netherlands), a copy of which was provided as document BMT/17/15 Add.

13. The BMT, at its seventeenth session, considered document BMT/17/5 “Session to facilitate cooperation in relation to the use of molecular techniques (see document BMT/14/25 “Report”, paragraphs 68 to 70 and 72).

14. Discussion groups were formed for: maize and soybeans; other agricultural crops; fruit crops and forest trees; ornamental plants; and vegetables, for BMT participants to exchange information on their work and explore areas for cooperation.

15. The BMT was informed of the following outcomes of the discussions:

16. The coordination group on other agricultural crops agreed that it would be useful to introduce an item at the eighteenth session of the BMT for participants to provide information on how they managed cooperation between partners and service providers, including confidentiality, access to data and material, authorization for work to be performed and availability of results and information to partners.

Technical Committee

17. The TC, at its fifty-fourth session, held in Geneva on October 29 and 30, 2018, considered document TC/54/9 "Variety descriptions database" (see document TC/54/31 "Report", paragraphs 317 to 322).

18. The TC noted the reports by Austria (Durum wheat), the European Union (Potato), France (Peach) and the Netherlands (Rose) on the existence of databases containing morphological and/or molecular data.

19. The TC considered the type of information that should be collected on existing databases containing morphological and/or molecular data for inclusion in the GENIE database, according to available resources for the modification of the GENIE database.

20. The TC agreed with the TWF that the initial step before building any database should be to agree on the information to be shared, the format to exchange and store the information.

21. The TC agreed with the proposal by the BMT that, as a first step, discussions on databases should address the issues of how to overcome ownership matters, confidentiality, access to data and material, authorization for work to be performed and availability of results and information to partners.

22. The TC recalled that the Office of the Union had been requested to collect information on the type of information that should be collected on existing databases containing morphological and/or molecular data for inclusion in the GENIE database, according to available resources for the modification of the GENIE database. The TC agreed that this would not be a priority until further clarification had been received on the situation concerning confidentiality and accessibility of information in such databases.

23. *The TWPs are invited to note that the TC, at its fifty-fourth session:*

*(a) agreed with the TWF that the initial step before building any database should be to agree on the information to be shared, the format to exchange and store the information; and*

*(b) agreed with the proposal by the BMT that, as a first step, discussions on databases should address the issues of how to overcome ownership matters, confidentiality, access to data and material, authorization for work to be performed and availability of results and information to partners.*

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