



**Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority,  
NASC Complex, New Delhi.**

**Minutes of 16<sup>th</sup> Review Meeting of DUS test centers for *Rabi* crops-2019**

**Venue: NASC Complex, New Delhi**

**Date: 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2019**

The review meeting of DUS test centers for *Rabi* crops was organized on 26-27<sup>th</sup> September, 2019. Around 45 participants from different DUS centers attended review meeting (Annexure 1). The review meeting was inaugurated by Dr. K.V. Prabhu, Chairperson of PPV&FRA and a brief introduction about the review meeting was given by Dr. T. K. Nagarathna, Registrar. Dr. R. C. Agrawal, Registrar General welcomed all the participants and mentioned about various new initiatives of PPV&FRA and requested for cooperation by all DUS centers to implement such initiatives. He expressed that lack of awareness about the Act is the main problem even today. Registrar General observed that no case has been received yet under Section 41 of the Act pertaining to Benefit Sharing. He added that the role of DUS centers is important in making awareness about Section 41. He also informed that recently a decision has been taken for testing the parental lines, the PPV&FRA is getting a software developed for online submission of application. We are also developing software for Plant Variety Information System to facilitate the entire work of registry i.e. from application to issuance of registration certificate. He also informed all scientists of DUS centers for submitting DUS testing data on time in proper format to avoid undue delay in granting protection to crop varieties seeking registration, which is a right of any applicant.

In his opening remarks, Chairperson of the Authority stated that if the variety is not protected, then no help can be provided in case of its misuse. Farmer's right is therefore, available with the farmers only when he buys legitimate seed stock from authorised agents. Chairperson emphasized that there is no choice for the DUS centers as it is their duty to carry out DUS testing sincerely and submission of data timely. Data should be authentic so that need for seeking 10 plant data does not arise. DUS testing is creative responsibility as characterisation does not take much time. The DUS testing is not about evaluating the performance of candidate variety but its about giving right to someone to use the material legally.

### **Day 1: Technical Session I**

Dr. T. K. Nagarathna, Registrar presented “New procedure for the protection of plant varieties and recent initiatives at PPV&FRA” explaining step-wise new procedure adopted at the Authority from 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2018 for registration of varieties.

Dr. Ravi Prakash, Registrar made a presentation on DUS testing and maintenance of example and reference varieties at DUS centers and onsite DUS testing.

Sh. Dipal Roy Choudhary, Joint Registrar presented “Formatting consolidated data for first year and second year analysis by Principal Investigators over both locations” by explaining in detail about DUS testing methodology, selection of reference varieties, layout of trials by including national check and local check during DUS testing, submission of pooled DUS data by PI of the lead center etc. He also gave detailed information with instructions to all DUS centers regarding year-wise pending submission of DUS test data of different centers.

The details on Time schedule for submission of audit utilisation certificate and statement of expenditure was presented by Sh.B.K.Bansal, Shri.U.K.Dubey explained “How to make expenditure entry in PFMS.”

### **Salient points from Technical session I:**

1. Procedure for registration of plant varieties has been revised *w.e.f* 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018
2. Complete application can be received throughout the year but DUS trial will be conducted according to the crop season
  - a. Timeline for *Kharif, Rabi* and Summer/ Spring season has to be followed by the applicants
  - b. DUS centers have to communicate to PPV&FRA for timely monitoring of trial at proper stage
3. Consolidated error-free certified data of the trial in the prescribed format must reach PPV&FRA within 4 months from the date of harvest of the trial. Lead center has to ensure to send both soft and hard copy of the consolidated data
4. Immediate reporting of poor-/non-germination, off types or non-uniformity beyond the prescribed level to the concerned registrar of PPV&FRA
5. As per revised protocol of registration of plant varieties, hybrids will be registered along with parental lines and DUS testing shall be done for parental lines also

6. Second year evaluation of DUS trial is expanded for evaluation of both hybrids and varieties by inclusion of new reference varieties if any and seeds of hybrids shall be produced at PPV&FRA and for varieties PI of the lead center has to take the responsibility of multiplication of the seeds
7. Before submitting the FVs for registration with PPV&FRA, it has to be characterized for one year by the crop breeder at ICAR/ SAU's and to be certified by the breeder for its purity and uniformity and the application has to be forwarded by SAU's or ICAR institutions to the Authority
8. PPV&FRA will intimate the concerned PI of the center about the receipt of planting material of new entries of vegetatively propagated crops 10 days in advance
9. Presence of mother plants is required for on-site testing of FVs of perennial crops
10. Time schedule for submission of audit utilisation certificate and statement of expenditure.
 

Submission of Utilisation certificate (UC) on 12A	– 15 <sup>th</sup> April
Submission of Statement of Expenditure (SOE) on 12A	– 15 <sup>th</sup> December
Submission of Audit Utilisation Certificate (AUC) on 12A	– 15 <sup>th</sup> May
Approved and authenticated	– 15 <sup>th</sup> June
11. Assets register is necessary.
12. Any citizen of India who wish to visit the DUS testing trials at any DUS centers are permitted for 3 hours by paying Rs. 5,000/- to PPV&FRA and the amount collected by the visitors will be credited to the respective DUS centers. Visit shall not be permitted beyond grain filling/fruited stage.

### **Technical Session II**

During the session a special presentation was made by Dr. Alka Arora, IASRI on the technicalities of online data submission by DUS centers.

### **Salient points from Technical session II:**

#### **Knowledge Management for DUS characterization**

1. Dr. Alka Arora presented the features of the web based DUS test database to be made available for online submission of real time data by the DUS centers. The following points emerged selection of reference varieties to be done by widening the trait selection from 'grouping characters' to 'all characters'

2. Multiple databases (three databases mentioned) will be made available to select reference varieties
3. 'Entry code' to be included in addition to the 'Trial code'
4. Database to be made flexible for changing the number of plants and number of replications
5. To make it essential to verify the data entered before clicking the 'submit' button
6. Provision to be included in the database to shift candidate varieties into reference varieties collection once after the candidate variety is registered/protected that may serve as an example variety based on trait value.

### **Discussion on the performance of the DUS centers**

1. Dr. T. K. Nagarathna made a presentation on performance of DUS test centers during 2018-19. She insisted on proper communication from DUS centers to PPV&FRA authority so as to fix an appropriate time of monitoring of DUS test plots
2. She emphasized that DUS test monitoring is must and more so in case of court cases
3. All the DUS centers have to compulsorily submit DUS test photographs with good resolution and clarity.
4. Reports/photos should be thoroughly checked by PI of the DUS centers before submission
5. Timely submission of financial and technical reports should be ensured. Submission of both soft and hard copies is required. Soft copy of DUS data should be submitted in excel format only and a certified hard copy should also be submitted
6. Action will be taken in case of non-performance or negligence on the part of DUS centers as someone's (applicant) right may be at stake
7. National check along with zonal/local check to be added in addition to reference varieties in the DUS testing
8. All data pertaining to example/reference varieties maintained at DUS centers to be submitted to the authority
9. Submission of photographs of single plant of each variety with white background is mandatory
10. Once registered, seeds to be obtained from applicant for use them as reference varieties in case of non-hybrids

11. Any discrepancy in data for any trait between locations has to be reported to concerned Registrar by PI
12. 10 plants to be selected and tagged to record the observations at all stages
13. Common reference varieties to be preferred at both locations
14. Selection of reference varieties for second year testing to be done based on results of first year testing for new category varieties
15. Proper format given by the authority to be followed for submitting final DUS test results to concerned Registrar
16. It was decided that the best centre shall be recognized each year on the basis of performance of all the required attributes in time as per schedule and trial conductance, handling of material as well as monitoring committee's report.

Review meeting was ended with final remarks by Dr. K. V. Prabhu, Chairperson and Dr. R. C. Agrawal, Registrar General. The vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Ravi Prakash, Registrar, PPV & FR Authority.

  
(T. K. Nagarathna)  
Registrar