



Coordination and collaboration between reference collections of plant pests and pathogens for EU plant health policy

Grant agreement no. 612712

EU Budget: €500,000

*Q-collect Workshop
Rome, 2015-09-08/09*



16 partners in Q-Collect

- DLO (NL)
- ILVO (BE)
- UNIBO (IT)
- EVD-ACW (CH)
- INRA (FR)
- DSMZ (DE)
- EPPO
- JKI (DE)
- Defra (Fera) (UK)
- UGent (BE)
- KNAW-CBS (NL)
- ANSES (FR)
- Naturalis (NL)
- AGES (AT)
- FGU-VNIIKR (RU)
- NVWA (NL)



Work packages

1. Co-ordination
2. Inventory of relevant phytosanitary collections
3. Quality standards
4. Access
5. Info-portal
6. Sustainable European network of reference collections
7. Dissemination

WP Leaders

WP	Title	Leader	Deputy
1	Co-ordination	Peter Bonants (DLO)	
2	Inventory	Jean-Claude Streito (INRA)	Françoise Petter (EPPO)
3	Quality Standards	John Elphinstone (Fera)	Marianne vander Blom (NVWA)
4	Access	Perrine Portier (INRA)	Pascale Gentit (ANSES)
5	Info-portal	Vincent Robert (CBS)	Françoise Petter (EPPO)
6	Networks	Sylvia Blümel (AGES)	Paul de Vos (UGent)
7	Dissemination	Françoise Petter (EPPO)	Peter Bonants (DLO)



Main outcomes

Inventory of relevant phytosanitary collections

- Significant number of European plant pathogen and pest collections (152) responded
- They are dispersed, widespread and of very variable quality
- Most are working or research collections
- Many have no quality system in place and accreditation of collections is rare
- Appropriate basic funding is not secure enough
- Need for a common policy towards collection management throughout the region

Main outcomes

Quality standards

- Draft guidelines on minimum quality standards for reference collections were developed and harmonised amongst project partners and final workshop attendees
- These will be further developed in the framework of the EPPO specialized Panels on diagnostics for each group of organisms
- The final objective is to prepare an EPPO Standard to provide guidance on quality assurance for reference collections

Main outcomes

Access

- Few collections are organized to provide services to outside users
- Limited amount of information on collection's holdings available online
- Sharing of material between collections to ensure resilience is not common
 - high risk for accidental loss of important biological material



Main outcomes

Sustainable European network of reference collections

- Criteria were proposed for the establishment of sustainable networks
- Specific criteria relevant to **service reference collections** and **working collections** were considered

Main outcomes

Info-portal

- Plans to develop an online platform
 - To stimulate and facilitate networking and data sharing were presented
 - To improve accessibility and visibility of biological material (and related information) available in collections
- An on-line pilot platform including a deposit form for biological material will be developed and distributed to interested working collections identified in the inventory survey

Main outcomes

Dissemination

- Two workshops at Kleinmachnow and Rome were held to review project progress and outcomes after 12 and 24 months
- Outputs will be further developed through EPPO diagnostic panels
 - Guidelines on minimum quality standards
 - Criteria for developing sustainable networks of reference and working collections

Main outcomes

- A white paper on issues, outputs and recommendations from Q-collect was produced and discussed for further presentation to the EPPO Council meeting.





- New initiative taken by four of the project partners
 - Fera-NCPPB (A. Aspin)
 - ILVO & UGent – BCCM/LMG (P. de Vos)
 - INRA – CIRM-CFBP (P. Portier)
- Linked sub-collection of well-defined reference bacteria listed by EPPO as quarantine organisms
- Aims to guarantee:
 - Long term accessibility
 - Quality and authenticity
 - LINK with plant health research and diagnosis



- Reference strains available from at least 2 of 3 European curated collections (Cirm-CFBP, LMG and NCPPB).
- Minimum quality standards defined in terms of:
 - Authenticity, purity, viability and pathogenicity of bacterial reference strains
 - procedures for conservation, documentation, availability, ordering, shipment or alternative access
 - instructions for end-users

QBaCo network



Quarantine Bacteria Collection

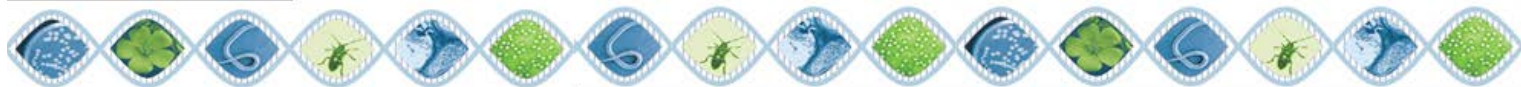
- Collaboration of 3 public collections (at present)
 - Reference service collections of plant pathogenic bacteria
 - Specific selection of strains relevant for EU policy (focus on Q)
 - Partner charter
 - Operational phase



Operational phase

Quarantine Bacteria Collection

- Comparative inventory of the holdings of LMG, CFBP and NCPPB : via  **StrainInfo**
- Q-bacteria: starting with the present coverage in  *Q-bank* (QBOL)



Next steps

Quarantine Bacteria Collection

- Evaluate whether or not additional strains should be included
- (according to the rules and curation procedures of Q-Bank and Q-Ba-Co charter)
- Extension with other Q-target organisms
 - Collaboration with other specialists in the field
 - Invitation to working collections to join Q-Ba-Co network according to the partner charter