



TWO/48/6

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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

Geneva

TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY FOR ORNAMENTAL PLANTS AND FOREST TREES

Forty-Eighth Session

Cambridge, United Kingdom, September 14 to 18, 2015

VARIETY DESCRIPTION DATABASES

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this document is to report on developments since the fifty-first session of the Technical Committee (TC), concerning variety description databases.
2. The TWO is invited to note that:
 - (a) the TWC has invited an expert from China to present the analysis of variance for the interaction “variety x location” (environment) of the QN characteristics considered in the study using the statistical module of the new software “DUSTC” developed by China for presentation at its thirty-third session;
 - (b) the TC agreed to include a discussion item on facilitating the development of databases at its fifty-second session.
3. The structure of this document is as follows:

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The following abbreviations are used in this document:

TC:	Technical Committee
TC-EDC:	Enlarged Editorial Committee
TWA:	Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops
TWC:	Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs
TWF:	Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops
TWO:	Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees
TWPs:	Technical Working Parties
TWV:	Technical Working Party for Vegetables

BACKGROUND

5. At its forty-fifth session, held in Geneva from March 30 to April 1, 2009, the Technical Committee (TC) noted from the developments reported in document TC/45/9 “Publication of Variety Descriptions” that

members of the Union were developing databases containing morphological and/or molecular data and, where considered appropriate, were collaborating in the development of databases for the management of variety collections, particularly on a regional basis. The TC agreed that it could be beneficial to offer the possibility for members of the Union to report on that work in a coherent way to the TC, the Technical Working Parties (TWPs) and the Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques and DNA Profiling in Particular (BMT). On that basis, the TC agreed to replace the agenda item "Publication of variety descriptions" with an item for "Variety description databases" on the agendas of the forthcoming sessions of the TC, TWPs and the BMT. In that respect, it recalled the importance of the list of criteria for consideration for the use of descriptions obtained from different locations and sources as set out in document TC/45/9, paragraph 3. The TC also agreed that the information presented would not need to be related to the publication of descriptions (see document TC/45/16 "Report", paragraph 173).

6. Developments prior to 2015 are presented in document TC/51/9 "Variety description databases".

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2015

7. The TC at its fifty-first session, held in Geneva from March 23 to 25, 2015, considered document TC/51/9 "Variety description databases" and noted the developments on variety description databases and, in particular, that (see document TC/51/39 "Report", paragraphs 211 to 213):

- (a) the TWO had agreed that it would not be appropriate to develop a database for an ornamental species at this time; and
- (b) the TWC had invited an expert from China to present the analysis of variance for the interaction "variety x location" (environment) of the QN characteristics considered in the study using the statistical module of the new software "DUSTC" developed by China for presentation at its thirty-third session.

8. The TC noted the importance of databases for UPOV members and agreed that it would be useful to include a discussion item on facilitating the development of databases at the fifty-second session of the Technical Committee. On this basis the draft agenda agreed for the fifty-second session of the TC, to be held in Geneva in 2016, anticipates discussion on facilitating development of databases.

9. *The TWO is invited to note that:*

(a) the TWC has invited an expert from China to present the analysis of variance for the interaction "variety x location" (environment) of the QN characteristics considered in the study using the statistical module of the new software "DUSTC" developed by China for presentation at its thirty-third session;

(b) the TC agreed to include a discussion item on facilitating the development of databases at its fifty-second session.

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