UPOV Structure: Biochemical and Molecular Techniques

COUNCIL

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (TC)

ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL COMMITTEE (CAJ)

BMT Review Group

TECHNICAL WORKING PARTIES (TWPs)

Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques, and DNA-Profiling in Particular (BMT)

Ad hoc Crop Subgroups
The BMT is a group open to DUS experts, biochemical and molecular specialists and plant breeders, whose role is to:

(i) Review general developments in biochemical and molecular techniques;

(ii) Maintain an awareness of relevant applications of biochemical and molecular techniques in plant breeding;

(iii) Consider the possible application of biochemical and molecular techniques in DUS testing and report its considerations to the TC;

(iv) If appropriate, establish guidelines for biochemical and molecular methodologies and their harmonization and, in particular, contribute to the preparation of document TGP/15, “New Types of Characteristics.” These guidelines to be developed in conjunction with the Technical Working Parties;

(v) Consider initiatives from TWPs, for the establishment of crop specific subgroups, taking into account available information and the need for biochemical and molecular methods;

(vi) Develop guidelines regarding the management and harmonization of databases of biochemical and molecular information, in conjunction with the TWC;

(vii) Receive reports from Crop Subgroups and the BMT Review Group;

(viii) Provide a forum for discussion on the use of biochemical and molecular techniques in the consideration of essential derivation and variety identification.
1. The BMT Review Group should assess possible application models proposed by the Technical Committee, on the basis of the work of the BMT and crop subgroups, for the utilization of biochemical and molecular techniques in the examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability in relation to the following:

(a) conformity with the UPOV Convention, and

(b) potential impact on the strength of protection compared to that provided by current examination methods and advise if this could undermine the effectiveness of protection offered under the UPOV system.

2. In conducting its assessment, the BMT Review Group may refer specific aspects to the Administrative and Legal Committee or the Technical Committee for clarification or further information as considered appropriate.

3. The BMT Review Group will report its assessment, as set out in paragraph 1 above, to the Administrative and Legal Committee, but this assessment will not be binding for the position of the Administrative and Legal Committee.
AD HOC CROP SUBGROUPS ON MOLECULAR TECHNIQUES
(CROP SUBGROUPS)

At its thirty-sixth session, held in Geneva, from April 3 to 5, 2000, the Technical Committee agreed to the creation of the Ad hoc Crop Subgroups proposed by the BMT at its sixth session, held in Angers, France from March 1 to 3, 2000 (see document TC/36/11, paragraph 123).

Extract from document TC/36/3 Add.

“23. [At its sixth session, held in Angers, France from March 1 to 3, 2000] The BMT agreed that real progress could not be expected without intensive discussion in small groups on specific species. It therefore decided to propose establishing ad hoc crop subgroups during the eighteen month interval until the next session to make real progress in discussions on possibilities and consequences of the introduction of molecular techniques in DUS testing, the management of reference collection and the judgement of essential derivation.

“24. The BMT discussed the role of ad hoc crop subgroups and its relationship with the Technical Working Parties. It agreed that testing experts in the Technical Working Party should be involved with the discussion in the ad hoc crop subgroups. It also agreed that the chairmen of the ad hoc crop subgroups should be chosen from experts in the Technical Working Party in question. The role of the ad hoc crop subgroups would not be to make any decisions, but to prepare documents that could be a basis of further discussions in the BMT, the Technical Working Parties and the Technical Committee. The BMT confirmed that the Technical Working Parties should be the decision-making bodies for the introduction of new characteristics into DUS testing for each species.

[...]

“26. The BMT discussed the selection of species for the subgroups. A majority of experts supported two criteria, (i) the need for the introduction of molecular techniques in DUS testing (species for which a limited number of characteristics are available and species which urgently need effective methods for the management of reference collection) and (ii) the availability of DNA profiling data and on-going studies.”

At its forty-third session, held in Geneva, from March 26 to 28, 2007, the Technical Committee agreed to invite the Crop Subgroups to develop proposals concerning the possible use of molecular tools for variety identification in relation to the enforcement of plant breeders’ rights, technical verification and the consideration of essential derivation.

The list of Crop Subgroups established by the Technical Committee (TC) is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop Subgroup for:</th>
<th>TWP</th>
<th>Chairperson</th>
<th>TC Session which established</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maize</td>
<td>TWA</td>
<td>Mrs. Beate Rücker (Germany)</td>
<td>thirty-sixth session (2000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oilseed Rape</td>
<td>TWA</td>
<td>Mrs. Laetitia Denecheau (France)</td>
<td>thirty-sixth session (2000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potato</td>
<td>TWA</td>
<td>Mrs. Beate Rücker (Germany)</td>
<td>thirty-eighth session (2002)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose</td>
<td>TWO</td>
<td>(vacant)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryegrass</td>
<td>TWA</td>
<td>Mr. Michael Camlin (United Kingdom)</td>
<td>forty-second session (2006)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soybean</td>
<td>TWA</td>
<td>Mr. Marcelo Labarta (Argentina)</td>
<td>thirty-eighth session (2002)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugarcane</td>
<td>TWA</td>
<td>Mr. Luis Salaices (Spain)</td>
<td>thirty-eighth session (2002)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomato</td>
<td>TVV</td>
<td>Mr. Richard Brand (France)</td>
<td>thirty-sixth session (2000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat and Barley</td>
<td>TWA</td>
<td>Mr. Michael Camlin (United Kingdom)</td>
<td>thirty-sixth session (2000) / forty-second session (2006)</td>
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