



NIB-PT-2016-02, Proficiency tests for the molecular detection of bacterial pathogens of plants:

***Xylella fastidiosa*, ‘*Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum*’, flavescence dorée phytoplasma and ‘*Candidatus Phytoplasma solani*’ (Bois noir phytoplasma)**

1 Background

Proficiency test is a way in which competence of laboratories is assessed and demonstrated. In proficiency testing standardized samples are prepared with known status regarding the presence of harmful organisms. These are sent out to participating laboratories that analyze them using their own methods, equipment and reagents and send results back to the organiser. The organiser analyzes the results and provides a report detailing all participants' results in confidential manner together with actual sample status.

2 Study Materials

This proficiency test is intended for molecular detection of the following organisms/organism groups. The test will be organized in accordance with the EPPO 7/122 guidelines. Please note that the samples contain DNA only and are not suitable for analysis with tests other than molecular tests.

The following organisms/organism groups are available:

- ***Xylella fastidiosa*** (CoDiRO strain, the samples do not contain plant material). In total, five samples will be provided.
- ‘***Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum***’: the samples contain DNA fragments of 16S rDNA, detected by assays described by Li et al., J. Microbiol. Methods 2009, 78, 59–65, and Teresani et al., Phytopathology 2014, 104, 804–811. The samples do not contain plant material. In total, five samples will be provided.
- **Phytoplasmas (flavescence dorée phytoplasma and ‘*Candidatus Phytoplasma solani*’ (Bois noir phytoplasma))**: DNA extracted from grapevine plants. Results may be provided as negative/ positive for phytoplasma or negative/ positive for BNp/ FDp. In total, seven samples will be provided.

Material will not contain living bacteria and will not pose any danger to humans, animals, plants or environment.

3 Timeline

The expected timeline:

- Samples sent out in the week of October 10-14, 2016
- Results to be delivered by December 2, 2016
- Reports on performance sent out by January 20, 2017

4 Queries and Communication

For all queries and communications, please use niblafbfito@nib.si and niblafbfito@gmail.com.

5 Registration

To register, please fill in the contract in following pages and return it to addresses listed above by October 6 2016.

Participant's contract for proficiency test 'NIB Proficiency Test 2016-02'

LABORATORY

Institute (full name)	
Telephone number	
Fax number	
E-mail address	

My institute would like to participate in the proficiency tests for the following ¹		
Organism/organism group	Participation	Price
<i>Xylella fastidiosa</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	450 € + VAT
<i>Ca. Liberibacter solanacearum</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	450 € + VAT
<i>Phytoplasmas</i> (flavescence dorée and Bois noir phytoplasma)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	790 € + VAT
Total cost		

Shipping address: (Please no P.O.-box)	
Billing address (if different from the shipping address)	
VAT payer	Yes / No ²
VAT number	

¹ The laboratory can choose one or several organisms/organism groups.

² Please, provide a statement declaring that you do not carry out an independent economic activity, are not VAT payer and do not have an VAT number. The statement should be addressed to the National Institute of Biology, Department of Biotechnology and Systems Biology, Vecna pot 111, SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia and can be sent via e-mail to niblafbfito@nib.si and niblafbfito@gmail.com.

CONTACT

A correspondent of your laboratory for this proficiency test:

First name	
Family name	
E-mail address	
Telephone number	

An alternative correspondent of your laboratory for this proficiency test:

First name	
Family name	
E-mail address	
Telephone number	

REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

Precise the requirements concerning the plant health regulatory of your country (territory) to allow the sending of the samples

No requirements	
Requirements ⁽³⁾ , please, specify	

CONDITIONS

(1) By registering and signing the contract, the laboratory identified on the first page of the contract ('participating laboratory') agrees to participate in the inter-laboratory proficiency test organized by the National Institute of Biology ('organiser'), under the following conditions:

1) Implementation of the proficiency test:

The participating laboratory agrees to perform analyses in its laboratory according to the instructions of the organiser which will be sent together with the panel of samples, and in its usual conditions of work. Any modification should be reported to the organiser. This kind of information can be very important for the interpretation of results.

The participating laboratory commits:

- to communicate about any difficulties encountered during the implementation of the proficiency test.
- to report the results of the test on the result form provided together with the samples within the deadline.

The participating laboratory is informed that it can submit complaints within the proficiency testing round and that it is given the opportunity to appeal the evaluation of its performance within one month after the sending of the proficiency testing report.

³ IMPORTANT, if requirements are specified and if the organizer doesn't have the necessary documents before the date set for sending the samples, the legislation will not allow to send the parcel of samples and the participation of the laboratory will be compromised.

NIB Proficiency Test 2016-02

The participating laboratory is well aware that it will be invoiced after the proficiency test according to prices indicated in the contract. Any registration involves the payment of the participation.

2) Transmission of the results:

The proficiency testing report summarizing the individual results of the participating laboratory and allowing the decoding of the report will be transmitted in electronic format to each participating laboratory.

Concerning the proficiency testing report, the following convention of proof applies. The proficiency testing report is transmitted in a protected pdf format attached to an e-mail sent to the two electronic addresses communicated in writing by the participating laboratory in the participant's contract. The signatures of the authorized persons on the first page of the proficiency testing report constitute proof of its validation and its authenticity. The organiser keeps the original file (electronic version and paper version) and also the evidence of its authenticity which could be used in the event of litigation.

Moreover, the participating laboratory:

- commits to not modify the proficiency testing report.
- is informed that the paper editions from the transmitted pdf file are under its sole responsibility.
- recognizes the validity and the convincing strength of this file.

3) Confidentiality and collusion:

The organiser will provide each participating laboratory with a panel of coded samples. Each panel of samples will be the same for all participating laboratories, but the individual coding of samples may be randomised and may be different for each participating laboratory. The different panels will be randomly assigned to the different participating laboratories. Coding of the samples will be kept confidential by the organiser until the end of the proficiency test.

The summary of the processing of results will be presented in the form of a proficiency testing report to the participating laboratories which will be coded for confidentiality purposes. For the exploitation of results, each laboratory will be informed only of its own lab code identification (panel code).

The participating laboratories are informed that the proficiency testing results could be used by the organiser for scientific purposes and for publications reporting on the results provided the laboratories are not identifiable.

Participating laboratories are informed that they have the right to waive confidentiality within the proficiency testing scheme for the purposes of discussion and mutual assistance or for scientific purposes.

Participating laboratories are informed that the proficiency testing results could not be used for any commercial purposes.

4) Confinement:

The participating laboratory must have adopted measures to prevent the risk of unintentional release of plant pathogens for which it is approved (containment, processing of waste, etc.).

The participating laboratory commits to inform the organiser in the participant's contract of the plant health regulatory requirements of its country (territory), in order to allow the sending of the samples in conformity with its regulatory. The participating laboratory also commits to complete the necessary formalities to allow the receipt of the samples and so to ensure its participation in the proficiency test.

Signed by the responsible person from the participating laboratory:

First name	
Family name	
Signature	
Date	