



TWV/49/22

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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

Geneva

TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY FOR VEGETABLES**Forty-Ninth Session
Angers, France, June 15 to 19, 2015****REPORTS ON DEVELOPMENT 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 requested by the Office of the Union in Circular E-15/109. The following reports were received (in alphabetical order):

Members of the Union: Annexes I to VIII: European Union, France, Japan, Netherlands, Poland, Republic of Korea, Slovakia and the United Kingdom

Organizations: Annexes IX and X: European Seed Association (ESA), International Seed Federation (ISF)

[Annexes follow]

EUROPEAN UNION

2014 was the second consecutive record-breaking year in terms of the number of applications for Community plant variety rights (CPVR). The Office received 3 626 applications, which represented an increase of 10% compared to the previous year. A part of the strong increase observed in 2014 could be attributed to higher examination fees which would be applicable as from the 1st January 2015 for new applications. This was reflected in a 69% increase in applications in the last three months of the year compared to the same period in 2013, as breeders rushed to get their applications in before the higher examination fees came into force. A further milestone for the CPVO in 2014 was surpassing the 50,000th application mid-way through the year. In 2014, the CPVO granted 2 684 titles for CPVR which was just short of the highest number ever granted within a calendar year. By the end of 2014, there were 22 554 CPVR in force. In 2014 there were 564 new applications in the vegetable sector, which was just 23 fewer than the record set in 2013 and still well above the figures set in previous years. Lettuce and tomato are by far the two most important vegetable species with 132 and 128 applications respectively in 2014. The first five months of 2015 have seen a sharp drop in figures for both overall applications and applications in the vegetable sector, so it is yet to be seen whether these will pick up in the second half of the year.

The CPVO opened its doors for business exactly 20 years ago on the 16th June 1995 during which time CPVR applications have continually increased making it the biggest plant breeders rights system in the world. To mark the occasion, the CPVO will celebrate its 20th anniversary with a Seminar and Dinner in Angers for honored guests on the 1st October.

IT developments: The number of on-line applications continues to increase steadily, and in 2014 represented almost 80% of applications filed to the CPVO. In addition to the exclusive serving of CPVR certificates electronically since April 2014, the CPVO intends to serve other types of formal decisions (rejections, cancellations, etc.) by electronic means mid-way through 2015. The pilot project on sharing the online application tool with EU Member States is nearing completion. The pilot project 'Exchange platform' launched in 2013 is performing effectively and on the 1st July this year the CPVO will do away altogether with the sending of paper application documents to its examination offices.

Variety Finder: The Variety Finder is a database maintained by the CPVO which includes a similarity search tool to test the suitability of denominations as well as a general searching tool. It contains information on registers of more than 60 countries. Since May 2014, Community trademarks registered with the Office for the Harmonization of the Internal Market (OHIM) have been included and updated on a daily basis in the Variety Finder database. 900 000 variety denominations originating from EU and UPOV Member States have been included so far. Some statistics on the content of the database according to a range of search criteria have been developed in 2014. The retrieval tool, named 'Search varieties', was further developed in September 2014, with more search criteria available, increased export facilities. This had a direct impact of its use. The Office receives contributions directly from EU Member States in respect of official and commercial registers, and via UPOV for most non-EU countries. In 2014, 54 organisations from 48 countries contributed to Variety Finder.

Research and development (R&D) projects and policy: The CPVO has reviewed its strategy on the matter and its Administrative Council adopted a new policy in March 2015 placing emphasis on the following three areas: (i) Common databases for variety collections within the same species; (ii) ring tests and harmonization of methodologies for observing characteristics within CPVO technical protocols; (iii) studies on the integration of molecular data into DUS Testing (IMODDUS). On the vegetable side, 2014 saw the completion of the one-year collaborative project entitled "Effect of seed priming on vegetable DUS testing", for which a more detailed presentation will be made during the course of the TWV/49 session. 2015 will see the completion of the second three-year collaborative project "Harmonisation of vegetable disease resistance methodologies (Harmores 2).

Vegetable Open Day: The CPVO staged in collaboration with the Spanish examination office a vegetable open day in Valencia (ES) on 21 October 2014, which was attended by almost 80 participants from vegetable breeding/seed companies and examination offices in Spain and elsewhere in Europe. There was lively discussion around the eight presentations made by the CPVO, its Spanish counterparts and the European Seed Association (ESA), focusing on current issues in vegetable DUS testing and plant breeders rights. The afternoon was spent visiting the vegetable trial facilities where the Spanish examiners explained the intricacies of DUS testing salad crops under their local conditions.

Vegetable experts' meeting of 2014: The meeting with vegetable experts in 2014 took place in Valencia on 22-23 October, back to back with the aforesaid vegetable open day. The meeting was attended by representatives of the CPVO's entrusted examination offices for vegetable crops, the European Seed Association and representatives of countries participating in the Multi-Beneficiary Programme. Discussions focused on: ongoing subject of disease resistance testing issues; greater collaboration between entrusted examination offices for vegetables, including possible centralisation of some "minor species"; the expansion of UPOV codes to provide information on crop types; possibilities for breeders to change information declared in the technical questionnaire in the light of discrepancies with the plant material submitted for the DUS; detailed updates the two previously mentioned R&D projects.

TWV/49 organisation. The CPVO is proud to host in Angers the 49th session of the UPOV Technical Working Party for Vegetables from 15-19 June 2015, which is going to be attended by 60-70 experts from around the world.

[Annex II follows]

About the number of new varieties all species together applied either for national listing or plant breeder's rights, we observe in 2014-2015 a stability compared to 2013-2014 and a slight increase of 2 % compared to 5 years ago. The plant breeding effort remains important and even in development for some crops regarding the capacity of genetic improvement to contribute to the challenges in the field of protection of environment and health.

The activity in the framework of bilateral agreements slightly increases whereas the activity in the framework of national listing slightly decreases.

In total, GEVES studies each year about 1400 new varieties,

- around 90 new candidate varieties, a year, in the fruit sector.
- around 970 new candidate varieties, a year, in the agricultural sector.
- around 50 new candidate varieties, a year, in the ornamental sector.
- **around 290 new candidate varieties, a year, in the vegetables sector.**

GEVES activity as an examination office on behalf of CPVO is important with around 600 requests of results each year including about 2/3 of take over reports related to field and vegetable crops tested first for national listing. GEVES also sends each year about 500 reports to other examination offices and buy about 120 reports from them in the framework of bilateral agreements.

GEVES has been involved for the last few years in the following topics:

1- Optimization of the evaluation of the genetic resistance to pathogens

- AMS: Characterization of Melon's mildew virulence (Px) (2011-2014), AMS Squash virus biotests (CMV, ZYMV, WMV) - (2012-2015)
- Collaborative project GEVES / NAKT - optimization of pathological tests to be performed for species with a reduced DUS flow (Cucumber, Spinach, lamb salad,...) (since 2012)
- CPV. HARMOnization of RESistance tests to diseases for DUS testing – HARMORES 2 (Pepper, ...) - (2012-2015)
- CPV. HARMOnization of RESistance tests to diseases for DUS testing – *HARMORES 3* (Quantitative resistances) - (DRAFT 2015)

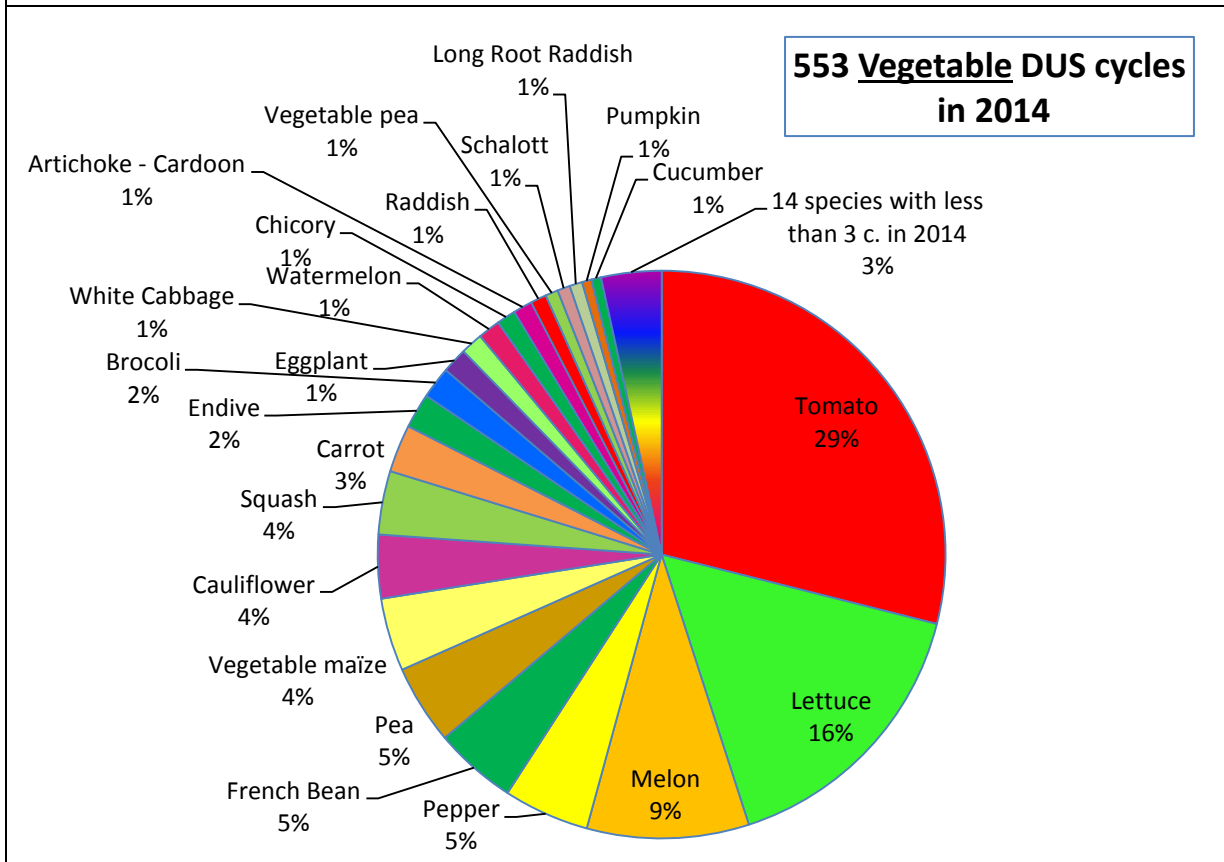
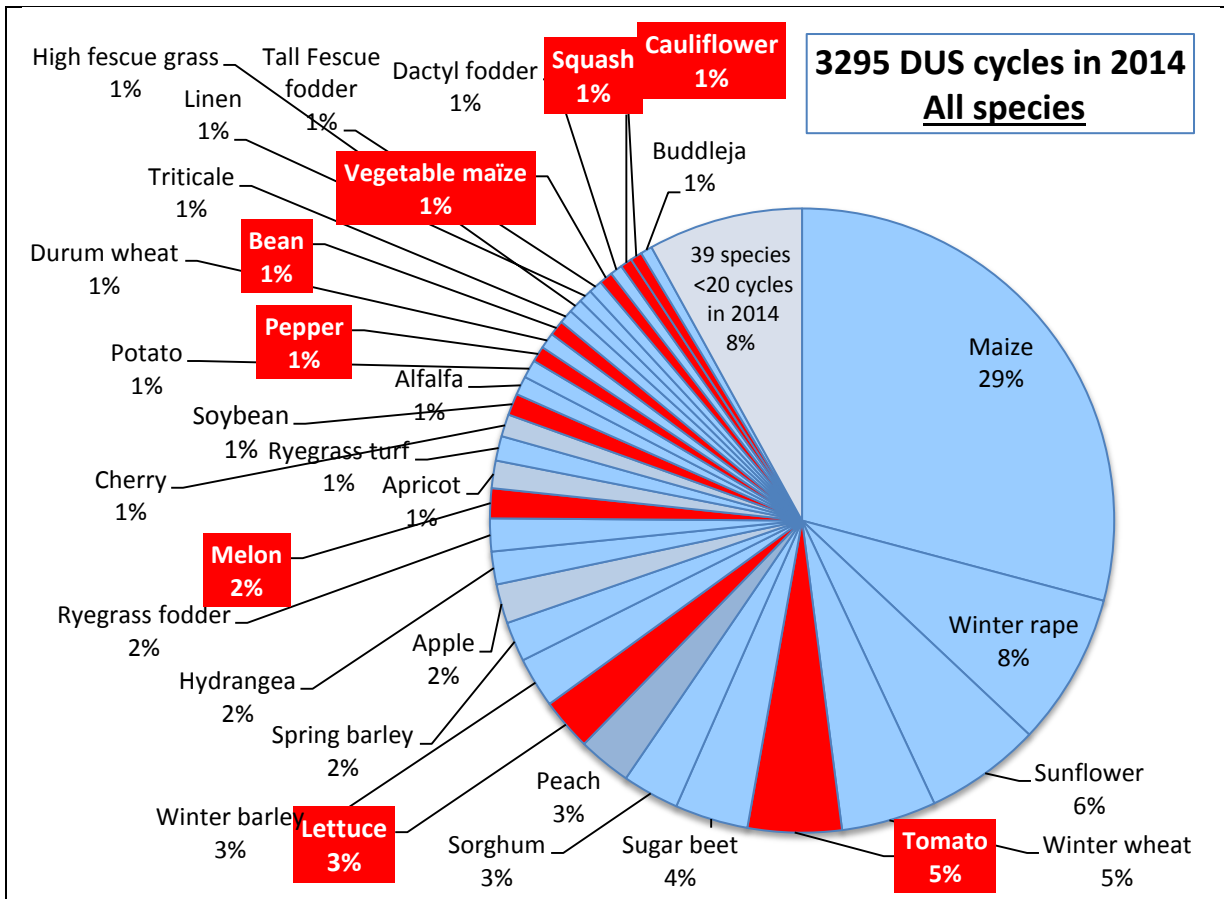
2- Optimization of the Reference Collection Management

- Collaborative project GEVES / NAKT – Reference collection Lettuce, Pea, Tomato (*since 2012*)
- CPV. The setting-up of a database with descriptions and photos of Melon varieties of common knowledge - (DRAFT 2015)

3- New methods

- CPV. Effect of seed priming on Vegetable DUS Tests (Eggplant, ...) – (2014)
- the improvement of electronic files and data for applicants, EO's and DUS examiners as "Sharing the online application of the Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO)", "Exchange electronic documents : B2B platform with the CPVO" and "CPVO web services VarietyFinder"

In 2015, GEVES (Brion Testing station) contributes to host the TWV in Angers under the behalf of the CPVO, through the Technical visit planned next Wednesday.



1. Number of application and granted in 2014

(1) Number of applications

Year	Number	(2014/2013)	Vegetables and Mushrooms	(2014/2013)
1978 to 2014	30,047	-	V:1,932, M:555	-
2013	1,054		V:49, M:17	(V: 178%)
2014	1,018	(97%)	V:87, M:16	(M: 94%)

Top 5 of application for Vegetable and Mushroom crops in 2014

Strawberry:18 Lettuce:17 Tomato:13 Pepper:7 Shiitake:5 TOTAL:103

(2) Number of granted

Year	Number	(2014/2013)	Vegetables and Mushrooms	(2014/2013)
1978 to 2014	23,782	-	V:1,600, M:459	-
2013	752		V:56, M:11	(V: 93%)
2014	863	(114%)	V:52, M:3	(M: 27%)

Top 5 of granted for Vegetable and Mushroom crops in 2014

Lettuce:13 Strawberry:9 Tomato:7 Welsh Onion:5 Cucurbita L.:3 Eggplant:3 Yam:3 Soya bean: 3 TOTAL:55

2. Japanese national test guidelines had harmonized with UPOV TGs in 2014.

Genera and Species (3)	
Vegetable	Watermelon
Others	Hypericum, Foxtail Millet

3. Japanese national test guidelines had developed for new type of species in 2014.

Genera and Species (18)
Cootamundra Wattle, Thale-cress, Marlberry, Siberian Bugloss, Oshima-kan-suge, Cladosiphon okamuranus Tokida, Emu Bush, Pineapple Lily, Blue Fescue, Japanese Privet, Lysimachia, Black Tea Tree, Rice Flower, Fountain Grass, Peperomia, Pink-head Knotweed, Houseleek and Solanum Peruvianum

Web-site: http://www.hinsyu.maff.go.jp/en/en_top.html

*The Plant Variety Protection and Seed Act of Japan established in 1978

[Annex IV follows]

Number of applications received

In 2014, 1814 applications were received for testing for the first year for National listing, and for National or European Plant Breeders' Rights (in brackets the difference with 2013):

Ornamentals	897 (-8%)
Agriculture	159 (+10%)
Vegetables	758 (-4%)
Total	1814 (-5%)

After the all-time high of 2013, this was more or less 'back to the average' for Ornamentals and Vegetables, but still a remarkable increase in Agricultural crops. A forecast for 2015 is not yet possible.

UPOV-activities

- **Development of UPOV-guidelines**

In 2014, Naktuinbouw-colleagues acted as leading expert in the development or revision of ca. 6 guidelines in Ornamentals, Vegetables and Agricultural crops.

- **Joint UPOV/Naktuinbouw training**

Through a financial contribution from the Dutch government it was possible to organise a joint UPOV/Naktuinbouw PVP course in Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania, for participants from the ARIPO countries. 28 participants were trained in two weeks on various aspects of Plant Breeders' Rights.

Colleagues from UPOV, CPVO, GEVES and Naktuinbouw acted as trainers in this very successful course. A comparable training is foreseen for participants from the OAPI countries.

International co-operation.

With colleagues from UKZUZ and UKSUP there are co-operation agreements with Naktuinbouw on the joint carrying out of trials (trials in one season on two places) With GEVES there is an agreement on the joint construction of databases and we exchange DUS tests and resistance tests for vegetable applications. With KSVS in the Republic of Korea there is a MoU on joint development of training and assistance. With a number of countries there are bilateral agreements. Naktuinbouw is involved in training programs in Ukraine, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, the United Republic of Tanzania, Ghana, Rwanda, ARIPO and OAPI. Together with colleagues from Bundessortenamt and NIAB, Naktuinbouw was present in the joint CPVO stand on the IPM in Essen Germany 2015.

Education and internships

- Besides the above education in the United Republic of Tanzania, the well-known PVP-course was held in Wageningen (in 2014 under coordination of Laura Piñán González and Judith Meijles.
- Like in former years, four colleagues from different foreign Examination Offices temporarily joined the Naktuinbouw DUS-examinations in the framework of the internship programme. This programme focuses on exchange of approaches and views between colleagues by working together in practice.

Website Netherlands Board for Plant Varieties

Information about the Dutch Board as well as information about procedures for National Plant Breeders' Rights or listing and applicable fees have been included on the renewed website of the Dutch Board. Information on applications and varieties in the Netherlands can be found in the online Netherlands Variety Register. The Netherlands Variety Register has been included on the website of the Dutch Board and the search possibilities in the Variety Register have been extended.

(Living) reference collections in Ornamentals

In an increasing number of Ornamental crops, Naktuinbouw keeps a living reference collection according to the CPVO-definitions. Much attention was paid to an effective crop management for, among many others, *Cordyline* and *Helleborus*. Our existing collections of *Hosta* and *Astilbe* were propagated and made nematode-free. In Orchids, much effort was paid to keep the living collection in an optimal condition. In *Verbena*, the living collection was enlarged and re-organised.

Besides living collections, pictures, variety descriptions and experts knowledge, increasing efforts were made to start the development of 'DNA-collections'.

Examination of small species in Europe

In co-operation with our colleague Examination Offices in Europe, much effort was paid to centralize the examination of so-called 'Small Species' (low number of applications per year). Bi-lateral negotiations were initialized to centralize different crops in different Offices, this to avoid the work on e.g. reference collections

for species with very few applications in more than one examination office. This is carried out in order to reach an optimal degree of efficiency in DUS-examination in Europe.

Communication

The Naktuinbouw Variety Testing Department started in 2014 with a new kind of electronic communication with our clients, the so-called Variety Newsletter. This monthly electronic newsletter (in Dutch and English) contains new developments in variety testing which we find important for our clients.

Search Plant

In 2015 a pilot version of a new portal has been developed by Naktuinbouw: Search-Plant. With this portal it is possible to search existing variety information of ornamental plants in different databases. At this stage PlantScope and the Lists of names of woody plants and perennials can be found via the portal. The goal is to implement more (international) parties and their databases. See www.searchplant.eu. The portal has been introduced at the symposium of cultivated plant taxonomy at RHS Wisley in the United Kingdom.

New EU directives: mandatory registration of fruit varieties

Per January 2017 new directives Fruit crops will be effective. The introduction of this has implications for the cultivation and trade of fruit trees.

Starting from 2017 only varieties that are registered within the EU may be professionally grown and traded in Netherlands. The period 2012-2017 is a transitional period. A practical explanation of the procedure, registration possibilities and the signing up of new varieties for registration was summarized in a document on the Naktuinbouw-website.

List of names of woody plants and list of names of perennials

With the appointment of Marco Hoffman from Wageningen UR / Applied Plant Research to Naktuinbouw (as successor of Gerard Bolscher), the Lists of names of woody plants and of perennials also migrated with Marco to Naktuinbouw. In 2015 new agreements were reached with the Dutch nursery industry and with the international partners: European Nursery Association (ENA) and Internationale Stauden Union (ISU). At the end of 2015 new editions will be published. See www.internationalplantnames.com.

Research projects (highlights)

In 2014 myNaktuinbouw was launched. This web based portal can be used by applicants to get real time information about applications in the Netherlands.

- In cooperation with a.o. the CPVO a project was carried out to test the effect of seed priming in DUS testing. In the Dutch situation the results were positive.
- In 2014 a project was finalized about the possibilities of DUS testing in seaweeds. The conclusion is that several specials can be tested in The Netherlands.
- In several greenhouse crops, tests are carried out to compare the cultivation in the soil and a cultivation using substrate. These tests in tomato, pepper and melon are necessary to see if the expression of certain characteristics is different. The results have been positive. Trials in substrate will be used in future.
- In cooperation with a.o. the CPVO there is Harmonization of resistance tests to diseases for DUS testing a project in progress.
- There is ongoing research in 2015 in how to test vegetatively propagated varieties in mainly seed propagated crops.
- In a project in relatively 'new' OT-hybrid-types of Lily, it came out that 'chimera-like structures' in this crop most probably have a genetic background and can cause serious Uniformity problems leading to negative DUS-reports.
- In a joint project with CPVO the submission and crop management of Helleborus were modernized and brought in line with commercial practice (pot culture, partly indoor). Attention will be paid to long-time survival of the living reference collection in pots.
- In a co-operation between CPVO, Netherlands, Hungary, United Kingdom, France and Poland, a new project is emerging on the practical usability and need for an automated color description tool, for those crops where detailed color description is essential.

Ownership of the DUS sample

The Netherlands Board for Plant Varieties (Raad voor Plantenrassen) developed guidance for the storage, exchange and use of DNA-samples with or without consent of the owner of the plant material.

Without consent of the owner of the plant material, an examination office (e.g. Naktuinbouw) is allowed to keep DNA samples (in form of plant material or purified DNA) for further DUS-purposes, such as:

management of reference collections, comparisons in questions of stability, and identity-checks on replacement of living plant samples. Outside DUS-purposes it can be used for EDV-threshold establishment and similarity-index analysis in comparisons of DNA-samples, but only in anonymized form.

Only with consent of the owner of the plant material, DNA-samples can be used for questions about possible mixture, supposed infringement cases and exchange of material with non-CPVO-entrusted research Offices.

Last but not least: in official court-cases, the Board for Plant Varieties and the examination office (e.g. Naktuinbouw) are always obligated to supply DNA-material after a request from the bailiff.

The taste of old vegetable varieties

In the framework of the week of taste, Naktuinbouw organised a non scientific comparison in taste between old and new varieties. Some 50 samples of various varieties (25 old and 25 very recent) were grown under the same circumstances. A local restaurant prepared identical dishes using the products grown by Naktuinbouw and a “dinner of taste” was organised where some 40 guests compared the taste of old and new. This resulted in a very enjoyable evening with lots of discussions between the guests. The subject taste, completely discarded in our DUS work, proved once more to be an extremely important subject for consumers.

Naktuinbouw, May 2015

[Annex V follows]

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ANNEX V

POLAND

National List and PBR

In 2014 Research Centre for Cultivar Testing (COBORU) received 611 applications for national list (27 for vegetable species) and 75 applications for plant breeder's rights (15 for vegetable species), 32 vegetable varieties were registered in the National List and 9 vegetable varieties were protected at the national level. Presently, at the end of May 2015, 2430 varieties are listed in the NLI and 1150 varieties are granted at the national level.

Co-operation

COBORU continues bilateral cooperation in the field of DUS testing with many countries: e.g. Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia on the basis of bilateral agreements and conducts DUS test or provides DUS reports upon the request for Austria, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Lithuania, Latvia, Norway, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom and CPVO.

[Annex VI follows]

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

1. Plant Breeder's Right

Total number of application as of 30 April, 2015 has been reached 7,832 and among them, 5,475 varieties were registered since implementation of PVP system in 1998.

Last year we received 621 applications, among them 155 varieties were vegetables such as capsicum (50), chinese cabbage (17), cabbage (13), strawberry (10), radish (10), onion (10).

2. Molecular Techniques

Recently, the Republic of Korea is actively applying DNA analysis tool to supervise the seed circulation in the market. We can check the identity between stored seed at the time of PVP entitlement and the current seed at the market by comparison of DNA profiling. In addition, we are utilizing molecular markers in verifying the maintenance of the varieties of radish, barley and soybean.

3. International Cooperation

Korea Seed & Variety Service (KSVS) provides PVP training course for the 15 experts from Asian and African countries for 3 weeks in May to June 2015, financially supported by KOICA.

KSVS is scheduled to host the East Asia PVP forum.

[Annex VII]

Number of applications for PVP and NLI:

In 2014 the Ministry of Agriculture had received 16 applications for plant breeder's rights, 23 titles were issued and 14 titles having ceased to be in force. 409 titles were in force on December 31, 2014. In 2014 the ÚKSÚP had received 453 new applications for NLI (12 for vegetable species) and 153 varieties were registered in the National list.

The majority of applications concern agricultural species, particularly cereals, maize, oil seed rape and sunflower.

Legislation:

Law No. 202/2009 on Plant Variety Rights approved on April 29, 2009 came into force on June 1, 2009. The law is in conformity with the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention.

Cooperation:

Central Controlling and Testing Institute in Agriculture (ÚKSÚP) cooperates actively in DUS testing with Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Sweden, Denmark and CPVO.

DUS testing:

The ÚKSÚP performs the DUS tests for a number of different species.

The Administrative Council of the CPVO on its session in October 2014 decided to entrust the ÚKSÚP to perform the DUS tests within the scope of entrustment including vegetable species, agricultural species and fruit species.

Breeders in vegetable sector:

The Slovak Breeders and Seed Association submitted to the Constitutional Court of the Slovak republic submission concerning the unconstitutionality of the current system of registering new varieties with regards to the DUS requirements including the disease resistance characteristics.

[Annex VIII follows]

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ANNEX VIII

UNITED KINGDOM

During 2014 the number of Vegetable DUS applications in the United Kingdom both showed a slight decrease on recent years.

SASA continued to contribute to the CPVO R&D project 'Harmonization of vegetable disease resistances 2' (Harmores2), coordinated by GEVES in France and will also contribute to Harmores3 in developing a harmonised test for Powdery Mildew in pea.

SASA Variety Testing contributed to a CPVO collaborative research project led by Biomathematics & Statistics Scotland into effective selection of reference varieties after one year of test by the formalization of threshold calculations for quantitative characteristics.

SASA Variety Testing also contributed (by means of involvement in a TWC sponsored practical exercise) to the development of a new module for COYU calculation which will be incorporated into the DUST suite of DUS analysis software

[Annex IX follows]

EUROPEAN SEED ASSOCIATION (ESA)

ESA had its Annual meeting in October 2014 in Lisbon (Portugal). A record number of 900 participants attended the event. The key issue during the open part of the general assembly was Biodiversity. The ESA AM agreed with the ESA Board that the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) is the preferred option in comparison the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the related Nagoya protocol. It was also decided to support as European seed sector the IT with a voluntary financial contribution.

Enforcement of Plant Breeders Rights remains of key importance for ESA and its members. The cooperation with the Anti-Infringement Bureau (AIB) focusing on vegetables and Breeders Trust (BT) focusing on potatoes, is continuing. In 2014 two complaints were filed in relation to the ESA general Code of Conduct which are being investigated upon.

On European level the Commission has withdrawn its legal proposal for Plant Reproduction Material in the beginning of 2015 after it was voted down by the European Parliament the year before. The discussion in the Parliament the Council and the Commission regarding the proposals for Plant Health, Official Controls and Organic production continue. The Commission has decided to postpone a possible revision of the Community Plant Variety Rights Regulation.

The 2015 ESA Annual meeting will take place from October 11-14 at the Hilton hotel in Vienna.

[Annex X follows]

INTERNATIONAL SEED FEDERATION (ISF)

This report only highlights the developments within ISF which are most relevant to the TWV.

In the past year ISF was closely followed the development of the various UPOV technical working groups and also the horizontal topics were put forward for discussion in the Council and as well as in the Administrative and Legal committee.

ISF especially welcomes the introduction of an electronic application form – currently being tested by applicants and UPOV – the new system will allow breeders to apply for PBR in multiple countries in the language of their choice.

In March 2015 ISF has issued a Discussion Paper on “Ideas to Enhance the Implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Access and Benefit-sharing Provisions”. This discussion paper is intended to contribute to further alignment of the MLS and the sMTA with real-world commercial practices and thereby enhance the benefit-sharing provisions of the MLS. In May 2015 Michael Keller the Secretary General of ISF gave a speech on the occasion of USPTO/UPOV Train the Trainer Course.

The issues concerning UPOV Technical Working Party for Vegetables are part of the overall work of the ISF Vegetable and Ornamental (VO) Section and whenever there is an issue or a need for stronger involvement also at a political level the VO Section will put this on the Agenda. Our objective is to improve the flow of information among the experts, to increase the number of active participants to achieve wider representation of the industry.

Concerning the concrete proposals to the Guidelines our experts were particularly active commenting the TG on Lettuce. We believe that our inputs are useful and contribute to the improvement of the Guideline for the conduct of test of Lettuce DUS.

Some of the questions have still remained open which will be clarified in an internal phone meeting with experts who give us input and attend the UPOV TWV meetings on our behalf. This contribution will be made orally during the TWV meeting in Angers.

We hope that the opinion of the seed industry will be considered as a valuable source of information aiming to improve the quality and also the clarity of UPOV DUS Test Guidelines. We are looking forward to having a fruitful debate in Angers.

[End of Annex X and of document]