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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

Geneva

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**Eighty-Eighth Session
Geneva, October 15, 2014**

PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION STATISTICS

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1. This document presents the plans to enable information on crop type to be included in the GENIE and PLUTO databases in order to be able to develop plant variety protection statistics by crop type.

BACKGROUND

2. At its forty-seventh ordinary session, held in Geneva on October 24, 2013, the Council noted that the Office of the Union would explore the possibility of providing information on statistics by crop type (e.g. agriculture, fruit, ornamental, vegetable and forest trees) in future versions of document C/xx/7 "Plant variety protection statistics for the period [xxxx]-[xxxx]", according to the suggestion made by the Delegation of Chile (see document C/47/20 "Report", paragraph 66).

3. In addition to the request for information on plant variety protection statistics by crop type in the Council, the Office of the Union has also received requests from experts from members of the Union for information on the type of crop corresponding to each UPOV code in the GENIE database.

4. At present, the administrative interface of the GENIE database allows each UPOV code to be allocated to a particular Technical Working Party (TWP) or Technical Working Parties (TWPs) for the purpose of checking the UPOV codes. However, that information is not made available on the UPOV website version of the GENIE database. Furthermore, whilst all new UPOV codes are allocated to a TWP(s), there are a large number of old UPOV codes that have not been allocated to a TWP(s).

5. The Technical Committee (TC), at its fiftieth session, held in Geneva, from April 7 to 9, 2014, agreed to provide information on the type of crop (agriculture/fruit/ornamental plant/forest tree/vegetable) for each UPOV code in the GENIE database and to request the TWPs to check the TWP allocations by correspondence by the end of 2014. It was clarified that more than one crop type could be allocated to a single UPOV Code (see document TC/50/6 "UPOV Information Databases", paragraph 8 and TC/50/36 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 95).

6. The TC noted that the proposed approach would enable the data in the PLUTO database to be analyzed with regard to applications filed, titles issued and titles having ceased to be in force by type of crop, whilst noting that the multiple crop types for some UPOV codes would result in some limitations in that regard (see document TC/50/36 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 96).

PROVIDING PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION STATISTICS BY CROP TYPE

7. It should be clarified that the plant variety protection statistics provided by members of the Union for the purposes of, for example, document C/48/7 "Plant variety protection statistics for the period 2009-2013" do not contain any information on individual applications. Therefore, unless a request is made to each member of the Union to provide such detailed information, it will not be possible to present those statistics by crop type. It is not anticipated that members of the Union would wish to incur such an additional task, particularly as members of the Union were requested to provide statistical information by species until 1988, after which the statistics were provided only in terms of total numbers.

8. As explained in paragraph 6 above, the allocation of type of crop for each UPOV code would enable the data in the PLUTO database to be analyzed with regard to applications filed, titles issued and titles having ceased to be in force by type of crop. However, it should be noted that there will be two constraints on the accuracy and completeness of any such analysis. Firstly, the existence of multiple crop types for some UPOV codes will result in some lack of certainty as to the crop type for certain PLUTO entries. Secondly, the data provided for document C/47/7 "Plant variety protection statistics for the period 2008-2012" is more complete than the data in the PLUTO database. For example, for the year 2012, document C/47/7 had data provided by 63 members of the Union. For the same year, 49 members of the Union provided data for the PLUTO database (see document TC/50/6 "UPOV information databases", Annex III).

9. The Consultative Committee is invited to note the plans to provide information for type of crop for each UPOV code in the GENIE database as a basis to obtain statistics on plant variety protection from the PLUTO database, whilst noting the constraints on the accuracy and completeness of any such analysis, as set out in this document.

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