

**Technical Working Party for Vegetables****TWV/55/8****Fifty-Fifth Session  
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**PROJECT TO HARMONIZE TECHNICAL QUESTIONNAIRES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION***Document prepared by an expert from the European Union**Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance*

The annex to this document contains a copy of a presentation “Project to harmonize Technical Questionnaires in the European Union”, to be made by an expert from the European Union, at the fifty fifth session of the Technical Working Party for Vegetables (TWV).

[Annex follows]



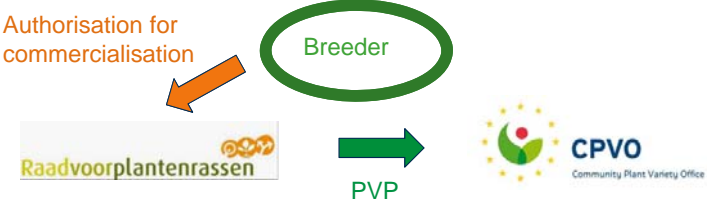
## Project to harmonize TQ's in the EU

March 2021


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## Project to harmonize TQ's in the EU

- Basic principle, transfer of applications between EU procedures in online application systems



- DUS testing based on the same technical protocol
- Different questions in technical questionnaires
  - ⇒ The reply to questions cannot be taken over in case a breeder wants to transfer the application for a variety from one procedure to the other



## Project to harmonize TQ's in the EU

- Why different technical questionnaires?
    - Different managements in the organization of the DUS trial
    - Different size of reference collections, some authorities need more information for the selection of a reasonable number of reference varieties and for organizing the trial
    - The CPVO questionnaire is not always sufficient to organize a technical examination efficiently, individual examination offices need to go back to breeders with additional questions
- ⇒ Need for harmonization within the EU



## Project to harmonize TQ's in the EU

- Activities carried out so far
  - Working group built up at the CPVO Vegetable Expert Meeting trying to find principles in harmonization, Euroseeds, Naktuinbouw, Geves, CPVO, lettuce as a pilot
  - Conclusion on principles agreed upon at the end of 2020 and implemented and fine-tuned for a dozen of species in the beginning of 2021, always having the UPOV TQ in perspective.

UPOV TG	UPOV TQ	CPVO TP	CPVO TQ	Grouping	Authority 1	Authority 2	Proposal	Characteristic
1	5.1	1	5.1	G	5.01	5.01	05.00.01	Growth type at harvest maturity
6		6				5.03	5.01	5.01 Seed colour
11	5.2	11	5.2	G	5.02	5.05	05.01.01	Leaf blade: division (at 10-12 leaves stage)
13		13			05.02.01		5.02	5.02 Leaf: anthocyanin coloration
14		14			5.03		5.02.01	5.02.01 Leaf: area covered by anthocyanin coloration
							5.02.02	5.02.02 Leaf: colour



## Project to harmonize TQ's in the EU

- Agreement on some layout principles
  - Square buttons: the applicant can choose one or more than one answer

(7) (G) 05 . 02 . Tassel: anthocyanin coloration at base of glume \* ?

If **Segregation** for this characteristic in the case of three-way hybrids or double-cross hybrids or open-pollinated varieties, please indicate several notes.

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 - absent or very weak   | W117, Royalty (SC) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 - very weak to weak     |                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 - weak                  | F66, Boston (SC)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 - weak to medium        |                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 - medium                | F107               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6 - medium to strong      |                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7 - strong                | EP1                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8 - strong to very strong |                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9 - very strong           |                    |



## Project to harmonize TQ's in the EU

- Agreement on some layout principles
  - Round buttons: the applicant can choose only one answer

(48) 05 . 10 . Resistance to *Bremia lactucae* (B1) isolate B1: 29EU \*

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| <input type="radio"/> 1 - absent             | Argelès |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> 9 - present | Balesta |
| <input type="button" value="Clear answer"/>  |         |

- ⇒ Single choice buttons in general but experts need to define for which questions multiple replies are possible (eg segregation characteristics in maize)



## Project to harmonize TQ's in the EU

- Agreement on some layout principles



- The obligation to reply to a question is flagged by a **red star** and independent from the section where it is

### 05 . Characteristics of the variety to be indicated \*

05 . 01 . Seed: colour (1) \*

### 06 . Similar varieties and differences from these varieties

06 . 01 . Are there any similar varieties known? \*

### 07 . Additional information which may help to distinguish the variety \*

07 . 03.01 . Type \* ?

- Butterhead lettuce
- Novita type
- Iceberg type



## Project to harmonize TQ's in the EU

- Conditional questions

(17) 05 . 04 . Flower: number of colours (eye zone excluded) \* ?

- 1 - one
- 2 - two
- 3 - more than two
- 



(19) 05 . 06 . Varieties with bi- or multicoloured flowers only: Flower: secondary colour \*

(20) 05 . 07 . Varieties with bi- or multicoloured flowers only: Flower: distribution of secondary colour

- A reply to questions 05.06 and 05.07 is compulsory but these questions appear only if the reply to 05.04 is different from note  1 - one



## Project to harmonize TQ's in the EU

- Additional questions for the sake of efficiency of e-forms



37. VG Fruit: color (at maturity)  
(\*  
(+)

Tomato guideline, grouping characteristic 37:

EU experts felt the need to insert a question just before:

Do fruits of the variety do reach maturity: Yes/No

If not, the question does not appear

If yes, the question appears and its reply is compulsory

⇒ Breeders only need to reply to relevant questions

⇒ Authorities receive more meaningful replies



## Project to harmonize TQ's in the EU

- Some additional information can be mentioned

➤ Raw data



(35) 05 . 07 . Seed: weight \* ?

- 1 - very low
- 2 - very low to low
- 3 - low
- 4 - low to medium

Please indicate the exact weight:

*Could be compulsory or not, as experts wish*



## Project to harmonize TQ's in the EU

- Some additional information can be mentioned

- Reference variety known by the breeder



(35) 05 . 04 . Time of beginning of bolting \*

1 - very early

Please indicate reference variety of your choice

2 - very early to early

3 - early

4 - early to medium

5 - early

6 - medium to late

7 - late

8 - late to very late

9 - very late

Could be compulsory  
or not, as experts wish



## Project to harmonize TQ's in the EU

- Particular case of disease resistance

- 2 situations

Member State	France	Germany	Italy	Spain	Poland	Czechia	Slovakia	Hungary	Romania	Bulgaria	Greece	Cyprus	Malta
BI:17EU	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
BI:20EU	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
BI:21EU	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
BI:22EU	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
BI:23EU	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
BI:24EU	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
BI:25EU	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
BI:26EU	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
BI:27EU	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
BI:28EU	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
BI:29EU	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
BI:30EU	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
BI:31EU	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
BI:32EU	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
BI:33EU	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
BI:34EU	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
BI:35EU	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
BI:36EU	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

(37.3) 05 . 06 . Isolate BI:20EU \*

absent

present

not tested

07 . 03.02.11 . Resistance to *Bremia lactucae* (BI) Isolate BI: 29EU (48) \*

absent

present

- ➔ The reply to both questions is mandatory. The option 'not tested' will only be available in the CPVO TQ for disease resistance characteristics not identified as grouping in the protocol
- ➔ Member States are free to remove that option for these disease resistance characteristics in their National TQ



## Project to harmonize TQ's in the EU

- Particular case of disease resistance

- Should disease resistance characteristics be under section 5 or section 7?



- ⇨ General principle that all characteristics from the UPOV table of characteristics that are part of the technical questionnaire should be under section 5

- ⇨ Exception: disease resistance characteristics under point 7 of the UPOV guideline kept with the same numbering, under point 7 of the CPVO TQ even if they are part of the table of characteristics



- ⇨ Request to UPOV to discuss and agree on that principle



## Project to harmonize TQ's in the EU

- Particular case of disease resistance

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**Provisional, request to UPOV to move all characteristics from the table of characteristics to section 5**

- ⇨ Request to UPOV to discuss and agree on that principle





## Project to harmonize TQ's in the EU

- Still some room for flexibility



- The reply to questions corresponding to characteristics not identified as grouping in the CPVO protocol / UPOV guidelines may be compulsory or not, depending on experts' wish
- Member States should be free to render compulsory in their National questionnaire the reply to the questions they wish



## Project to harmonize TQ's in the EU

- Golden principle: Stick to the **UPOV** wording, section and numbering for the question
- ⇒ This enables a computerization of links between TQ's, without the need for a human intervention

A screenshot of the UPOV website. The header features the UPOV logo and a navigation menu with items: ABOUT UPOV, MEMBERSHIP, UPOV SYSTEM, PVP DATA &amp; STATISTICS, MEETINGS, and NEWS. The main content area is titled 'TEST GUIDELINES' and includes a breadcrumb trail: HOME &gt; UPOV SYSTEM &gt; TEST GUIDELINES &gt;. Below this is a search bar with the text 'Search Test Guidelines' and a 'Full Text Search:' label. A dropdown menu shows language options: English, Français, Deutscher, and Español. The search input field contains the word 'lettuce' and a 'Search' button is visible below it.



## Project to harmonize TQ's in the EU

- Golden principle: Stick to the **UPOV** wording and section for the question
- ⇒ Sub-questions can be inserted, following the order of the table of the UPOV guideline, without affecting the UPOV numbering

CPVO/National	UPOV	Questions
5.01	5.1	Seed colour (1)
5.02	5.2	Leaf: anthocyanin coloration (11)
05.02.01		Leaf: number of divisions (6)
05.02.02		Leaf: area covered by anthocyanin coloration (13)
05.02.03		Leaf: colour (14)
5.03	5.3	Leaf: intensity of green colour (15)
5.04	5.4	Time of beginning of bolting (35)



## Project to harmonize TQ's in the EU

- Additional request in relation to section 5
- ⇒ Avoid questions without an expected reply, eg tomato rootstock:

5.7 <sup>+</sup> (24) <sup>o</sup>	Resistance to <i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> f. sp. <i>lycopersici</i> (Fo) <sup>o</sup>	×	×
5.8 <sup>+</sup> (24.1) <sup>o</sup>	Race 0EU/1US <sup>o</sup>	×	×
	□ absent <sup>o</sup>	×	1[-] <sup>o</sup>
	□ present <sup>o</sup>	Emperador <sup>o</sup>	9[-] <sup>o</sup>
5.9 <sup>+</sup> (24.2) <sup>o</sup>	Race 1EU/2US <sup>o</sup>	×	×



## Project to harmonize TQ's in the EU

- Additional request in relation to section 7

⇒ UPOV question 7.1 could be moved to the end of section 7


7.1 In addition to the information provided in sections 5 and 6, are there any additional characteristics which may help to distinguish the variety?

Yes [ ] No [ ]

With the wording: *In addition to the information provided in sections 5, 6 and 7 ...*

⇒ All questions on resistance to pests and diseases from the table of characteristics should appear under section 5, leaving that section 7 virtually empty or very short.

7.3 Other information

 7.3.1 Resistance to pests and diseases (please specify races/strains if possible)

## Project to harmonize TQ's in the EU

- Additional request in relation to section 7

Proposal for a standard wording to be implemented where deemed relevant by experts

*"it is highly recommended to provide pictures. Otherwise, the organisation of the technical examination will be rendered less efficient, with the risk of an additional year of technical examination at the costs of the applicant."*



## Project to harmonize TQ's in the EU

- Situation, vegetable sector
  - Range of species specific meetings carried out in January/February 2021.
  - Experts agreed that it would be confusing to discuss TQ's, where the corresponding Technical guideline is currently under full revision at UPOV level (*i.e.* turnip and pepper TQs). Discussions organized for species that are not under this situation, to the exception of tomato
  - Experts brought proposals to complement / amend the TQ before the meeting as a basis for discussion



## Project to harmonize TQ's in the EU

- Situation, vegetable sector
  - 2 weeks delay for experts to comment on conclusions
  - Additional 3 weeks delay for breeders to react to the final version
  - When the final version is agreed upon, implementation by CPVO and communication to UPOV



Feedback welcome!



[End of Annex and of document]