

Early detection of *Phytophthora* in EU and third country nurseries and traded plants (ID-PHYT)



Funding

Non-competitive funding mechanism. Each funder only pays for the participation of their own national researchers. Total funding € 300 000

Research consortium

AGES (AT), CISTA (CZ), UKFC (GB), ANSES (FR), BPI (GR), DAFM (IE), CAV (IT), CNR (IT), CRSFA (IT), MPI (NZ), SCION (NZ), VNIICR (RU), IFE (SK), APHIS-USDA (US),

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Objectives

The main objectives of the project are:

- To validate across participating countries sampling and metabarcoding detection methods (already developed and applied successfully in the UK);
- To collect data on *Phytophthora* findings in each country and link them to management practice and host species so that 'high risk' pathways of spread can be identified;
- To identify key factors underlying risky behaviours and ways in which management practices could be improved for better biosecurity;
- To design management practices as well as feasible alternative approaches to good biosecurity and disseminate to stakeholders in each country the 'best practice' guidelines.

Key outputs and results

The main results of the project are:

- Validated metabarcoding protocols for the detection of *Phytophthora* spp.;
- Knowledge on the presence of *Phytophthora* spp. in the participating countries;
- Knowledge on the relationship between management practice and host species on *Phytophthora* incidence and diversity;
- Best practice guidelines to key stakeholders.

Goals

Traded plants for planting are a well-documented pathway for *Phytophthora* pathogens, facilitating their spread both nationally and internationally. The goal of this research project is to develop a co-ordinated strategy for the early detection of *Phytophthora* pathogens in plant nurseries and traded plants for planting across EU and third countries in order to inform best practice, complement phytosanitary regulation and to enhance engagement on Plant Health with traders operating in different countries.