



TWV/47/23

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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

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TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY FOR VEGETABLES**Forty-Seventh Session
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REVISION OF DOCUMENT TGP/8: PART II: TECHNIQUES USED IN DUS EXAMINATION,
NEW SECTION: STATISTICAL METHODS FOR VISUALLY OBSERVED CHARACTERISTICS

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1. The purpose of this document is to report on developments concerning a possible New Section: "Statistical Methods for Visually Observed Characteristics" to be introduced in document TGP/8: Part II: Techniques Used in DUS Examination, in a future revision of document TGP/8.

2. 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
TWPs:	Technical Working Parties
TWV:	Technical Working Party for Vegetables

BACKGROUND

3. The Technical Committee (TC), at its forty-eighth session, held in Geneva from March 26 to 28, 2012, considered the proposal for a New Section: "Statistical methods for visually observed characteristics" to be introduced in document TGP/8: Part II: Techniques Used in DUS Examination on the basis of document TC/48/19 Rev. "Revision of document TGP/8: Trial Design and Techniques Used in the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability", Annex X, as prepared by an expert from Denmark. The TC agreed that the section "Statistical methods for visually observed characteristics" should be redrafted with assistance from DUS experts in Denmark in order to focus on guidance for DUS examiners and should replace detailed statistical models with a general reference to suitable statistical methods. The TC agreed that the examples based on Sugar Beet should be replaced by a crop for which there are Test Guidelines and that the example for Wheat should be replaced by a realistic example, such as could be found in Hemp or Spinach. The TC also agreed that the TWC should explore the consequences of the decisions for DUS examination, because the method is a test for differences in the distribution (both location and dispersion). It also agreed that the consequences of excluding certain varieties from the test, where there were insufficient numbers in some cells, should be further investigated (see document TC/48/22 "Report on the conclusions", paragraph 61).

4. At their sessions in 2012, the TWA, TWV, TWC, TWF and TWO considered documents TWA/41/29, TWV/46/29, TWC/30/19 and TWC/30/29, TWF/43/29, TWO/45/29, respectively. Annex I to document TC/49/32 "Revision of document TGP/8: Part II: Techniques Used in DUS Examination, New Section: Statistical Methods for Visually Observed Characteristics" contained the comments by the TWPs in 2012 on those documents.

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2013

5. The TC-EDC, at its meeting, held in Geneva on January 9 and 10, 2013, considered document TC-EDC/Jan13/19 "Revision of Document TGP/8: Part II: Techniques Used in DUS Examination, New Section: Statistical Methods for Visually Observed Characteristics", which contained the text, as proposed in Annex II to document TC/49/32 and the information provided in Annex III to document TC/49/32. The TC-EDC noted that the only examples were for the use of COY, which was already covered by document TGP/8 Part II: Section 3: "The Combined Over-Years Criteria for Distinctness". The TC-EDC suggested that it would not be appropriate to continue the development of a section on "Statistical Methods for Visually Observed Characteristics", unless new guidance was provided. The TC-EDC also agreed that, if the document continued to be developed, only realistic examples should be included.

6. The TC, at its forty-ninth session, held in Geneva, from March 18 to 20, 2013, considered document TC/49/32. A copy of document TC/49/32 is reproduced on the webpage of the forty-seventh session of the TWV (http://upov.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=28532).

7. Annex II to document TC/49/32 contained proposed text by the drafter (Mr. Kristian Kristensen, Denmark) for New Section: "Statistical methods for visually observed characteristics", on the basis of comments by the TWPs, at their sessions in 2012. The amendments to the text considered by the TWPs at their sessions in 2012 are indicated by highlighting and strikethrough for deletions and highlighting and underlining for additions.

8. Annex III to document TC/49/32 contained a copy of supplementary information concerning consequences of the decisions for DUS examination as background information for consideration when document TWC/30/29 was discussed by the TWC, at its thirtieth session, held in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, from June 26 to 29, 2012 (see document TWC/30/19 "Consequences of Decisions for Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability").

9. The TC agreed that it would not be appropriate to continue the development of a section on "Statistical Methods for Visually Observed Characteristics", unless new guidance was provided beyond the methods already provided in document TGP/8. In that regard, it requested the TWC to clarify if proposed to modify an existing method or provide a new additional method (see document TC/49/41 "Report on the conclusions", paragraph 72).

10. *The TWV is invited to note that the TC:*

(a) agreed that it would not be appropriate to continue the development of a section on "Statistical Methods for Visually Observed Characteristics", unless new guidance was provided beyond the methods already provided in document TGP/8; and

(b) requested the TWC to clarify if it proposed to modify an existing method or provide a new additional method.

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