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

Geneva

# TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY ON AUTOMATION AND COMPUTER PROGRAMS

## Thirtieth Session
## Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, June 26 to 29, 2012

REVISION OF DOCUMENT TGP/8:
PART II: TECHNIQUES USED IN DUS EXAMINATION
New Section – Guidance of Data Analysis for Blind Randomized Trials

*Document prepared by experts from France*

BACKGROUND

1. The Technical Committee, at its forty-eighth session, held in Geneva from March 26 to 28, 2012, agreed that the experts from France should develop guidance on data analysis for blind randomized trials from their experience, including their use of blind randomized trials for disease resistance and other examples (see document TC/48/22 “Report on conclusions” paragraph 60).

2. The blind randomized trials have been used in France for many years in order to:

- confirm some characteristics announced by the applicant;
- check some genetic diseases resistances not officially tested by le Groupe d'étude et de contrôle des variétés et des semences (GEVES).

In cases of difficulties with distinctness after one or two growing cycles, the blind randomized trials have been used to take account of specific adaptations in DUS test, (regional, climatic, etc.).

Preparation of the trial:

- The applicant has the choice to accept or not this possibility;
- Seeds are sent to the applicant under code A, B, C, D, E … (variety in DUS test + closed reference variety + mixture);
- The trial is conducted in the applicant’s facilities;
- The applicant must inform GEVES of the progress of the trial for an eventual visit.

3. In the case of a problem of distinctness, a blind test may be planted in GEVES facilities to avoid identification by other methods (e.g. DNA profiling). The applicant is invited to visit this trial. The protocol of the test is not compulsory but GEVES could ask him and some recommendations are made to the applicant; (number of replications).

Transmission of results:

4. The results are transmitted to GEVES by the applicant as below:

A = Candidate variety
B = Reference variety
C = Mixture
D = Candidate variety
E = Reference variety

5. The fact that the applicant gives good results is a very important point, but not enough. The final decision is always taken by GEVES after analysis of all results. In the case of a distinctness problem, the characteristics used by the applicant to distinguish the varieties must be more or less the same as those observed by GEVES during official cycles.

6. This approach amounts to formalize the results obtained through a non official test.

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