Epidemiology and diagnosis of potato phytoplasmas and Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum and their contribution to risk management (PHYLIB)

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Research consortium
SASA-UK, FERA-UK, IVIA-SP, CIMA-CSIC-SP, ILVO-BE, PPI-TR, Univ.-Helsinki-FI, Phytolab-HU; CFIA-Canada, ANSES-FR, INRA-FR, PPS-NL

Contact information
Project coordinator: Colin Jeffries and Jennifer Hodgetts
colin.jeffries@sasa.gsi.gov.uk
jennifer.hodgetts@fera.gsi.gov.uk

Objectives
• Evaluate methods for the reliable maintenance of isolates in potato and in other hosts (in vitro and in vivo).
• Establish the most reliable sampling protocol for detection of the pests in potato (and other hosts if relevant) for use especially in post-entry potato quarantine or for the production of pest free nuclear potato stocks.
• Study the epidemiology Ca. Phytoplasma solani and Ca. Liberibacter solanacearum including hosts, vectors, seed transmission, biology, establishment and impact.
• Identify available diagnostic protocols (laboratory and in-field methods) and develop new protocols if necessary.
• Set up a proficiency testing scheme (or ring test) for potato phytoplasmas and Ca. Liberibacter solanacearum

Key outputs and results

Goals
The goal of PHYLIB is to support the work of national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) in producing PRAs and in the rapid and reliable detection and identification of phytoplasma’s and Ca. Liberibacter infecting potato by method development and evaluation.