CPVO
Community Plant Variety Office

Vegetable Variety Open Day

Disease and pest resistance characteristics in vegetables

Edinburgh (UK), 12 September 2017

Introduction

- 12 CPVO vegetable technical protocols contain a total of 127 disease and pest resistance characteristics
  - 33 of these are asterisked, thus obligatory to observe in DUS tests to be carried out anywhere within EU - also for listing purposes !
  - In corresponding UPOV guideline, just 24 asterisked characteristics

- **Advantages**:
  - ✓ reflects breeding work being done by seed companies
  - ✓ discriminatory, thus limiting number of comparison varieties in DUS test

- **Problem**: A number of smaller breeders in certain parts of the EU declared that asterisked disease characteristics were prejudicial, since several diseases were not of importance in certain parts of the EU

  ! Obliged to breed for **uniform** resistance/susceptibility to pass DUS test!

How did CPVO and stakeholders tackle issue

- Provisional moratorium imposed by CPVO Administrative Council in 2013 on any new asterisks being added to disease resistance characteristics
- Analysis of the situation between CPVO, entrusted EU vegetable examination offices, and European Seed Association (ESA)
- Questionnaire formulated by CPVO/ESA addressed to ESA vegetable members to get their feedback on their experiences with disease resistance characteristics
- Review of each of the 33 asterisked vegetable disease resistance characteristic, to see if they were necessary

The devised phasing-in period

- ✓ Main proposal emanating from 2012-15 consultation process was to establish a **running-in phase** in the adoption of asterisked disease and pest resistance characteristics in CPVO vegetable protocols

- ✓ Would allow breeders to develop their breeding activity in that area over a **period of time**, as well as permitting examination authorities to establish or build-up the necessary testing facilities

- ✓ CPVO Administrative Council agreed in 2015 to adopt the principle of a normal **5 year** phasing-in period for each **new** asterisked insect or disease resistance asterisked characteristic, although length of time could be varied according to the complexity of each characteristic

Implementation of principle

- Phasing-in principle well received by all CPVO stakeholders
- More thought now given on necessity of the asterisk as well as **how long** stakeholders need to adjust until characteristic becomes obligatory
- Principle first utilised in partial revisons to CPVO lettuce and spinach protocols, with DUS testing as from 2016:
  - Lettuce: **3-year** phasing in period for several *Bremia lactucae* races
  - Spinach: **3-year** phasing in period for several *Peronospara farinosa* races
- After one year of utilising the phasing-in principle in lettuce and spinach, breeders & examination authorities expressed high levels of **satisfaction**
- Further implimentation in CPVO protocols foreseen in coming years (e.g……..)

Thank you for your attention!

Any questions ?