



TWC/30/41

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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****REPORT***prepared by the Office of the Union*Opening of the Session

1. The Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs (TWC) held its thirtieth session in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, from June 26 to 29, 2012. The list of participants is reproduced in Annex I to this report.
2. The TWC was welcomed by Mr. Viorel Gutu, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry of the Republic of Moldova. The welcome address of Mr. Gutu is contained in Annex II to this document. Mrs. Svetlana Munteanu, Deputy Director General of the State Agency on Intellectual Property, also welcomed the participants. The welcome address by Mrs. Munteanu is contained in Annex III to this document.
3. The session was opened by Mr. Sami Markkanen (Finland), Chairperson of the TWC, who welcomed the participants.
4. The TWC received a presentation by Mr. Mihail Machidon, Chairman of the State Commission on Plant Varieties Testing, as contained in Annex IV of this report.

Adoption of the Agenda

5. The TWC adopted the revised agenda as reproduced in document TWC/30/1 Rev., according to the order of agenda items agreed at the session.

Short Reports on Developments in Plant Variety Protection*(a) Reports from members and observers*

6. The TWC noted the information on developments in plant variety protection from members of the Union provided in document TWC/30/37 Prov.. The TWC noted that reports submitted to the Office of the Union during or after the session would be included in document TWC/30/37.

(b) Reports on developments within UPOV

7. The TWC received an oral report from the Office of the Union on the latest developments within UPOV, a copy of which is provided in documents TWC/30/36.

Molecular Techniques

8. The TWC received a report on developments within UPOV concerning molecular techniques, on the basis of document TWC/30/2.

9. In agreement with the Chairperson, the TWC received a presentation “Tools for the Management of Variety Collections” made by an expert from the Netherlands and noted the information on management of reference collections using molecular markers, a copy of which is included in document TWC/30/37.

TGP documents

10. The TWC considered the TGP documents below in conjunction with document TWC/30/3 “TGP Documents” and document TWC/30/40 “Comments by the Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops at its Forty-first Session and the Technical Working Party for Vegetables at its Forty-sixth Session, on Documents to be Considered by the Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs at its Thirtieth Session”.

(a) New TGP document

TGP/15: Guidance on the Use of Biochemical and Molecular Markers in the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS) (document TGP/15)

11. The TWC noted the information contained in document TWC/30/3 and the timetable for the development of document TGP/15.

(b) Revision of TGP documents

TGP/7: Development of Test Guidelines

(i) Summary of revisions agreed for document TGP/7 “Development of Test Guidelines”

12. The TWC considered document TWC/30/11 and noted the information on Part I concerning proposals for revisions on which the TC had reached a conclusion:

- Coverage of ornamental varieties in Test Guidelines
- Selection of asterisked characteristics
- Quantity of plant material required
- Standard references in the Technical Questionnaire
- Applications for varieties with low germination
- Procedure for the development of Test Guidelines

(ii) Revision of document TGP/7: Guidance on Number of Plants to be Examined (for Distinctness)

13. The TWC considered the information provided in document TWC/30/12.

14. The TWC recommended the following changes in paragraph 4 of Annex II:

- The first sentence to read: The following general principles should be taken into account:
- The last sentence to read: In that case it may be possible to include in the trial a lower number of plants for varieties with a clear difference (varieties in the variety collection), provided that uniformity does not have to be assessed for these varieties.

(iii) *Revision of document TGP/7: Guidance for Method of Observation*

15. The TWC considered the information provided in document TWC/30/13 on guidance for method of observation and the indication of observation by measurement for characteristics such as dates and counts, with a view to inclusion in GN 25 “Recommendations for conducting the examination” in document TGP/7. It agreed to propose to modify the text of paragraph 7 to read as follows:

“(b)Number

7. If a characteristic is observed by counting (for example ‘Number of lobes’, observed by counting), the assessment is a measurement (M). If a characteristic is observed by estimation (for example ‘Number of lobes’, observed by estimation), the assessment is a visual observation (V).”

(iv) *Revision of document TGP/7: Example Varieties*

16. The TWC noted the information provided in documents TWC/30/14 and TWC/30/14 Add..

17. The TWC understood the importance of the document and suggested to continue the work on example varieties. It underlined the relevance of example varieties for the preparation of the Technical Questionnaire by the applicant.

18. The TWC highlighted that example varieties should be well known and available on the market. For species cultivated under controlled conditions, such as ornamentals, example varieties might have worldwide importance.

(v) *Revision of document TGP/7: Providing Photographs with the Technical Questionnaire (document TWC/30/15)*

19. The TWC considered document TWC/30/15.

20. The TWC suggested that the following sentence of the proposal for new ASW 16 at Annex should read:

[A photograph provided according to the specified requirements (see [authority reference to be added]) ~~in an appropriate format~~ will help the examination authority to prepare its examination of distinctness in a more efficient way, by giving a visual illustration of the candidate variety which supplements the information provided in the Technical Questionnaire. ...]

TGP/8: Trial Design and Techniques Used in the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability

Revision of document TGP/8: Part I: Trial and Design of Data Analysis, New Section 2: Data to be recorded

21. The TWC considered document TWC/30/16 Rev..

22. The TWC agreed that the document should be considered for approval by the TC after the amendments as follows:

- Section 2.3.3.8.4 the word “less” should be replaced by “fewer”;
- References to TWC documents in the text should be replaced by the appropriate references, if they exist, otherwise TWC suggested to keep the reference to relevant TWC documents;
- To delete “ $E \geq 5$ ” on Table 3 of Annex, ordinal scale line;
- Tables 3 and 4 in the Annex to be updated according to the decision of the TC on recommended degrees of freedom as proposed in documents TWC/30/22 and TWC/30/23 (at least 10, and preferably at least 20).

Revision of document TGP/8: Part I: Trial and Design of Data Analysis, New Section: Minimizing the Variation due to Different Observers

23. The TWC recommended that document TWC/30/24 should be sent for consideration by the TC for incorporation into TGP/8 after amendment in the last sentence of Section 6.1 to read “for systematic differences”.

Revision of document TGP/8: Part I: Trial and Design of Data Analysis, New Section: Reduction of Size of Trials

24. The TWC considered document TWC/30/21 Rev..

25. The TWC agreed that the title of section 1.7 should read “Additional technical detail and example of analysis for distinctness assessment” and to add a first sentence to read “This section is of relevance to the reader interested in technical details”. Section 1.7 was proposed to become 1.6 and section on References to be renumbered as 1.7.

26. The TWC agreed that the document should be considered by the TC for inclusion in the proposed new section on the reduction of the size of the trials in TGP/8 Part I.

Revision of document TGP/8: Part II: Techniques Used in DUS Examination, Section 3: The Combined-Over-Years Criteria (COYD)

27. The TWC considered document TWC/30/23.

28. The TWC clarified that the proposal to reduce the minimum degrees of freedom provided suitable statistical methods for smaller trials, even though 20 degrees of freedom was preferable.

29. The TWC also clarified that Schematic 3.4 on page 39 of document TGP/8/1, Part I: 3 concerned analysis and not test design and therefore it did not need to be changed. The TWC considered that this Schematic was consistent with the proposed changes in degrees of freedom.

Revision of document TGP/8: Part II: Techniques Used in DUS Examination, Section 3, Subsection 3.6: Adapting COYD to special circumstances

30. The TWC considered document TWC/30/20.

31. The TWC agreed that the wording in paragraph 3.6.4.2 should read “groups” instead of “grouping” in the last sentence.

32. The TWC agreed that the text should be included in TGP/8 Part II Section 3 as Subsection 3.6.

Revision of document TGP/8: Part II: Techniques Used in DUS Examination, Section 4: 2x1% Method- Minimum Number of Degrees of Freedom for the 2x1% Method

33. The TWC considered document TWC/30/22.

34. The TWC clarified that the COYD method was preferable over the 2x1% method for assurance that results were consistent and repeatable, as stated under Section 3.2.3 of TGP/8, and in particular bullet point 2 (page 59).

“3.2.3 The main advantages of the COYD method are:

(...)

– it ensures that judgements about distinctness will be reproducible in other seasons; in other words, the same genetic material should give similar results, within reasonable limits, from season-to-season,”

Revision of document TGP/8: Part II: Techniques Used in DUS Examination, New Section 10: Minimum Number of Comparable Varieties for the Relative Variance Method

35. The TWC considered document TWC/30/26 and received a presentation by an expert from Australia via WebEx.

36. The TWC noted the comments made by the TWA and TWV and agreed that Chapter 10.2 should be incorporated in document TGP/8. It requested the drafter to prepare a new draft after checking whether the remaining sections were already covered under section 10 of the TGP/8/1.

Revision of document TGP/8: Part II: Techniques used in DUS Examination, New Section 11: Examining DUS in Bulk Samples

37. The TWC considered document TWC/30/28.

38. The TWC agreed with the proposal of TWV that the loss in comparison between individual tests and different levels of bulking could be evaluated if data from bulk samples were provided.

39. The TWC considered that this guidance would be useful for determination of substances content and electrophoresis and suggested that practical examples of such uses might be provided.

40. The TWC agreed the following editorial changes to the document:

Introduction, first sentence	First sentence to replace "part" by "parts"
Introduction, last sentence	to replace "3" by "3 bulk samples"
Paragraph 2, last line	to delete "exclude" (duplication)
Testing for uniformity	to read mean of the characteristic
Paragraph 2	to read "based on the logarithm"
Paragraph 4	to replace "have" for "has"
Paragraph 4	to replace "consequences" for "consequence"
Paragraph 4	to delete "that" (duplication)
Paragraph 4	to read "recommended"
Page 2, second line	to read "as long as there is at least one"
Examples, first line	to read "observations"
Last paragraph	to read "random variation, the effect of ..."
Page 3, paragraph below table	to improve wording

Revision of document TGP/8: Part II: Techniques Used in DUS Examination", New Section: Data Processing for the Assessment of Distinctness and for Producing Variety Descriptions

41. The TWC received a presentation made by the Office of the Union on "Transformation of measurements into notes for variety descriptions: summary of different approaches", a copy of which is contained in document TWC/30/30 Add..

42. The TWC noted the information provided in documents TWC/30/30 and TWC/30/30 Add. and agreed that the experts from Finland, Italy and the United Kingdom would support the Office of the Union to summarize the different approaches for further developing common guidance on data processing for the assessment of distinctness and for producing variety descriptions.

43. The TWC agreed that experts from the United Kingdom in cooperation with experts from France and Germany should conduct a practical exercise. The exercise would be to process a common data set to produce variety descriptions in order to determine the aspects in common and where there was divergence among the methods.

44. The TWC considered document TWC/30/32 on handling measured quantitative characteristics for vegetable and herbage crops tested in the United Kingdom and noted the updated information in the method for data processing for the assessment of distinctness and producing variety descriptions as requested by TWC at its twenty-ninth session.

Revision of document TGP/8: Part II: Techniques Used in DUS Examination, New Section: Guidance of Data Analysis for Blind Randomized Trials

45. The TWC considered document TWC/30/17.
46. The TWC agreed with the further development of the document and recommended that it should be made more general so as to apply to all possible users, e.g. to remove the mention to GEVES.
47. The TWC requested that further clarifications be provided for paragraphs 2, 4 and 5.
48. Further guidance provided by the document should include information on the number of replications to ensure that correct labeling of the variety by chance would not be likely.

Revision of document TGP/8: Part II: Techniques Used in DUS Examination, New Section: Guidance for Development of Variety Descriptions

49. The TWC considered document TWC/30/18.
50. The TWC noted that the situation described in paragraph 5 did not cover all methods used by members of the Union and should be revised.
51. The TWC agreed to remove the references to COYD, as suggested by the TWA.
52. It was also agreed that the paragraph 7.2 should recommend that descriptions of varieties (tested in more than one growing cycle) should be made from results obtained from the same location in order to reduce variation.
53. The TWC agreed that this document should be further developed taking into account the comments provided by other TWPs.

Revision of document TGP/8: Part II: Techniques Used in DUS Examination", New Section: Statistical Methods for Visually Observed Characteristics

54. The TWC considered documents TWC/30/19 and TWC/30/29.
55. The TWC noted the changes introduced in document TWC/30/29 and agreed that new examples should be requested from Italy (Beetroot) and other countries for preparation of a new draft of the document for the TWPs sessions in 2013.
56. The TWC requested the drafter to check if variety Q in the table 2, page 3, was variety T and to provide more explanations on the first paragraph of page 4 of document TWC/30/29. The TWC also requested that statistics F3 and F4 be described.
57. The TWC considered the information provided in document TWC/30/29 and received a presentation by an expert from Denmark.
58. The TWC agreed the following editorial changes to document TWC/30/29:

Heading of Annex	to read "TWC"
Page 4, first paragraph	to change "form" to read "from"
Page 4, first paragraph	to read "significantly" (in two places)
Page 4, first paragraph	to read "P-value" and "always"
Page 7	to read "varieties E and H have..."

TGP/14: Glossary of Terms Used in UPOV Documents

- (i) *Revisions of existing Sections of document TGP/14: Section 2: Botanical Terms, Subsection 2: Shapes and Structures*

59. The TWC considered documents TWC/30/27 and TWC/30/40.

60. With regard to the guidance on use of composite characteristics for determining distinctness and uniformity contained in the Annex V to document TWC/30/27, the TWC suggested that the heading of the second bullet point should read “provide additional information over that of its components”.

- (ii) *Revision of Document TGP/14: Section 2: Botanical Terms, Subsection 3: Color*

61. The TWC considered document TWC/30/25.

62. The TWC suggested that the respective RHS colour be included in each of the photographs that were introduced in the document.

UPOV Information Databases

63. The TWC noted the information provided in document TWC/30/5.

64. With regard to Annex III “UPOV Codes to be checked by authorities”, the TWC noted that experts of TWP’s would provide comments to the Office of the Union by August 31, 2012.

65. The TWC received a presentation on the PLUTO database by Mr. Glenn Mac Stravic, Head of the WIPO Brand Database Unit, via WebEx. The TWC requested information on whether data could be provided in non-Latin alphabets, such as Cyrillic, for the PLUTO database*.

Variety description databases

66. The TWC noted the information provided in document TWC/30/6 and in a presentation prepared by an expert from France, as contained in document TWC/30/6 Add..

67. The TWC agreed that the work on the project for the Pea Database should be continued and requested to receive information on further developments at its thirty-first session.

Exchangeable software

68. The TWC considered documents TWC/30/7 and TWC/30/35.

69. The TWC noted information in document TWC/30/7 and commented that the conditions of availability of exchangeable software should be clarified, such as the need for translation, training, maintenance and costs for potential users before taking a view on its inclusion to the list.

70. The TWC agreed that the title of the document “Exchangeable Software” should be remained.

71. The TWC noted document TWC/30/35 “Information System (IS) used for Test and Protection of Plant Varieties in the Russian Federation”. In the absence of experts from the Russian Federation, an expert of Belarus reported on the experience of use of this software in Belarus.

* Document TWC/30/5 “UPOV Information Databases”, paragraph 27 explains “The CAJ agreed that the Office of the Union should explore options for contributors to the Plant Variety Database to provide data in the original alphabet, in addition to the data being provided in Latin alphabet. It was agreed that all data would still be required in Latin alphabet and that a suitable encoding standard would be proposed for data provided in non-Latin alphabet (see document CAJ/64/11 “Report on the Conclusions”, paragraph 30).”

72. The TWC agreed that the software presented by the Russian Federation in document TWC/30/35 was suitable for inclusion in the list of exchangeable software, with a remark that it would be available in the Russian language.

Electronic application systems

73. The TWC noted the information provided in document TWC/30/8.

Web Based TG Template

74. The TWC received a presentation on a project concept for a web-based TG Template for drafters of Test Guidelines.

75. The TWC supported the initiative and the continuation of work on the TG Template.

Variety Denominations

76. The TWC noted the information provided in document TWC/30/4.

Image Analysis

77. The TWC received a presentation on the AIM software on management of image analysis, made by an expert from France, as reproduced in document TWC/30/31. It noted the features of the AIM software, currently available in French, and that it could be made available free of charge by its developer (*Group for Study and Control of Varieties and Seeds* (GEVES)). The TWC suggested that training on use of this software and its translation into English would be essential for wide use. It also agreed that this software could be included in the list of exchangeable software.

78. The TWC requested the Office of the Union to help translate the software into English.

79. The TWC also received a presentation by an expert from the Netherlands on "Survey on Software and Hardware used for Image Analysis", which is reproduced in document TWC/30/39. The TWC agreed that information from France and Finland should be included in this document.

80. The TWC agreed that a draft for New Section 12 - Examining Characteristics Using Image Analysis for document TGP/8 "Trial Design and Techniques Used in the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability" would be prepared by an expert from the Netherlands with collaboration of an expert from the European Union for the TWP sessions in 2013.

Data Loggers

81. The TWC noted the information provided in document TWC/30/34. It recommended that the information should be revised on the basis of a new circular to be issued by the Office of the Union inviting further entries in advance of the thirty-first session of the TWC.

Assessing uniformity by off-types on the basis of more than one sample or sub samples

82. The TWC considered document TWC/30/9.

83. The TWC noted the need for further explanation on the situations described, such as the clarification of whether two growing cycles related to the use of the same sample and were carried out in the same year. The TWC agreed that more detailed information and further analysis were needed in order to give guidance on consequences on the use of the different approaches.

84. The TWC agreed that France, Germany and the Netherlands would present one or more concrete situations in their countries and the statistical basis of their analysis for its next session.

85. The TWC agreed that the statistical basis for the acceptable number of off-types in the subsample of 20 plants used in the context of a sample size of 100 plants (situation D) would be assessed by experts from France and Germany.

Development of COY

86. The TWC took note of the information contained in document TWC/30/10 and requested experts from Denmark and the United Kingdom to prepare a document on possible proposals for the improvement of COYU for consideration by the TWC at its next session.

Statistical analysis of categorical data

87. The TWC received a presentation of document TWC/30/38 made by an expert from China and noted that the F-test was not used in this context by other TWC experts.

88. The TWC noted that China has developed a program for DUS analysis named DUSA.

Database for researching TWC documents

89. The TWC received a CD, prepared by the experts from Germany, containing a database to search for TWC working documents.

Webcasting of UPOV sessions

90. The TWC considered document TWC/30/33 and received an oral presentation by the Office of the UPOV. It noted that during its thirtieth session it had used WebEx to facilitate electronic communication with experts in Australia and Geneva.

Technical Visit

91. On the afternoon of June 28, 2012, the TWC visited Grape and Wine Production Enterprise Chateau Vartely, in Orhei, Republic of Moldova.

Future Program, Date and Place of the Next Session

92. The TWC agreed to hold its thirty-first session in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from June 4 to 7, 2013, with the preparatory workshop on June 3, 2013. During the thirty-first session, the TWC planned to discuss the following items:

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Short reports on developments in plant variety protection:
 - (a) Reports from members and observers (reports by the participants)
 - (b) Reports on developments within UPOV (report by the Office of the Union)
4. Molecular techniques (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union and documents invited)
5. TGP documents
6. Information and databases

- (a) UPOV information databases (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union and documents invited)
 - (b) Variety description databases (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union and documents invited)
 - (c) Exchangeable software (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union and documents invited)
 - (d) Electronic application systems (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union and documents invited)
- 7. Variety denominations (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
 - 8. Data loggers (document to be prepared by the Office of the Union)
 - 9. Image analysis (document prepared by the Netherlands and European Union and documents invited)
 - 10. Assessing uniformity by off-types on the basis of more than one sample or sub-samples (documents to be prepared by France, Germany and the Netherlands)
 - 11. Development of COY
COYU: possible proposals for improvements to COYU (document to be prepared by Denmark and United Kingdom)
 - 12. Statistical analysis of categorical data (document to be prepared by China and the United Kingdom and documents invited)
 - 13. Webcasting of UPOV Sessions
 - 14. Database for researching TWC documents (documents invited)
 - 15. Date and place of the next session
 - 16. Future program

Closing remarks

93. The Director General of the State Agency on Intellectual Property (AGEPI), Ms. Lilia Bolocan, addressed the TWC for closing remarks and congratulated the participants for a very fruitful meeting.

94. The TWC adopted this report at the close of the session.

[Annex I follows]

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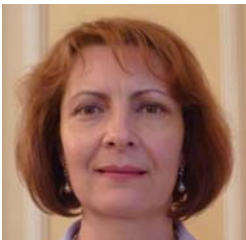
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REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

State Agency on Intellectual Property (AGEPI)



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Ala GUŞAN, Director, Inventions and Plant Varieties Department



Maria ROJNEVSCHI, Director, IP Promotion and Publishing Department



Natalia NADIOJCHINA, Senior expert, Agro-Industrial Techniques Division



Nicolae DIMOV, Head, Database Programming and Administration Division

Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry



Viorel GUȚU, Vice Minister



Mihail MACHIDON, Chairman, State Commission on Plant Varieties Testing (SCPVT)



Gheorghe PLOȘNIȚĂ, Vice Chairman SCPVT



Vasile GUȘAN, Senior Researcher-Experimentator in field crops, SCPVT



Aurelia TROFIM, Senior Researcher-Experimentator in multiannual crops, SCPVT



Vasile POJOGA, Director, Institute of Plant Growing, Porumbeni



Pintilie BOROZAN, Chief of laboratory, Institute of Plant Growing, Porumbeni



Silvia MISTREȚ, Scientific secretary, Institute of Plant Growing, Porumbeni



Angela PATLATÎ, Scientific secretary (DUS testing– corn), Institute of Plant Growing, Porumbeni



Serghei TITU, Senior Scientific Researcher, Research Institute for Field Crops
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Maria IACOBUȚĂ, Scientific Researcher, Research Institute for Field Crops “Selecția”, Bălți



Radu COZMIC, Senior Scientific Researcher (DUS testing– fruit crops), Institute of Horticulture and Food Technology



Andrei LAZARIUC, Senior Scientific Researcher, Institute of Horticulture and Food Technology

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Milania MACOVEI, Senior Scientific Researcher (vegetable crops), Institute of Genetics and Plants Physiology



Nadejda MIHNEA, Senior Scientific Researcher (DUS testing – vegetable crops), Institute of Genetics and Plants Physiology



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[no photo]

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[Annex II follows]

WELCOME ADDRESS

BY MR. VIOREL GUȚU
VICE MINISTER
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD INDUSTRY
Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, June 26, 2012

Misses and Masters, honorable assistance.

We are happy to greet, on behalf of Ministry of agriculture and food industry of the Republic of Moldova, the presence of all participants at the thirtieth session of the Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs of UPOV, which runs at Chișinău. We are happy that the UPOV office found necessary to organize the works of these session in our country, a country with beautiful traditions in the domain of agriculture and with aspirations in continuous developing of this section.

Integration in the European Community is a priority for our country, and the promotion of the European values in common with international values, needs compliance of certain principles and rules.

One of these values is the creation and promotion of crops variety with potential of high production. This would satisfy ensuring of the population with food.

The movement of seeds on planting material is more related with uniform rules that would satisfy the interests of all concerned in the creation and promotion of seed. I am referring here at the legal framework of UPOV, OECD and ISTA.

So, is emerging a close connection between these international organizations and becomes more clearly that the promotion on international market of autochthonous crops may be real only accepting the game rules of this organizations.

During approximately fourteen years we are in the big family of UPOV Convention. In this time we managed to get the extension of legal protection to all plant species, grown in Moldova. In 2008 the Moldovan Parliament adopted a new edition of the Law on Protection of Plant Varieties, harmonized according to the requirements of international organizations.

I can say, the entire period of development and approval of the Law on Protection of Plant Varieties, we headed the UPOV Convention requirements, by current regulations and legal practices of developed countries in this field. During this time we had and still have all the support of UPOV Office staff, for which we express our deep gratitude and sincere thanks.

It is an honor for us to be members of this organization and activity of the State Commission for Testing of Plant Varieties, responsible for this area is directed to continue learning new methods and techniques related to technical examination of varieties cultivated in order to provide legal protection in Moldova, according to international standards. In this context I would mention the priority to be near other countries, members of UPOV with a rich experience in the domain you are going to analyze it in this session.

Opportunity to obtain good results have made the Republic of Moldova very attractive for originative institutions of hybrids and varieties from all over the world. This is demonstrated by the Register of Plant Varieties.

I wish to inform you that, in June to July, 2008, Republic of Moldova adhered at the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) and at the Seed production schemes within the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

At the compartment of legal protection, the priority is for local breeders.

I believe that, currently, are created all the prerequisites for Implementation of the most competitive in the international circuit varieties in Moldova's agricultural production and which will be provided adequate legal protection.

In the same time, ameliorators of varieties of Moldova wish to direct research programs in creating competitive varieties for inclusion not only in the Moldavian Register of Plant Varieties, but also in Catalogue of the European Union and in others countries.

I wish you success in your work to the benefit of the country you represent, and to all members of UPOV.

[Annex III follows]

WELCOME ADDRESS

BY MS. SVETLANA MUNTEANU
DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL
STATE AGENCY ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, June 26, 2012

Esteemed Mr. President of the Working Party,
Esteemed Mr. Vice-Minister,
Esteemed Mr. President of the State Commission for Variety Testing,
Honored guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me on behalf of the State Agency on Intellectual Property (AGEPI), of Mrs. Lilia Bolocan, Director General of AGEPI and on my own, to welcome you cordially on the Moldovan land, to wish you a warm "Welcome" and success in conducting the UPOV Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs.

Moldova joined the UPOV Convention in 1998, but for the first time hosts the works of a Technical Working Party of this international organization. As a country with developed agriculture, plant variety protection is an area of increased interest for the Republic of Moldova. Today our country has a normative basis harmonized with EU legislation in this area and an appropriate institutional framework for plant variety protection. AGEPI, jointly with the State Commission for Variety Testing carries out the country's policy in the field of legal protection of new plant varieties, these two bodies represent Moldova in the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), and other international and regional organizations for the protection of plant varieties, cooperating with them bilaterally and multilaterally.

After the adoption, in 1996, of the legal framework for the protection of plant varieties, so far, AGEPI received in total 294 applications, including 16 - from foreign applicants. After preliminary examination undertaken by AGEPI, 268 applications were submitted to the State Commission for the technical examination of variety material as to its compliance with the criteria for patentability (DUS). Based on the results of technical examination undertaken by the State Commission, AGEPI adopted 102 decisions to grant a patent, including 5 - to foreign owners, issued 91 patents and rejected for various reasons 30 patent applications and other 40 applications were deemed withdrawn or not submitted.

To promote the plant variety protection system, AGEPI, in collaboration with the State Commission, organizes seminars, publishes various information materials for breeders on the *sui generis* plant variety protection system. UPOV also contributed to training of breeders from the

Republic of Moldova and here I would mention the Regional Seminar “Legal Protection of New Plant Varieties in the Eurasian Space”, which took place in 2009.

It is encouraging that in recent years the interest in both the protection of plant varieties and the need to respect IP rights increased in the Republic of Moldova. But, only a robust protection of rights can offer the owners the opportunity to recover their investments in developing a variety and obtain benefits. At the same time, more and more farmers are interested in using the new varieties of plants legally, respecting IP rights in the import-export procedures. Here I would just cite two examples in this respect: recently, in Cahul, in the south of the Republic of Moldova, has carried out its works the Second Cross-border Agricultural Forum Romania – Republic of Moldova entitled “Use of Opportunities and Management of Common Vulnerabilities in Agriculture”, attended by farmers and representatives of the central and local public authorities from both countries. In this event AGEPI representatives disseminated information among farmers about the national intellectual property protection system, including the need to protect new plant varieties. Another event will take place this week: in Balti, in the north of the country, will take place the meeting in the territory of the Supreme Council for Science and Technological Development of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, in which will also be discussed issues related to the creation, approval and implementation of varieties and hybrids of field crops in the Republic of Moldova.

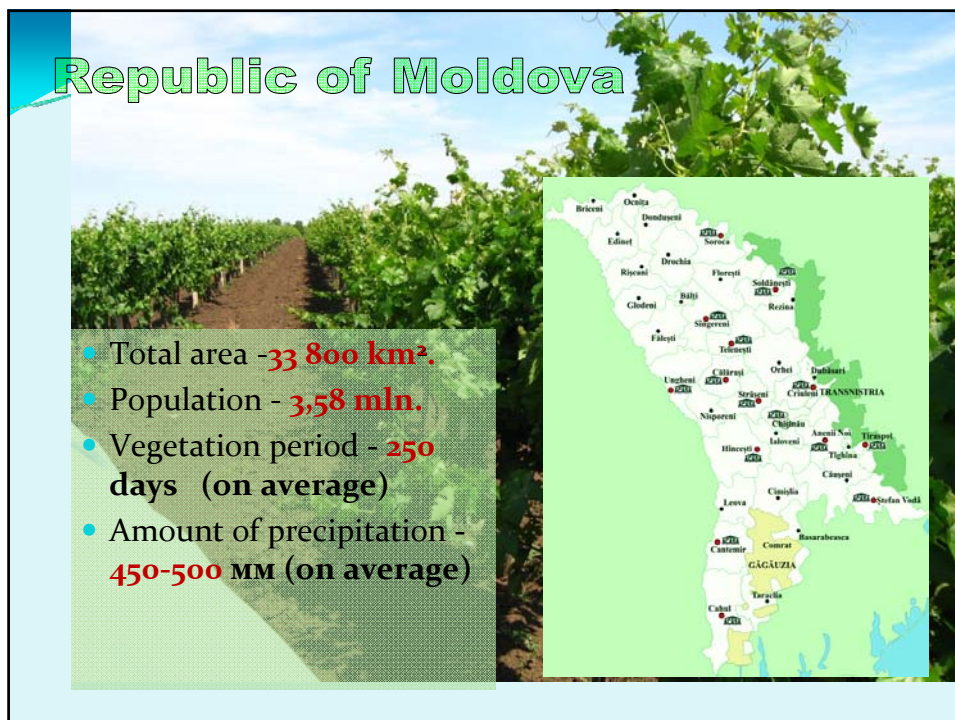
Returning to today's event - session of the UPOV Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs - I would like to point out the complexity and the diversity of issues included in the program of works. The digital age and globalization have also concerned the field of legal protection of new plant varieties, being necessary the development of tools appropriate to today's requirements, designed to ensure effective exchange of information, such as databases that include descriptions and images of characteristics of new varieties, etc., programs for statistical data analysis, electronic document filing systems, etc. It is indeed a very technical session, attended by experts in the field from 19 members of UPOV and we can say with certainty that the results of works will be of paramount importance and we are waiting for them with great interest.

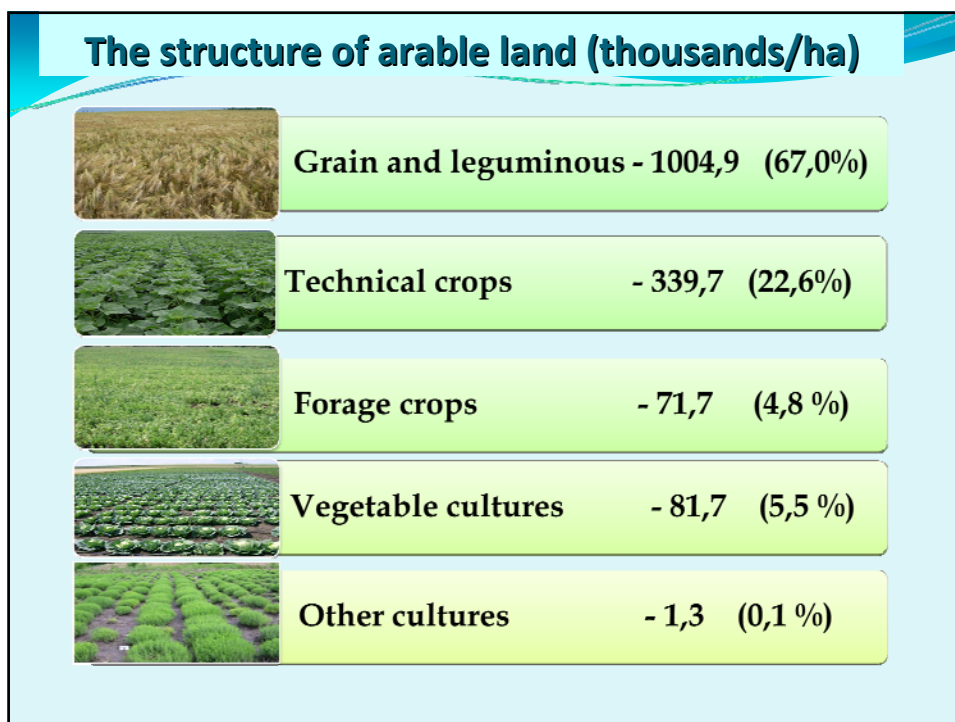
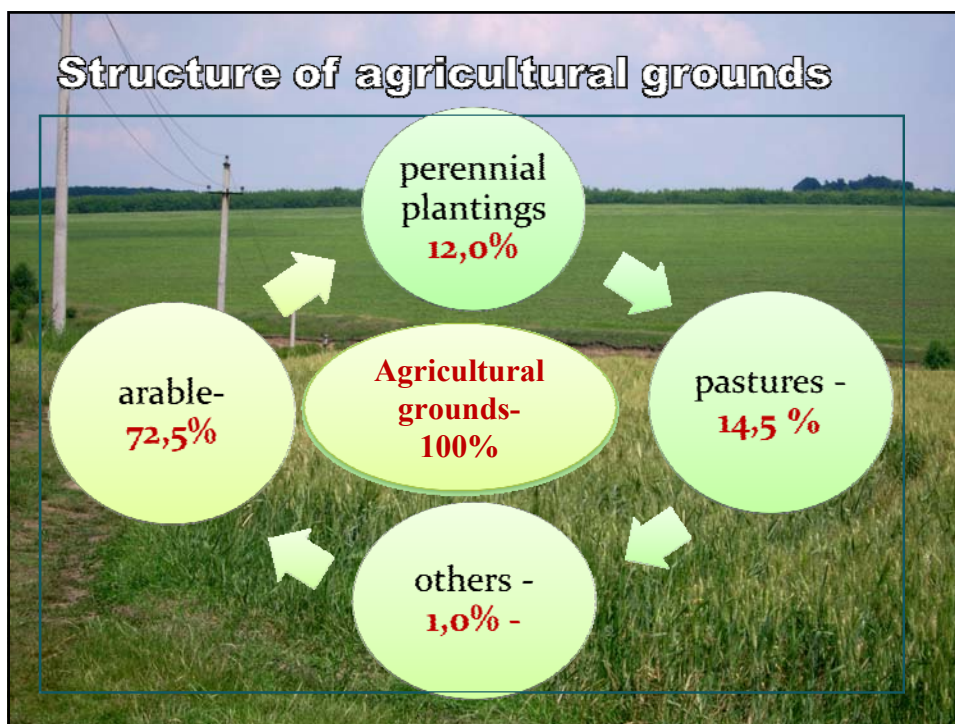
Honorable Audience,

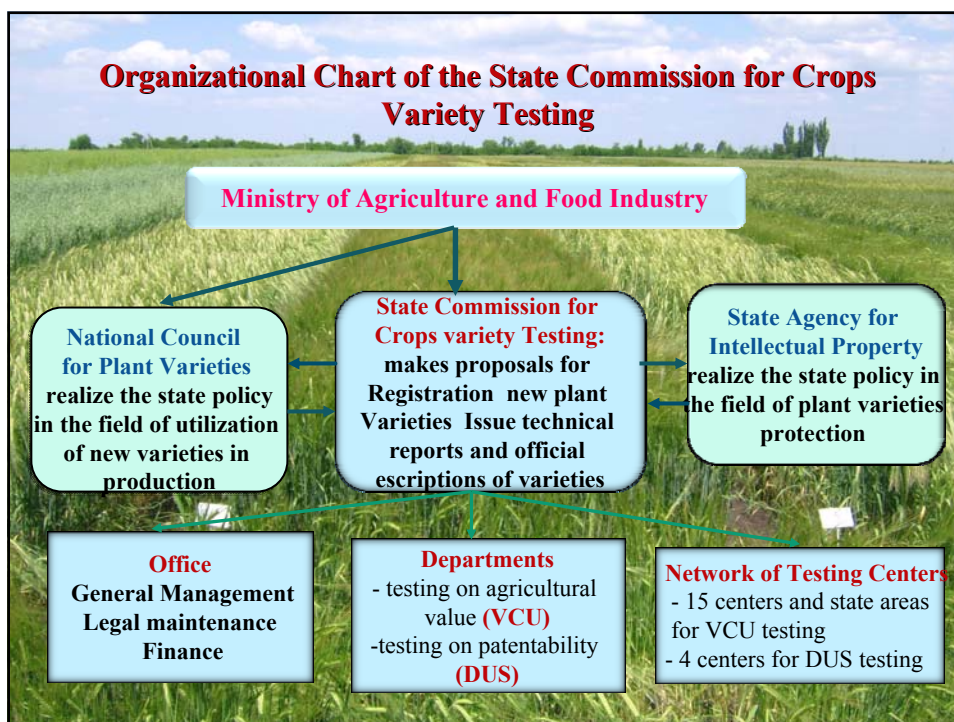
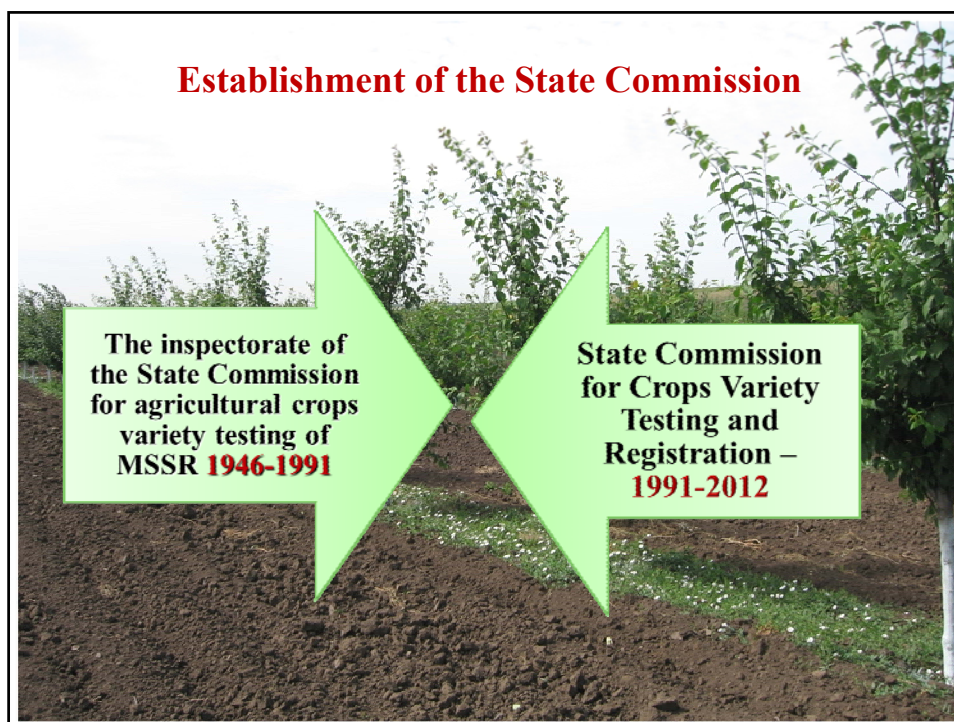
Let me once again wish success in carrying out the session works, and guests from abroad - a pleasant stay in the Republic of Moldova.

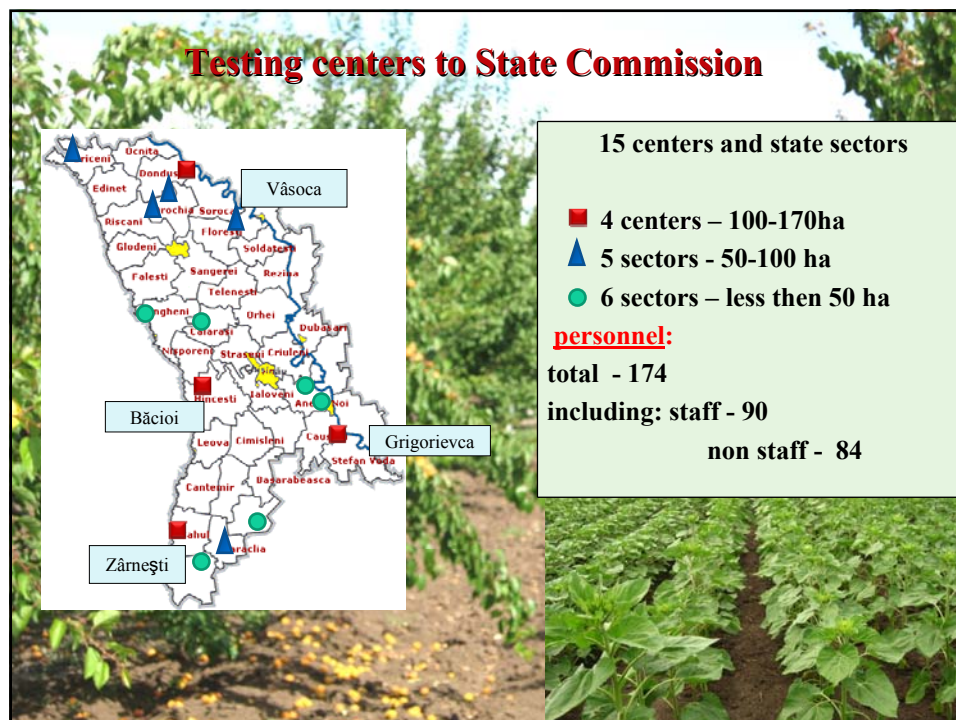
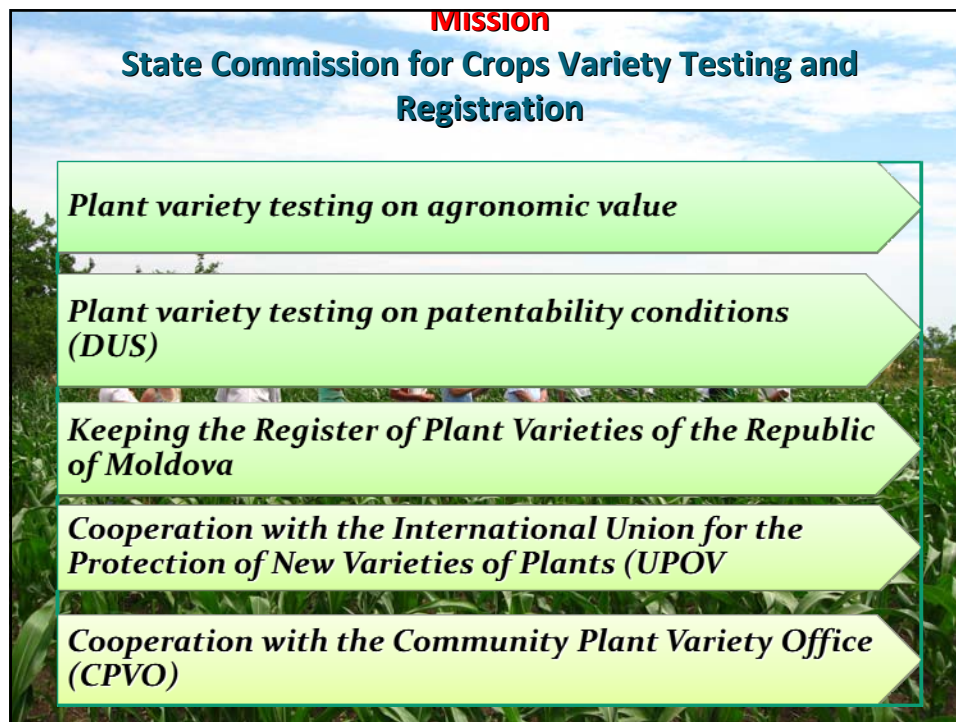
[Annex IV follows]

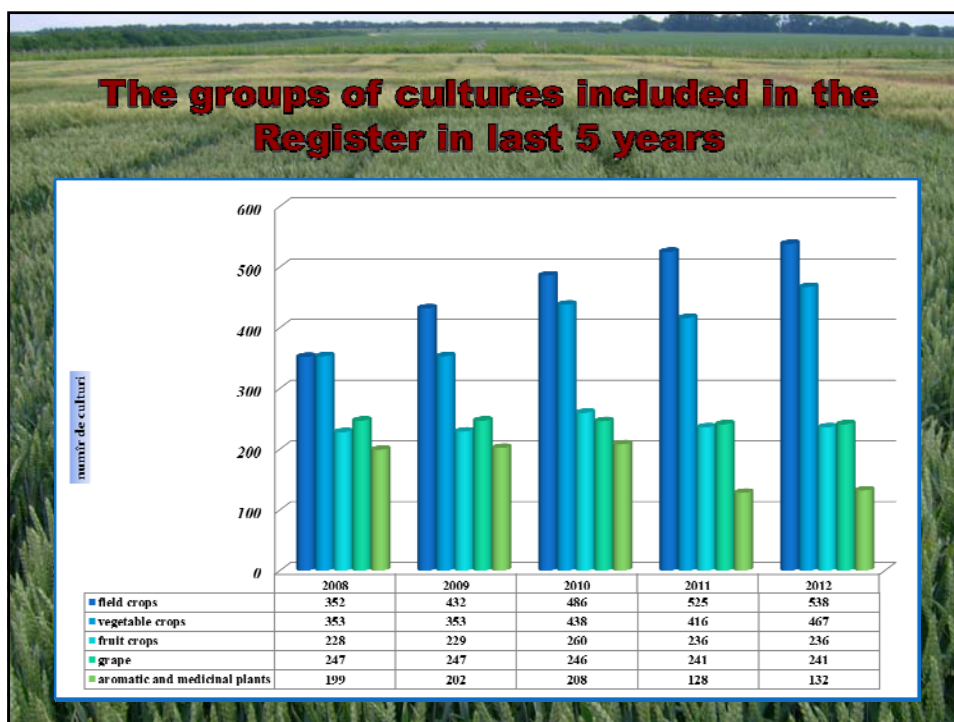
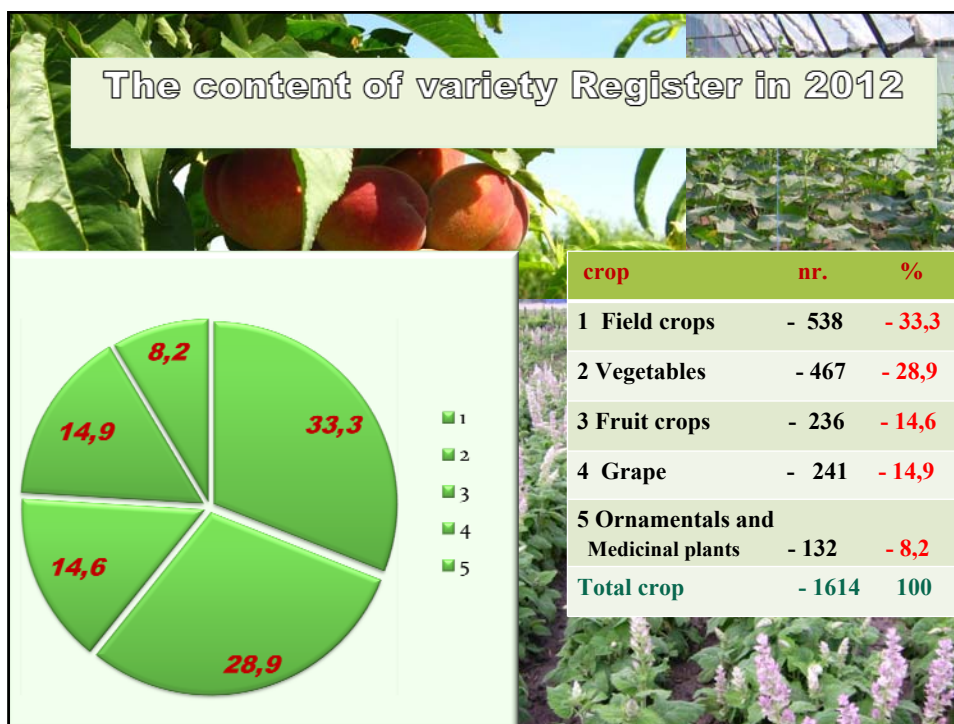
PRESENTATION BY MR. MIHAIL MACHIDON, CHAIRMAN, STATE COMMISSION ON
PLANT VARIETIES TESTING, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD INDUSTRY
Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, June 26, 2012



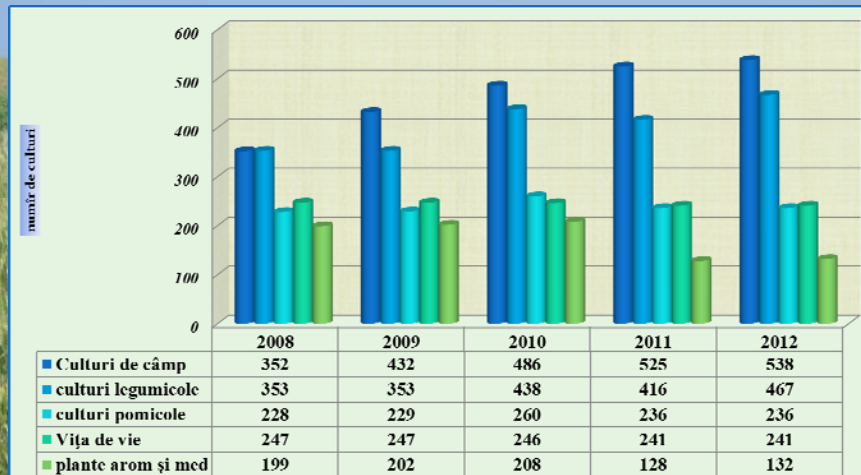








Share varieties included in the Register as group of cultures



Legislation in force on plant variety protection in the Republic of Moldova

Law no. 915 - XIII on
the protection of
plant varieties ,
adopted on 11.07
1996

G.D. №. 1355 – XII of
22.10.1997, R.Moldova. has
acceded to the Inter-
national Convention for
the Protection of New
Varieties of Plants

October, 28. 1998 - the
UPOV Union has notified
the adherence of the
Republic of Moldova to
the UPOV Convention.

Governme
ntal
Decision
of the
Republic
of
Moldova

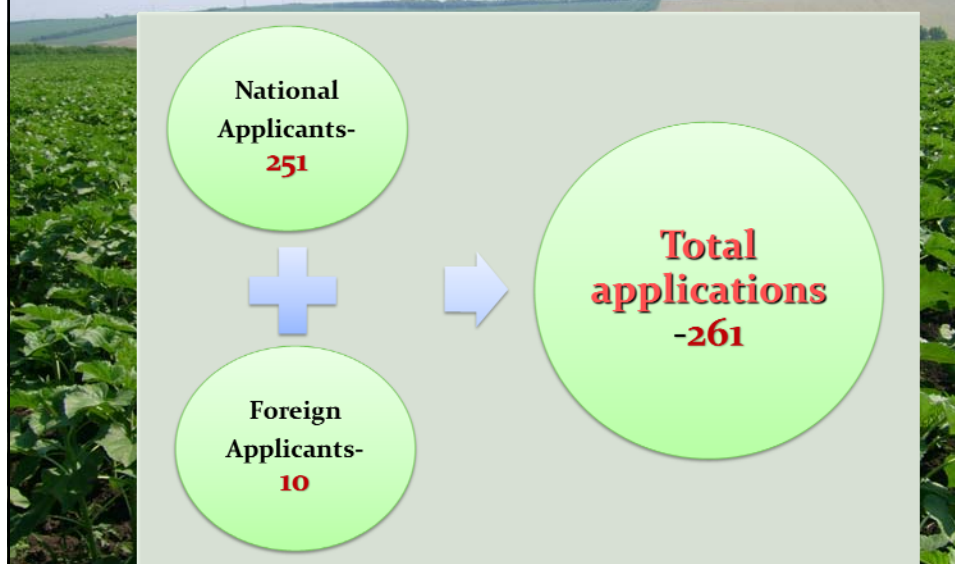
By the G. D. of the Republic of Moldova nr. 1176 in December 7, 1998 was
ensured the legal protection for corn, sunflower, plum, grape, sweet pepper
and 10 varieties of ornamental plants

By the G. D. of the Republic of Moldova no. 1174 in November 20, 2000,
extended the protection for 9 fruit crops

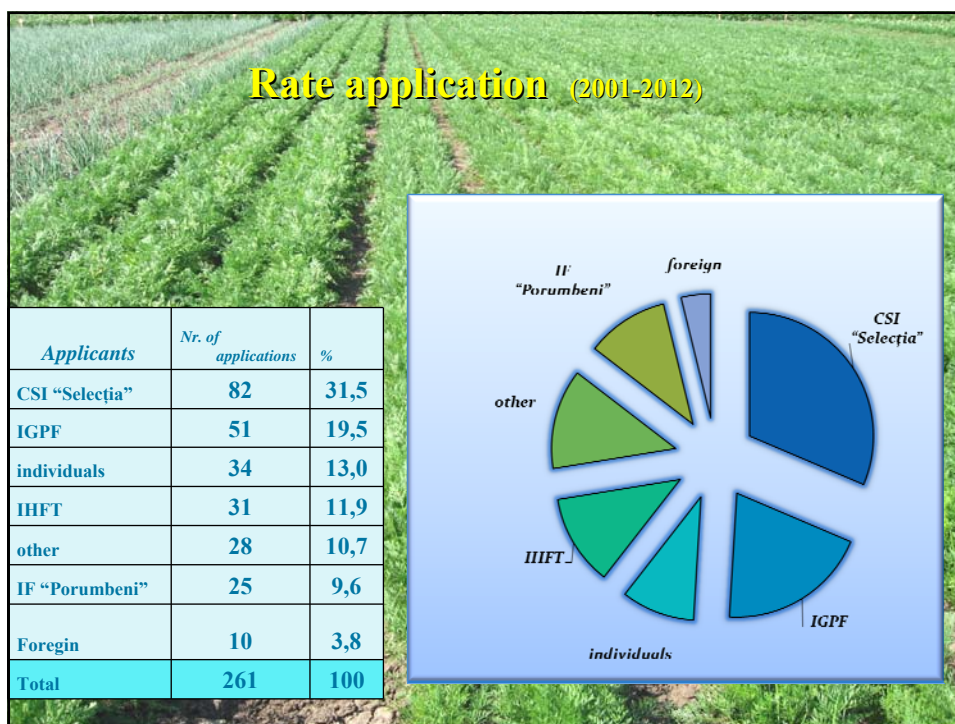
By the G D of the Republic of Moldova no. 773 in July 3, 2007, the plant
protection is extended to all species and genera of plants that could be
cultivated on the territory of the Republic of Moldova

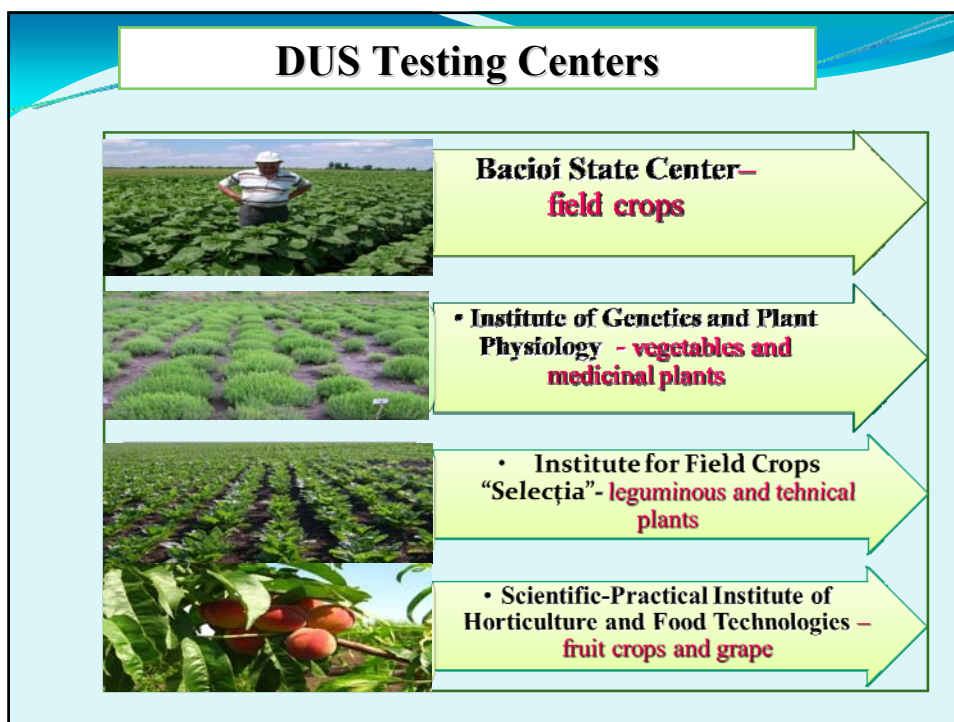
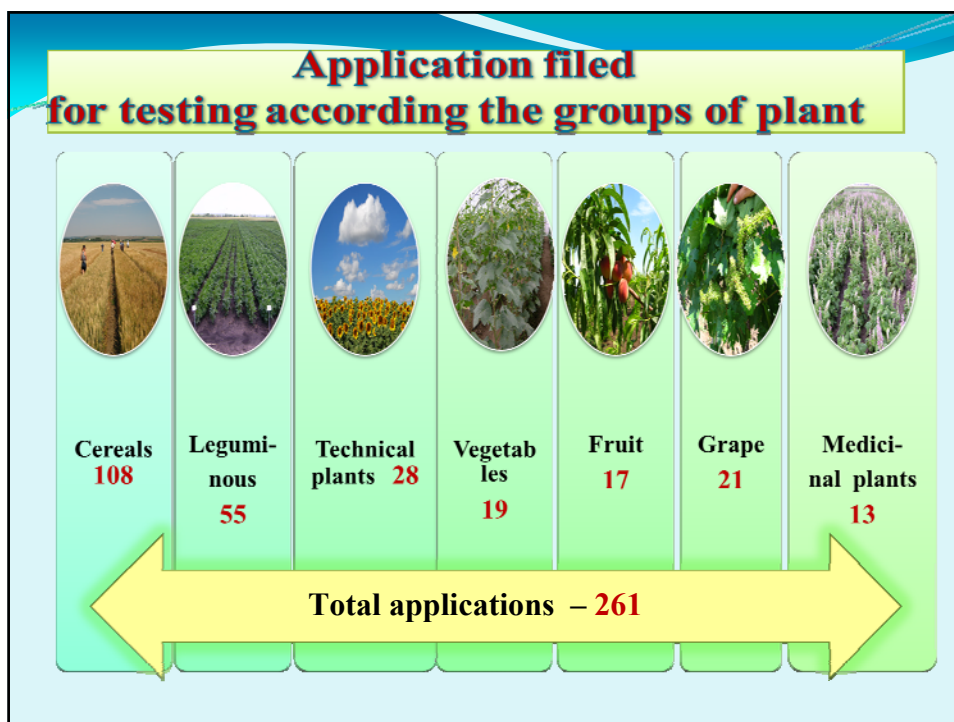
**Law No. 39 - XVI/29.02.2008 on plant variety rights, harmonized with:
UPOV Convention, Council Regulations (EC) and European Parliament
Directives, TRIPS, the Cartagena Protocol**

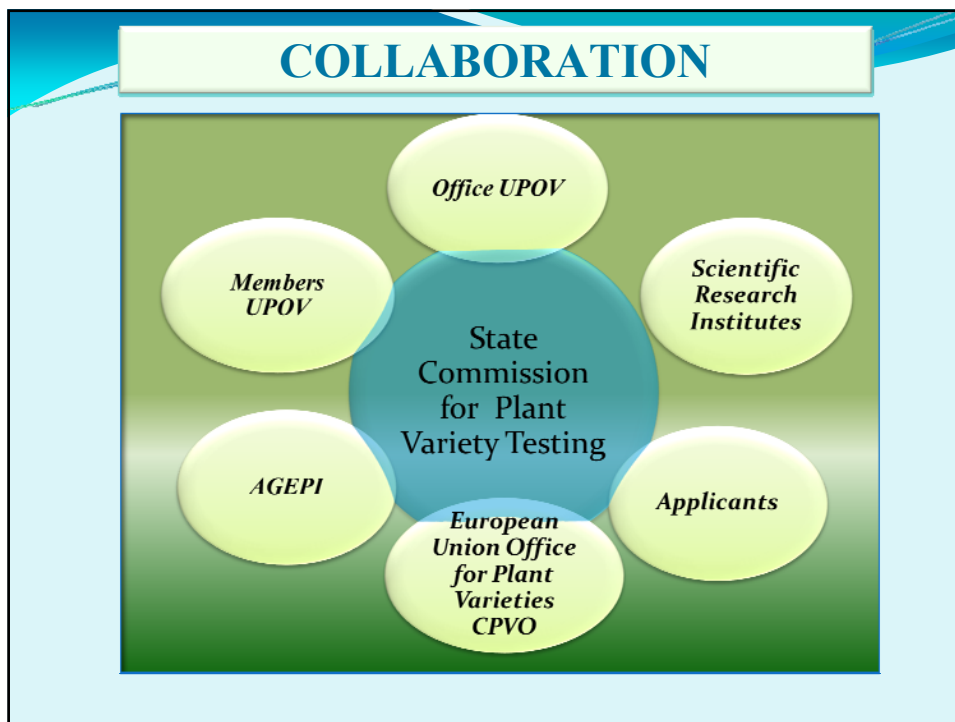
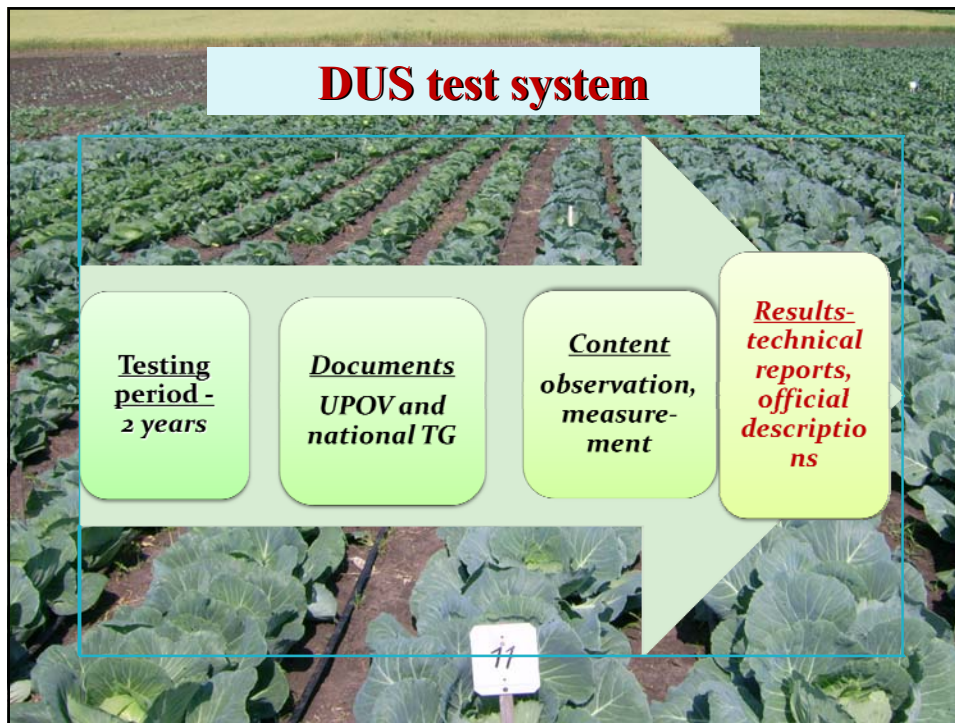
**Applications received by the State Commission for
technical examination during 2001-2012 years**

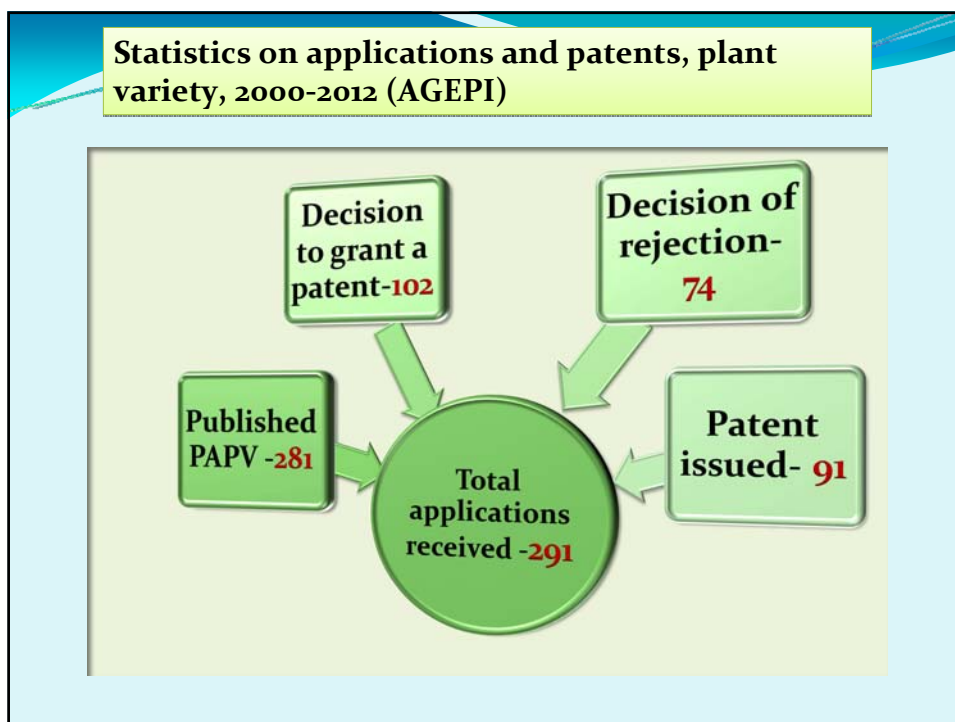
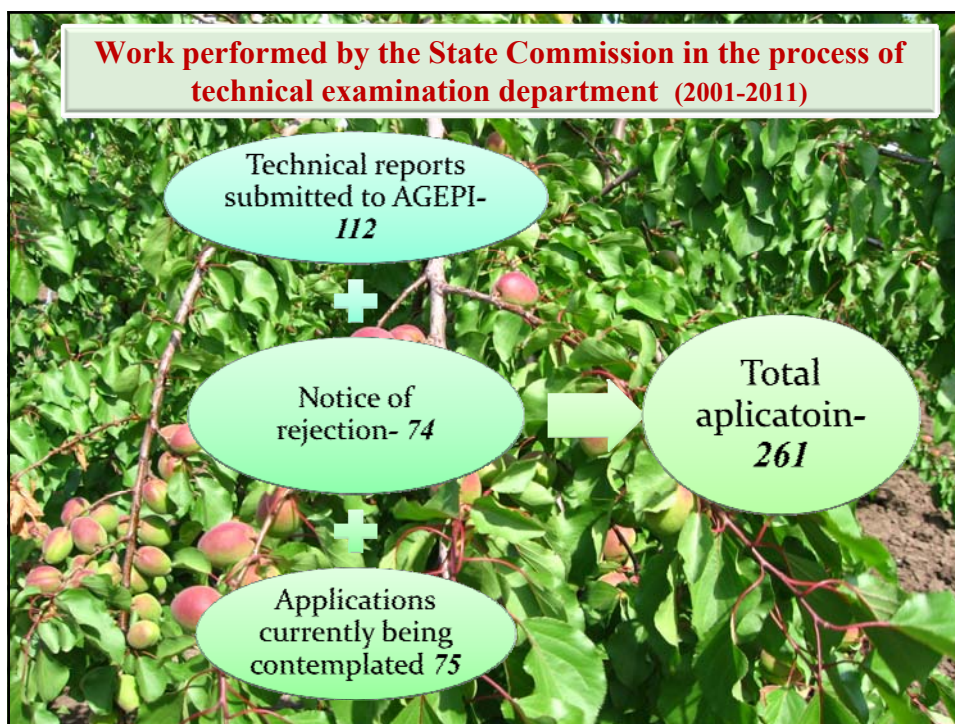


Rate application (2001-2012)









Commission methodical activities



**Administrative and Legal
Committee (CAJ 45),
Geneva, 2011**







