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[In English only]

UPOV

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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

GENEVA

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Twentieth Session
Geneva, November 6 and 7, 1984

ADDENDUM TO DOCUMENT ON MATTERS RESULTING FROM THE
1984 SESSIONS OF THE TECHNICAL WORKING PARTIES
TO BE DEALT WITH BY THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

1. This Addendum summarizes matters resulting from the last session of the Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops, held at Valencia, Spain, from October 9 to 11, 1984, which have to be dealt with by the Technical Committee and which because of the late date of that session could not yet be reflected in document TC/XX/3.

Comparison of National Technical Questionnaires, Test Reports and Variety Descriptions

2. Many experts of the working Party expressed their disappointment at the evidence that many member States deviated from the models established and decisions taken inside UPOV. The Working Party agreed to recommend that in future the national offices should follow more closely the model agreed within UPOV. It furthermore recommended the Technical Committee to amend the UPOV Model for a Report on Technical Examination by adding to the Note of the state of expression of each characteristic the corresponding wording. The Working Party furthermore expressed itself against the use of headings in the description since that resulted in the grouping of several characteristics of the same organ and consequently the order or even the wording of some characteristics often had to be changed (see document TWF/XV/15 Prov., paragraph 11).

3. The Committee is invited to take the necessary decisions.

Improvements of Contacts and Cooperation with International Bodies Working on Fruit Species

4. The Working Party noted the need to improve contacts and cooperation with international bodies working on fruit species, since no comments had been received from those bodies on many draft Test Guidelines sent to them. It agreed to ask experts of member States to keep closer contacts at national level with the professional organizations and experts working on fruit species and to try to bring their views to the sessions of the Working Party. At the

same time, the Office of UPOV was asked to try to improve its contacts at international level. The experts of member States were requested to provide the Office of UPOV with information on the names and addresses of the responsible persons in international bodies working on a given species. The Working Party finally noted that part of the difficulties were caused by the fact that some of those bodies only met at intervals of several years (see document TWF/XV/15 Prov., paragraph 10).

5. The Committee is invited to note the information given.

Sanitary Status of Plant Material Sent in for Examination

6. The Working Party agreed to rediscuss the question of the sanitary status of plant material sent in for examination on the basis of the following three lists:

- (i) a list of diseases affecting the description of the variety,
- (ii) a list of diseases for which import restrictions existed, and
- (iii) a list of diseases for which the competent authorities checked to ensure that the plant material sent in for DUS tests was free of them (see document TWF/XV/15 Prov., paragraph 30).

7. The Committee is invited to note the information given.

Procedure for Future Revisions of Test Guidelines

8. The Working Party agreed that in future, the first working paper for the revision of an existing Test Guidelines document should retain the old numbering of the characteristics and also the wording of the characteristics proposed for deletion, in order to facilitate the comparison with the adopted document and to make it easier to see which characteristics were proposed for deletion, amendment or addition (see document TWF/XV/15 Prov., paragraph 32).

9. The Committee is invited to note the information given.

Proposals for the Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs

10. The Working Party noted that in its field of competence characteristics were mainly observed visually and that statistical analysis had a lesser application. It warned, however, that the Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs should not take decisions which would affect its work. For the time being, the Working Party agreed that it had no special subject to present to the Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs (see document TWF/XV/15 Prov., paragraph 13).

11. The Committee is invited to note the information given.

Color Chart

12. The Working Party noted the advantages of the Japan Horticultural Standard Colour Chart (JHS Colour Chart), highlighted by Mr. Tsuchiyama (Japan): its convenience; its 502 equally distributed and systematically selected color chips which were clearly described and arranged; the fact that each color chip had not only been given a code number but also a common color name as well as a systematical color name; the possibility to reproduce color chips; the two ways in which it had been established, namely color fans and color charts; the indication of the color codes of the RHS Colour Chart as cross references; and some disadvantages of that chart mentioned by the expert from the Netherlands who found the colors industrial, the number of colors limited and the size of the chips small. It finally supported the recommendations already made by the Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees, as reproduced in paragraph 60 of document TC/XX/3 (see document TWF/XV/15 Prov., paragraphs 14 and 15).

13. The Committee is invited to note the information given and to consider possible steps to be taken.

List of Standard Books and Documents

14. The Working Party agreed to request the experts from the member States to send the information for updating that list to the expert from Switzerland by the end of February. The expert from Switzerland would then prepare a new list by the end of April for discussion during the coming session of the Working Party (see document TWF/XV/15 Prov., paragraph 9).

15. The Committee is invited to note the information given.

Improvement of Test Guidelines by Detailed Information on Each Characteristic

16. The Working Party agreed to the need for more detailed information to be included in the individual Test Guidelines. It proposed to the Technical Committee to discuss in connection with the standardization of Test Guidelines also the possibility to combine all explanations and methods in a separate part of the Test Guidelines, to describe the time of assessment in a separate table and to include in the Table of Characteristics only an additional column with codes referring to that separate table (see document TWF/XV/15 Prov., paragraph 8).

17. The Committee is invited to take the necessary decisions.

Standard Test Guidelines

18. The Working Party agreed that the whole layout of the Test Guidelines should be revised along the lines of document TC/XX/8. It recommended, however, that the draft Test Guidelines for Persimmon and for Strawberry should be adopted in their present layout in order not to delay their publication (see document TWF/XV/15 Prov., paragraph 12).

19. The Committee is invited to take the necessary decisions.

Criteria for the Inclusion of Characteristics in UPOV Test Guidelines

20. The Working Party agreed on several of the criteria for the inclusion of characteristics in UPOV Test Guidelines mentioned in document TWF/XV/12, as for example (i) characteristics which are important for description and distinctness purposes (ii) characteristics which can be recorded without unreasonable effort, and (iii) characteristics which appear in a typical reference collection. Several experts expressed, however, their disagreement with the proposal to reduce the number of characteristics, and in particular, not to include characteristics only needed in single cases. They also expressed their reservation regarding the favoring of quantitative characteristics with a large range of variation as against characteristics with a small range of variation such as "thickness of the leaf." The Working Party agreed to propose to the Technical Committee that in cases where different expressions occur (e.g. "shape of fruit") the predominant expression should be noted in the test reports and any further expression could be noted in the column for remarks and might also be supplemented by a shadowgraph (see document TWF/XV/15 Prov., paragraph 7).

21. The Committee is invited to take the necessary decisions.

Minimum Distances Between Varieties

22. The Working Party discussed the 13 questions mentioned in Part I of the Annex to document CAJ/XIII/2 item by item and came to the following conclusions:

- Questions 1 and 2: The Working Party supported the decisions taken by the Technical Working Party for Vegetables at its seventeenth session, as reproduced in document TC/XX/6.
- Question 3: The Working Party agreed that the characteristics suitable for assessing distinctness were those that were used by breeders or at least correlated with characteristics used during their selection work.
- Question 4(a): The Working Party noted that it would be very difficult to establish any rules which were absolute and strict.
- Question 4(b): The Working Party considered it to be too difficult and rigid to fix in the Test Guidelines the minimum distance for each characteristic.
- Question 5: The Working Party supported the decisions taken by the Technical Working Party for Vegetables as reproduced in document TC/XX/6. It stressed that a characteristic which was not needed, such as resistance against a disease not existing in the State concerned, should not be accepted.
- Question 6: The Working Party agreed that genetic differences which did not result in phenotypical differences should not be taken into account in the examination of characteristics.
- Question 7: The Working Party agreed that characteristics obtained with sophisticated methods, as for example electrophoresis, should not be accepted.
- Question 8: The Working Party agreed that the parent lines of a hybrid candidate variety need not to be examined in each and every case.
- Question 9: The Working Party agreed that also hybrid varieties should continue to be eligible for protection and not the lines alone.
- Question 10: The Working Party agreed that the Test Guidelines were primarily established for describing varieties.
- Question 11: The Working Party supported the decision taken by the Technical Working Party for Vegetables during its seventeenth session as reproduced in document TC/XX/6.
- Question 12: The Working Party agreed that the minimum distance for mutations should not be enlarged. So far it was not possible to prove whether a new variety was a mutation or not.
- Question 13: The Working Party was of the opinion that it would depend on developments in breeding whether the distance within a characteristic could be reduced or whether it would be preferable to look for new characteristics. If, for example, higher homogeneity was achieved in a certain characteristic, a smaller difference might be acceptable for the distinguishing of varieties in that characteristic (see document TWF/XV/15 Prov., paragraph 31).

23. The Committee is invited to note the information given and to consider possible steps to be taken.

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