

Technical Working Party for Vegetables

TWV/51/15

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COMMENTS ON TGP DOCUMENTS

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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-ninth session, held in Hannover, Germany, from June 19 to 23, 2017.

2. The structure of this document is as follows:

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3. The TWA considered the TGP documents below on the basis of document [TWP/1/1 Rev.](#) (see document [TWA/46/10](#) "Report", paragraph 15).

Program for the development of TGP documents

4. The TWA noted the program for the development of TGP documents, as set out in Annex III to document [TWP/1/1 Rev.](#)

5. The TWA noted the revisions to documents TGP/7, TGP/8 and TGP/14 agreed by the Technical Committee (TC), as set out in document TWP/1/1 Rev., paragraphs 6 to 14 and Annexes I and II (see document TWA/46/10 "Report", paragraph 16).

6. The TWA noted the program for the development of TGP documents, as set out in document TWP/1/1 Rev., Annex III (see document TWA/46/10 "Report", paragraph 17).

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

Confidentiality of molecular information

7. The TWA considered document [TWP/1/9](#).

8. The TWA 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 agreed that clarification was needed on whether the term “material” would also include “DNA material” and agreed to propose that Article 4(2) should 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.”

TGP/7: Development of Test Guidelines

Duration of DUS tests in the fruit sector

9. The TWA considered document [TWP/1/11](#).

10. The TWA 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 agreed that the term “normally” was preferred and should be used throughout the guidance in ASW 2.

11. The TWA noted 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.

12. The TWA agreed 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.

Characteristics which only apply to certain varieties

13. The TWA considered document [TWP/1/12](#).

14. The TWA agreed with 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.

TGP/8: Trial Design and Techniques Used in the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability

The Combined-Over-Years Uniformity Criterion (COYU)

15. The TWA noted the report on developments concerning the improved method of calculation of the Combined-Over-Years Uniformity Criterion (COYU), as set out in document [TWP/1/13](#). The TWA noted that the expert from the United Kingdom would report on the progress of development of probability levels for the improved method of calculation of COYU to the TWC, at its thirty-fifth session.

Data Processing for the Assessment of Distinctness and for Producing Variety Descriptions

16. The TWA considered document [TWP/1/15](#).

17. The TWA noted that the TC had agreed to invite the experts from France to check the highlighted values in the table in document TWP/1/15, Annex II “Comparison of methods used for producing variety descriptions: results of the practical exercise”, paragraph 6, for possible data inconsistency. The TWA noted that the expert from France planned to provide further information to the TWC, at its thirty-fifth session.

18. The TWA noted that the TC agreed to invite participants in the practical exercise to provide a short description of their methods to transform measurements into notes and provide examples when these methods might be used, such as for particular characteristics, types of propagation or different situations, on the basis of the short descriptions provided by France and the United Kingdom, as set out in document TWP/1/15, Annexes III to V.

TGP/10: Examining uniformity

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

19. The TWA considered document [TWP/1/17 Rev.](#)

20. The TWA 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.

21. The TWA 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.”

22. 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.”

23. 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.

24. 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”.

25. 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

26. 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.

TGP/14: Glossary of Terms Used in UPOV Documents

Illustrations for shape and ratio characteristics

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

28. The TWA 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.

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