INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS
Geneva

WORKING GROUP ON VARIETY DENOMINATIONS

Second Meeting
Geneva, October 25, 2016

UPOV DENOMINATION SIMILARITY SEARCH TOOL

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1.   The purpose of this document is to report on developments concerning a UPOV denomination similarity search tool and to propose possible next steps.

2.   The background to this matter is provided in document UPOV/WG-DEN/1/3 "UPOV Denomination Similarity Tool".

3.   The Working Group for the Development of a UPOV Denomination Similarity Search Tool (WG-DST), at its fourth meeting, received an oral report from Mr. Glenn Mac Stravic, Head, Brand Database Section of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), on the preliminary results of the refinement of the algorithm that had previously been selected as the best performing algorithms ("the preliminary results") by using the responses of the additional exercise. Mr. Mac Stravic reported that the preliminary results indicated an improvement of 20 to 30% on the performance compared to the Community Plant Variety Office of the European Union (CPVO) similarity factor algorithm (see document UPOV/WG-DEN/1/3 "UPOV Denomination Similarity Search Tool", paragraph 30).

4.   For further assessment and possible improvement of the refined algorithm, Mr. Glenn Mac Stravic suggested that users' experience of the algorithm in the PLUTO database would be useful (see document UPOV/WG-DEN/1/3 "UPOV Denomination Similarity Tool", paragraph 33).

5.   The WG-DST, at its fourth meeting, held in Geneva, February 4, 2016, agreed that the next steps should be as follows (see document UPOV/WG-DEN/1/3 "UPOV Denomination Similarity Tool", paragraph 34):

(a)   Prepare a web page to compare the search results for similar denominations by the refined algorithm and the existing search tools in the PLUTO database;

(b)   Invite the members of WG-DST to provide feedback on the performance of the refined algorithm by March 7; and

(c)   Report the feedback at the Working Group on Variety Denominations (WG-DEN), held in Geneva, on March 18, 2016, and consider whether it would be appropriate to seek expert customization of the refined algorithm to improve the performance.

6.   The WG-DEN, at its first meeting, held in Geneva, on March 18, 2016, noted that a web page to compare the search results of the refined algorithm and the existing search tools in the PLUTO database was planned to be created by the end of March 2016. A circular would be issued to the WG-DEN, inviting experts to evaluate the refined algorithm and to provide feedback by the end of June 2016 (see document UPOV/WG-DEN/1/6 "Report", paragraph 52).

7.   The WG-DEN agreed that the second meeting of the WG-DEN should consider the results of the evaluation and feedback received and should consider whether it would be appropriate to seek expert customization of the refined algorithm to improve the performance (see document UPOV/WG-DEN/1/6 "Report", paragraph 53).

8.   The preparation of a web page to compare the search results of the refined algorithm and the existing search tools in the PLUTO database was delayed due to developments within WIPO.

9.   Subject to developments in the WG-DEN, a circular will be issued to the WG-DEN, inviting experts to evaluate the refined algorithm and to provide feedback when the web page to compare the search results of the refined algorithm and the existing search tools in the PLUTO database is created.

10.   If appropriate, the WG-DEN, at its third meeting, which is anticipated to be organized in conjunction with the UPOV sessions in April 2017, will be invited to consider the feedback received and to consider whether it would be appropriate to seek expert customization of the refined algorithm to improve the performance.

11.   The WG-DEN is invited to:

(a)   note that a web page to compare the search results of the refined algorithm and the existing search tools in the PLUTO database is planned to be created by the end of November 2017, and that experts will be invited to assess the refined algorithm and to provide feedback by the end of February 2017;

(b)   agree that the WG-DEN, at its third meeting, consider the feedback received and to consider whether it would be appropriate to seek expert customization of the refined algorithm to improve the performance.

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