



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement n° 773139

VALITEST - a project to improve the validation framework in the EU for plant pest diagnostics

Introduction

Early diagnosis and a rapid response are crucial to reduce the risk of entry and spread of plant pests and to limit their damage.

National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) routinely conduct inspections supported by pest diagnosis for export certification, import, pest surveillance and eradication programs.

Validation is essential to provide information on the performance of the tests that are used in diagnostics. However, most detection and identification tests currently in use have limited validation data available and there is a need to further harmonize practices.

Objectives of the project

1. To provide more complete and precise descriptions of the performance of diagnostic tests
2. To stimulate, optimize and strengthen the interactions between stakeholders in Plant Health for better diagnostics
3. To lay the foundations for structuring the quality and the commercial offers for plant health diagnostics tools

During the three years of the project (2018-05 to 2021-04) VALITEST will:

- Organize surveys to gather validation data on existing tests and assess the needs for testing expressed by the stakeholders
- Organize 2 rounds of Test Performance Studies (TPS) on selected pests to produce validation data. The pests targeted in the 1st round are: *Erwinia amylovora*, *Pantoea stewartii* subsp. *stewartii*, *Citrus tristeza virus*, *Plum pox virus*, *Fusarium circinatum* and *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*.
- Define quality requirements for biological material to be used for test performance studies
- Organize training workshops on validation and develop webinars and video tutorials on the validation process
- Improve the validation process and optimize proficiency evaluation
- Define an EU Plant Health Diagnostics Charter for Industry



A multi-actor project



For more information, see <https://www.valitest.eu> or send a message to contact@valitest.eu

