



## **Worldwide Variety Phenotypic Description Database**

(Adopted by ASSINSEL in Sun City, May 2001 and remains an ISF position)

Due to the increasing number of countries member of UPOV and the increasing number of plant varieties protected in each country, it is increasingly difficult to assess the distinctness of a new variety from all the varieties of common knowledge at the time of the filing of the application (UPOV 1991, Article 7).

ISF considers that the establishment of a worldwide database of phenotypic description of varieties of common knowledge, at least including but not necessarily limited to varieties protected under the UPOV system, will facilitate distinctness testing. In particular, in countries, where applicable, the database will be used to grouping comparable varieties and the candidate variety for testing. It will also be useful to plant breeders prior to the application for plant breeder's right. The database shall only contain the phenotypic characteristics indicated in the UPOV Guidelines. Those characteristics are not confidential business information and must be publicly available.

ISF urges UPOV and other relevant bodies to investigate the feasibility of establishing such a database.