



TWV/43/13

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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS
GENEVA

TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY FOR VEGETABLES

Forty-Third Session
Beijing, April 20 to 24, 2009

NOMENCLATURE OF PATHOGENS

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1. At its forty-second session, held in Cracow, Poland, from June 23 to 27, 2008, the Technical Working Party for Vegetables (TWV) received the following proposal from Mr. Kees van Ettekoven (Netherlands) concerning the nomenclature of disease resistance:

“In TGP/12, the principles on the use of disease resistance characteristics are given. Besides these principles there are other elements to consider when mentioning disease characteristics in UPOV guidelines:

“1. The nomenclature of the pathogens

“As in the plant kingdom, also in the field of pathogens the denomination of the subject is important in order to correctly identify the various diseases. As in the plant kingdom the names of pathogens sometimes change as a consequence of improved insight in the pathogen and its relation with other pathogens. The use of the proper name is therefore important. In principle, the UPOV Test Guidelines should follow the latest valid taxonomic views. This principle has two disadvantages: the UPOV Test Guidelines are not revised annually and in practice the users of the pathogen names may be familiar with the old name and not yet with the new name. In the ISF disease resistance coding working group, faced with the same problem, the following solution was introduced: a new denomination is given in brackets behind the old name with the prefix ‘new’ for a period of 5 years. After 5 years, the situation is reversed: the new name is given with behind it in brackets the old name with the prefix ‘old’ for a further period of 5 years. After the latter period of five years, only the new name is given. It is proposed to follow the same

principles in the UPOV Test Guidelines in order to avoid confusion and have maximum clarity.

“2. The use of abbreviations

“In practice, the scientific binomial for the pathogens is often replaced by a code. In the ISF disease resistance coding working group a system of codes was introduced to ensure uniformity in the use of these codes. The codes are logically derived from the names of the pathogens and can also be found on the ISF website: www.worldseed.org. It is proposed to introduce the disease codes in the UPOV guidelines.

“3. The nomenclature of races and strains

“As with the names and codes of the diseases, also the correct naming of the races and strains needs to be observed to avoid confusion. It is proposed to implement the race nomenclature developed by ISF in the UPOV Test Guidelines.”

2. The TWV agreed that the proposal from Mr. van Ettehoven represented an appropriate means of managing the naming of disease resistances. It agreed that that approach should be incorporated in document TGP/12 “Special Characteristics” or TGP/7 “Development of Test Guidelines”, and agreed that a decision on which should be postponed until its forty-third session. In the meantime, the TWV agreed that this development should not delay the adoption of TGP/12, because TGP/12 could be revised at a future date if necessary. The TWV agreed that, for its forty-third session, Mr. van Ettehoven should prepare draft guidance for inclusion in document TGP/12 or TGP/7 on the basis of his proposal, set out above, subject to the following:

- (i) to include the names of the relevant pathogen naming organizations on which the names would be based;
- (ii) to include an explanation that the old and new name should be kept with the appropriate code, e.g. *Oidium lycopersicum* (Ol) (now *Oidium neolycopersici* (On)); and
- (iii) to explain that it would not be necessary to revise Test Guidelines in order to reflect changes in pathogen names.

3. At its forty-fifth session, held from March 30 to April 1, 2009, the TC agreed to invite the TWV to propose whether to include a section on the nomenclature of disease resistance in document TGP/14 “Glossary of Technical, Botanical and Statistical Terms Used in UPOV Documents” or in a future revision of document TGP/12.

4. At the forty-third session of the TWV, Mr. van Ettehoven will make a presentation on proposals for guidance on the naming of disease resistances.

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