



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



To whom it may concern

Thursday, January 17th, 2019

TPS organizer:
National Institute of Biology
(NIB), Slovenia

Subject: VALITEST H2020 –Test Performance Study Organization
Encl.: TPS Participant's invitation and information form for
Erwinia amylovora* and *Pantoea stewartii* subsp. *stewartii

Pest name:
Erwinia amylovora
Pantoea stewartii subsp. *stewartii*

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are contacting you in the framework of an EU funded research project, VALITEST (<https://www.valitest.eu>), which aims to improve plant pests diagnostics.

E- mail:
niblafbfo@nib.si;
niblafbfo@gmail.com

Validation is essential to provide information on the performance of the tests that are used in diagnostic. However, most detection and identification tests are currently only validated on an intra-laboratory basis or through limited test performance studies (TPS), and there is a need to further harmonize practices.

By this message, we are seeking your interest to take part to a test performance studies for *Erwinia amylovora* and/or *Pantoea stewartii* subsp. *stewartii*.

The expected timeline is as follows:

| | |
|--|--|
| Period of TPS: | March 2019 – June 2019 |
| Sending of the samples: | March 25th - 29th, 2019 |
| Deadline for performing analysis and reporting on the results: | June 14th, 2019 |

In the tables below you can find the methods to be evaluated together with the scope of TPS for *Erwinia amylovora* (**Table 1**) and *Pantoea stewartii* subsp. *stewartii* (**Table 2**).

If you are not a Valitest project partner and as the project's budget does not allow any external funding, the participation to the TPS will be at your own cost (consumables, chemicals, reagents) with only critical reagents provided (e.g. primers and probes). As a participant to the TPS, you would receive the evaluation report and you would be associated to the results exploitation. The samples are expected to include both DNA and deactivated plant extracts.

Participants will be selected based on pre-defined criteria. In order to optimize our organization and the reliability of the TPS, we would like to get some practical details concerning your organization.



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To express your interest in participating, please, fill in the enclosed excel file named '**Valitest_TPS_R1_ParticipantInformation Form_EaPstew**' and return it by e-mail to niblabfito@nib.si and niblabfito@gmail.com by February 3rd, 2019.

We will confirm your participation to the TPS by email by February 17th, 2019.

Table 1: Scope and the planned methods to be evaluated for the fire blight pathogen, *Erwinia amylovora* (Ea)

| Method | Ea real-time PCR | Ea LAMP | Ea LFD |
|--|---|---|--------------------------------|
| Sample type | extract | extract | extract |
| Matrix | shoots | shoots | shoots |
| Suitable for | symptomatic | symptomatic | symptomatic |
| Purpose | detection | detection | detection |
| Type of controls needed | PAC (included) NAC (included) NIC | PAC (included) NAC (included) NIC | PC (included) NC (included) |
| No. of samples | 15-20 | 15-20 | 15-20 |
| Number of tests to be evaluated ¹ | Maximum 9 | | |

¹Please, note, that the number of tests is indicative at this step. It will be adjusted according to the results of preliminary tests.

Table 2: Scope and the planned methods to be evaluated for the Stewart's wilt pathogen, *Pantoea stewartii* subsp. *stewartii* (Pstew)

| Method | Pstew PCR | Pstew real-time PCR | Pstew LAMP |
|--|---|---|---|
| Sample type | extract | extract | extract |
| Matrix | seed | seed | seed |
| Suitable for | asymptomatic | asymptomatic | asymptomatic |
| Purpose | detection | detection | detection |
| Type of controls needed | PAC (included) NAC (included) NIC | PAC (included) NAC (included) NIC | PAC (included) NAC (included) NIC |
| No. of samples | 15-20 | 15-20 | 15-20 |
| Number of tests to be evaluated ¹ | Maximum 9 | | |

¹Please, note, that the number of tests is indicative at this step. It will be adjusted according to the results of preliminary tests.



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In the frame of the same project TPS for 6 different pathogens altogether will be organized: *Erwinia amylovora*, *Pantoea stewartii* subsp. *stewartii*, citrus tristeza virus, plum pox virus, *Fusarium circinatum* and *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*, therefore, you might have/will receive additional invitation letters for the listed pathogens during January 2019.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require additional information.

Yours sincerely,

Tanja Dreo, PhD
TPS coordinator