

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE CPVO AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON INTEGRATION OF MOLECULAR DATA INTO DUS TESTING (IMODDUS)

1. Introduction

The CPVO Administrative Council when adopting the R&D Strategy for the period 2015-2020, has considered the setup of a CPVO BMT working group for the promotion of the use of bio-molecular techniques in DUS testing and variety identification (objective 3). The CPVO BMT Expert Group should work as a think-tank and from a broad perspective view how to best integrate bio molecular techniques into DUS tests. It should assess and discuss new developments in BMTs and their potential use for DUS, variety identification and enforcement. It could also identify relevant species where these techniques would be more promising; to harmonize methodologies, to promote and propose R&D projects for co-funding. The AC asked the Office to prepare the terms of reference of this group.

The CPVO should act as coordinator for CPVO BMT meetings by proposing and collecting agenda points for discussions, taking of minutes and covering organizational aspects. It is expected that members of the working group should commit to actively contribute to the preparation of meetings by means of drafting and presenting documents.

2. Chairmanship

The working group is chaired by the President of the CPVO or by a person appointed by the President.

3. Membership

The CPVO-BMT is composed by:

Experts designated by entrusted Examination Offices (1 or 2 per examination office), having knowledge and practical experience on DUS testing and the use of biochemical and molecular techniques in DUS testing, the experts from the Examination Offices shall be appointed by the relevant Examination Offices.

Experts from the breeding industry with experience on the use of such techniques for studies in plant varieties, these experts should be appointed by the breeders' organizations which have the status of observers in the Administrative Council (1 or 2 per organization).

As indicated in the introduction it is expected that all the members will be responsible for producing meeting documents and making presentations on practical applications and developments in BMTs for DUS testing purposes.

The CPVO reimburses costs for one participant per Examination Office and one per Breeders' organization.

4. Observers

The members may propose to the chairman the invitation of observer experts (the chairman might also invite observer experts on his own motion). These observers might come from research institutions, universities or testing centers, their participation in the meetings is due to their specific knowledge in matters to be discussed by the working group.

The reimbursement of external experts (others than from an Examination Office) is decided on a case by case basis before the meeting takes place.

5. The role of the CPVO-BMT Working Group

i) To propose to the President of the CPVO, for each crop sector, a list of species where the application of biochemical and molecular techniques in DUS testing will be a valuable and useful tool, based on the actual state of the art;

ii) To draft R&D projects focusing on the application or further study of the biochemical and molecular techniques for DUS testing on the species identified under i);

iii) To prepare, if appropriate, guidelines for biochemical and molecular methodologies and their harmonization;

iv) Constitute a forum for discussion on the use of biochemical and molecular techniques in DUS testing. Clarify any possible questions under their competence raised by the CPVO, the Administrative Council or the Crop Experts Groups.

6. Meetings and Reporting

The CPVO-BMT Working Group will meet upon invitation of the chairman and will report to the President of the CPVO, who will report its activities to the Administrative Council. The CPVO shall ensure the necessary coordination between the BMT working and the CPVO crop experts groups. The Working Group might also meet by video conferencing or other communication means.