



UPOV/WG-DST/4/5

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**INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS**

Geneva

**WORKING GROUP FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A UPOV DENOMINATION  
SIMILARITY SEARCH TOOL****Fourth Meeting  
Geneva, February 4, 2016**

## REPORT

*adopted by the Working Group for the Development of a UPOV Denomination  
Similarity Search Tool (WG-DST)*

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Opening of the meeting

1. The Working Group for the Development of a UPOV Denomination Similarity Search Tool (WG-DST) held its fourth meeting in Geneva on February 4, 2016, under the chairmanship of the Vice Secretary-General of UPOV. The list of participants is reproduced in the Annex to this report.
2. The meeting was opened by the Chair, who welcomed the participants in Geneva and those who participated in the meeting by means of electronic conference.

Adoption of the agenda

3. The WG-DST adopted the draft agenda as reproduced in document UPOV/WG-DST/4/1.

Test Study and Possible Use of a UPOV Denomination Search Tool within UPOV

4. The WG-DST considered document UPOV/WG-DST/4/2 "Report of the WG-DST Test Study and possible use of a UPOV denomination similarity search tool within UPOV".
5. The WG-DST noted that the response to the second step of the Test Study showed considerable diversity in the number of denominations that were selected as similar and that further investigations had revealed that there was not a very high coincidence in the denominations selected as similar.
6. The WG-DST noted that a further exercise had been proposed by Circular E-15/291, of December 21, 2015. The WG-DST noted that a summary of the responses to that additional exercise was presented in Annex III and Annex IV of document UPOV/WG-DST/4/2 "Report of the WG-TEST Study and possible use of a UPOV Denomination Similarity Search Tool within UPOV".
7. The WG-DST noted that all the contributors to the second step of the Test Study, and a further three experts, had contributed to the additional exercise.
8. The WG-DST 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 ("the preliminary results") by using the responses of the additional exercise. Mr. Mac Stravic

reported that the preliminary result indicated an improvement of 20 to 30% on the performance compared to the CPVO similarity factor algorithm.

9. In relation to the comparison of the refined algorithm and the CPVO similarity factor algorithm, the CPVO noted there might be some differences between the CPVO similarity factor algorithm used in the CPVO database and that used in the PLUTO database, which could affect the result of the comparison.

10. The WG-DST agreed that it would be useful to check whether any differences existed between the algorithms used in the CPVO database and the PLUTO database. In that regard, the CPVO agreed to provide examples of different results to Mr. Mac Stravic for him to investigate.

11. For further assessment and possible improvement of the refined algorithm, Mr. Glenn Mac Stravic suggested that users' experience of the algorithm on seeking similar denominations from the PLUTO database would be useful.

12. The WG-DST agreed that the next steps would be as follows:

(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), to be 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.

#### Non-Acceptable Terms

13. The WG-DST considered document UPOV/WG-DST/4/3 "Non-Acceptable Terms".

#### *Botanical names*

14. The WG-DST agreed to recommend to defer a survey to create a list of botanical and common names of genera that have a wider meaning addressed to members of the Union until the development of a UPOV denomination similarity search tool nears completion.

#### *Offensive terms*

15. The WG-DST noted that the matter of offensive terms would not be considered further.

#### *Comparatives and superlatives*

16. The WG-DST agreed that a report on the feasibility of developing a list of comparatives/superlatives should be presented to the WG-DEN.

#### *Use of Figures where this is not an Established Practice*

17. The WG-DST noted that it would not be feasible to address "established practice" with regard to the use of denominations consisting solely of figures and that this was not a difficult matter for members of the Union to implement.

#### Working Group on Variety Denomination

18. The WG-DST considered document UPOV/WG-DST/4/4 "Working Group on Variety Denominations (WG-DEN)" concerning the establishment of the WG-DEN.

19. The WG-DST noted that the members of the WG-DST would become members of the WG-DEN.

Date and program of the next meeting

20. The WG-DST noted that there would be no further meetings of the WG-DST and that the first meeting of the WG-DEN would be held in Geneva, on March 18, 2016.

21. The WG-DST noted that an invitation to the first meeting of the WG-DEN would be issued by the Office of the Union.

22. *This report was adopted by correspondence.*

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

I. MEMBERS

AUSTRALIA

Nik HULSE, Senior Examiner, Plant Breeder's Rights Office, IP Australia, 47 Bowes Street, Phillip ACT 2606  
(e-mail: [nik.hulse@ipaaustralia.gov.au](mailto:nik.hulse@ipaaustralia.gov.au))

[via Webex]

EUROPEAN UNION

Jean MAISON, Deputy Head, Technical Unit, Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO), CS10121, 49101 Angers CEDEX 02 (e-mail: [maison@cpvo.europa.eu](mailto:maison@cpvo.europa.eu))

[via Webex]

Bénédicte LEGRAND (Ms.), Denomination expert, Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO), 3, bd Maréchal Foch, B.P. 10121, 49101 Angers (e-mail: [legrand@cpvo.europa.eu](mailto:legrand@cpvo.europa.eu))

[via Webex]

Carole BONNEAU (Ms.), Database Manager, Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO), 3, bd Maréchal Foch, B.P. 10121, 49101 Angers (e-mail: [bonneau@cpvo.europa.eu](mailto:bonneau@cpvo.europa.eu))

[via Webex]

Rudi CAES, Denomination expert, Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO), 3, boulevard Maréchal Foch, B.P. 10121, 49101 Angers (e-mail: [caes@cpvo.europa.eu](mailto:caes@cpvo.europa.eu))

[via Webex]

FRANCE

Virgine BERTOUX (Madame), Head of French PBR Office (INOV), 25 rue Georges Morel, CS90024, 49071 Beaucouzé cedex (e-mail: [virginie.bertoux@geves.fr](mailto:virginie.bertoux@geves.fr))

[via WebEx]

Catherine MALATIER (Madame), Denomination expert, Assistant, Instance Nationale des Obtentions Végétales (INOV), 25 rue Georges Morel, CS90024, 49071 Beaucouzé cedex (e-mail: [catherine.malatier@geves.fr](mailto:catherine.malatier@geves.fr))

[via WebEx]

NETHERLANDS

Kees VAN ETTEKOVEN, Head of Variety Testing Department, Naktuinbouw, Sotaweg 22, 2371 GD Roelofarendsveen (e-mail: [c.v.ettekoven@naktuinbouw.nl](mailto:c.v.ettekoven@naktuinbouw.nl))

[via WebEx]

SPAIN

Luis SALAICES, Jefe del Área del Registro de Variedades, Subdirección General de Medios de Producción Agrícolas y Oficina Española de Variedades Vegetales (MPA y OEVV), Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente (MAGRAMA), C/ Almagro No. 33, planta 7ª, 28010 Madrid (e-mail: luis.salaices@magrama.es)

[via WebEx]

José Antonio SOBRINO MATE, Jefe del Servicio de Registro de Variedades, Subdirección General de Medios de Producción Agrícolas y Oficina Española de Variedades Vegetales (MPA y OEVV), Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente (MAGRAMA), C/ Almagro nº33, planta 7ª, 28010 Madrid (e-mail: jasobrino@magrama.es)

[via WebEx]

UNITES STATES OF AMERICA

Ernest ALLEN, Director Seed Regulatory and Testing Division, United States Department of Agriculture, 801 Summit Crossing Place, Suite C, Gastonia, NC 28054 (e-mail: Ernest.Allen@ams.usda.gov)

[via Webex]

II. OFFICE OF WIPO

Glenn MAC STRAVIC, Head, Brand Database Section, Global Databases Service

Lili CHEN (Ms.), Software Developer, Brand Database Section, Global Databases Service

III. BUREAU

Peter BUTTON, Chair

IV. OFFICE OF UPOV

Peter BUTTON, Vice Secretary-General

Yolanda HUERTA (Ms.), Legal Counsel

Jun KOIDE, Technical/Regional Officer (Asia)

Ben RIVOIRE, Technical/Regional Officer (Africa, Arab countries) [via Webex]

Leontino REZENDE TAVEIRA, Technical/Regional Officer (Latin America, Caribbean countries)

Ariane BESSE (Ms.), Administrative Assistant

[End of Annex and of document]