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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

GENEVA

COUNCIL

Twenty-eighth Ordinary Session

Geneva, November 9, 1994

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AND THE TECHNICAL WORKING PARTIES

Addendum prepared by the Office of the Union

Progress Report on the Work of the Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops (TWF)

1. The Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops held its twenty-fifth session in Napier and Rotorua, New Zealand, from September 19 to 24, 1994, under the chairmanship of Mrs. E. Buitendag (South Africa). The full report on that session will appear in document TWF/25/12 Prov. During the session, the TWF completed the Test Guidelines for Japanese Pear for submission to the Technical Committee for final adoption. It also completed the Test Guidelines for Apple (Revision), Cherry (Revision), Peach (Revision), Strawberry (Revision), prior to their submission to the professional organizations for comments. It briefly (re)discussed a working paper on Test Guidelines for Prunus Rootstocks and the question of example varieties in the Test Guidelines for Citrus. In addition to the discussions on Test Guidelines, the Working Party discussed or rediscussed the following subjects:

(i) It discussed and will rediscuss the grouping of apple mutants with a colorimeter, the measuring of color of apples with image analysis and the storage of data generated by image analysis.

(ii) It suggested that instead of the efforts concentrated on the study of fingerprinting with DNA analysis, more studies should be made on developing methods for the study of morphological characteristics, e.g. image analysis for the observation of pollen surface.

(iii) It will complete the list of species in which practical technical knowledge has been acquired.

(iv) It will rediscuss, and it requested the TWC to rediscuss, the calculation of the beta risk in the testing of uniformity, as the method developed for seed propagated varieties was not applicable to vegetatively propagated varieties.

(v) It welcomed the development of the UPOV CD-ROM and is awaiting the first CD-ROM with full data.

(vi) It proposed to the Technical Committee that it accept a disease resistance characteristic with states from "absent or very weak" to "very strong" for a vegetatively propagated variety.

(vii) It will focus in future on including in Test Guidelines only key characteristics, thereby reducing considerably the number of characteristics included in Test Guidelines.

(viii) It will establish Test Guidelines for Rootstock varieties which will cover vegetative and physiological characteristics but not characteristics of the flower, fruit or the seed. If these characteristics are needed, the respective Test Guidelines for fruit varieties will have to be used as far as applicable.

2. The twenty-sixth session of the TWF is scheduled to be held in Faversham, United Kingdom, from September 11 to 15, 1995. During that session, the TWF plans to complete the Test Guidelines for Apple (Revision), Cherry (Revision), Peach (Revision) and Strawberry (Revision), for submission to the Technical Committee for final adoption. It will also (re)discuss working papers on Test Guidelines for Apple Rootstocks, Citrus (Revision), European Plum (Revision), Grape (Revision), Japanese Apricot, Kiwi, Loquat, Pear (Revision), Pear Rootstocks, Prunus Rootstocks, Walnut and Walnut Rootstocks. The following other items are planned for discussion: color observations; new methods, techniques and equipment in the examination of varieties; bibliography of published papers on new techniques; statistical methods; uniformity in vegetatively propagated and self-pollinated varieties; UPOV Central Computerized Data Base; disease resistance characteristics in distinctness testing; list of species in which practical technical knowledge has been acquired.

Progress Report on the Work of the Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees (TWO)

3. The Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees held its twenty-seventh session in Sydney, Australia, from September 26 to October 1, 1994, under the chairmanship of Mrs. U. Löscher (Germany). The full report will appear in document TWO/27/13 Prov. During the session, the TWO completed the Test Guidelines for African Violet (Revision), Gentiana, Nerine, Pyracantha, and Weigela and revised growing conditions and a revised Technical Questionnaire for Kalanchoe prior to their submission to the

Technical Committee for final adoption. It also completed the Test Guidelines for Norway Spruce, Rhododendron (Revision) and Anthurium (Revision) prior to their submission to the professional organizations for comments. It (re)discussed working papers on Test Guidelines for Cymbidium, Firelily, Kangaroo Paws and Serruria. In addition to the discussions on Test Guidelines, the Working Party discussed or rediscussed the following subjects:

(i) It will more often in future prepare initial drafts of Test Guidelines in subgroups and by correspondence and discuss them in its sessions only at a rather advanced stage.

(ii) It had a detailed exchange of views and information on the involvement of the applicant in the testing of varieties and on the testing system used in Australia and in New Zealand.

(iii) It will request the Technical Committee to include in the Technical Questionnaires the request for a representative photo of the distinguishing characteristics of each candidate variety.

(iv) It encouraged the bringing of breeders of ornamental varieties together with experts on biochemical and molecular techniques and proposed that a country take the lead in studying together with these groups the possible use of such techniques for the identification of varieties.

(v) It agreed to study in more detail, and possibly in a subgroup, the use of image analysis for ornamental species, especially for the faster measuring of existing characteristics, for the storage of the data, their use for the selection of similar varieties as well as for the storage of photos in digitalised form.

(vi) It discussed problems resulting from differences in uniformity test results caused by differences in climatic conditions.

(vii) It will study, using the example of Pelargonium, which denominations of old varieties or non-protected varieties from breeders' catalogues, or other sources should be included in the UPOV CD-ROM data base.

(viii) It proposed that the Technical Committee recommend the use within UPOV of the grouping of the RHS Colour Chart for all color names.

(ix) It welcomed the list of species in which testing actually takes place in each country and asked for its updating at regular intervals (e.g. every 2 years).

(x) It asked the TWC to reconsider its method for the calculation of the beta risk (the risk of accepting a heterogeneous variety) for vegetatively propagated species, as the assumptions underlying the present method for seed propagated varieties do not apply to vegetatively propagated varieties.

(xi) It requested a more user-friendly explanation of the COYD and COYU analysis and asked the Chairman to make contact with his national statistician in order to prepare an example of the application of the method to varieties of an ornamental species (Lobelia).

(xii) It will need more experience before it can express a view on the use of disease resistance characteristics as those characteristics have not so far been used for distinctness tests of ornamental varieties.

4. The twenty-eighth session of the TWO is scheduled to be held in Wageningen, Netherlands, from September 25 to 30, 1994. During that session, the TWO plans to complete the Test Guidelines for Norway Spruce, Rhododendron (Revision) and Anthurium (Revision) for submission to the Technical Committee for final adoption. It will also discuss or rediscuss Test Guidelines for Bouvardia, Chrysanthemum (Revision), Cymbidium, Ficus Benjamina, Firelily, Geralton Wax Flower, Iris, Kangaroo Paws, Lavender and Lavendine, Limonium, Ornamental Apple (Revision), Serruria and Thymus. Discussion of the following items is also planned: color observations; image analysis; new methods, techniques and equipment in the examination of varieties; lists of species in which varieties are tested; handling of visually observed characteristics; disease resistance characteristics; central computerized data base; uniformity of vegetatively propagated species; uniformity of species/varieties which are propagated both by seed and vegetatively.

Progress Report on the Work of the Technical Working Party for Vegetables (TWV)

5. The Technical Working Party for Vegetables held its twenty-eighth session in Edinburgh, United Kingdom, from September 5 to 9, 1994, under the chairmanship of Mrs. E. Kristóf (Hungary). The full report appears in document TWV/28/21 Prov. During the session, the TWV discussed and completed for presentation to the Technical Committee for final adoption draft Test Guidelines for French Bean (Revision), Peas (Revision) and Sweet Pepper (Revision). The TWV also discussed and completed for submission to the professional organizations for comments, the Test Guidelines for Cauliflower, Broccoli and Chamomile. It further discussed or rediscussed working papers for Test Guidelines for Onion (Revision) and Ginger. In addition to the discussions on Test Guidelines, the TWV discussed or rediscussed the following other subjects:

(i) It noted the recent developments in the work for the setting-up of a UPOV Central Computerized Data Base.

(ii) It had a long discussion on the testing of disease characteristics, in particular the states of expression of those resistance characteristics which are evaluated in a quantitative way. Having failed to reach a general conclusion, it agreed to decide case-by-case on the presentation of the states of expression, taking into account the genetic mechanism of the resistance characteristic in question.

6. The twenty-ninth session of the TWV is scheduled to be held in Roelofarendsveen (NL), from June 26 to July 1, 1995 (the session will end at 5 p.m. on July 1). During that session, the TWV will discuss, for submission to the Technical Committee for final adoption, Test Guidelines for Cauliflower (Revision), Broccoli, and Chamomile and, for presentation to the professional organizations for comments, working papers on Test Guidelines for Beetroot (Revision), Bunching Onion, Cucurbita moschata, Garlic, Ginger, Globe Artichoke, Large-leaved Chicory, Lentil, Onion (Revision), Poppy, Pumpkin, Shallot, Spinach (Revision) and Witlof.