



European
Commission

Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation



Xylella Fastidiosa Active Containment Through a
multidisciplinary-Oriented Research Strategy

Certification Standard

Voluntary System Preventing Pests

Focus on *Xylella fastidiosa*

2nd European conference on *X. fastidiosa* (Ajaccio, 2019-10-29/30)

Ron Bleijswijk

/

Luigi Catalano

/

Camille Picard
Françoise Petter



FRANCE

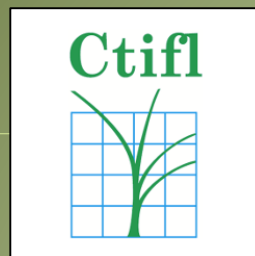
ITALY

NETHERLANDS

SPAIN

INTERNATIONAL

CERTIFICATION



PRODUCERS



GOVERNMENTAL/ INTER-GOVERNMENTAL



Scope of the VSPP

- Voluntary System Preventing Pests

 Not
Mandatory



2nd European conference on *X. fastidiosa* - Ajaccio - 2019-10-29/30



Xylella Fastidiosa Active Containment Through a
multidisciplinary-Oriented Research Strategy

Scope of the VSPP

- Voluntary System Preventing Pests
- First EU countries (+Switzerland)



2nd European conference on *X. fastidiosa* - Ajaccio - 2019-10-29/30



Xylella fastidiosa Active Containment Through a
multidisciplinary-Oriented Research Strategy

Scope of the VSPP

- Voluntary System Preventing Pests
- First EU countries (+Switzerland)
- Producers and resellers (not transporters)



2nd European conference on *X. fastidiosa* - Ajaccio - 2019-10-29/30



Xylella Fastidiosa Active Containment Through a
multidisciplinary-Oriented Research Strategy

Scope of the VSPP

- Voluntary System Preventing Pests
- First EU countries (+Switzerland)
- Producers and resellers (not transporters)
- In addition to EU and national regulations



COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2015/789

of 18 May 2015

as regards measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union of *Xylella fastidiosa* (Wells et al.)

(notified under document C(2015) 3415)

(OJ L 125, 21.5.2015, p. 36)

All participants in the working group, except ENA, recommended the implementation of the VSPP also for *X. fastidiosa*-demarcated areas.



2nd European conference on *X. fastidiosa* - Ajaccio - 2019-10-29/30



Xylella Fastidiosa Active Containment Through a
multidisciplinary-Oriented Research Strategy

Scope of the VSPP

- Voluntary System Preventing Pests
- First EU countries (+Switzerland)
- Producers and resellers (not transporters)
- In addition to EU and national regulations
- Cover all plants for planting (except seeds)



Fruit, ornamental
sectors...

... among other
sectors

Scope of the VSPP

- Voluntary System Preventing Pests
- First EU countries (+Switzerland)
- Producers and resellers (not transporters)
- In addition to EU and national regulations
- Cover all plants for planting (except seeds)
- Focus on *Xylella fastidiosa*

... later to be extended to other pests



2nd European conference on *X. fastidiosa* - Ajaccio - 2019-10-29/30



Xylella Fastidiosa Active Containment Through a multidisciplinary-Oriented Research Strategy

Structure of VSPP

■ A - Quality management system requirements

For **All sites** of the company;

■ B - General prevention of pests

For **All sites** of the company;

■ C - Pest specific requirements

❖ *Xylella fastidiosa*

XF-specific requirements applying

- to a **list of declared host plants**;
- to a **declared category of plants**;

❖ later to be extended to other pests

Article 91

Pest risk management plans

1. Authorised operators may have in place pest risk management plans. The competent authority shall approve those plans, if they fulfil all of the following conditions:

Fig. 1. declaration of the species and categories
To be covered by the XF-specific requirements.

Plant species	Plants for further multiplication	End plants for planting
<i>Malus domestica</i>	X	X
<i>Citrus</i> spp.	X	X
<i>Polygala myrtifolia</i>	X	



2nd European conference on *X. fastidiosa* - Ajaccio - 2019-10-29/30



Xylella fastidiosa Active Containment Through a multidisciplinary-Oriented Research Strategy

A - Quality management system requirements

All sites

■ Staff requirements

❖ Organization:

- **Technical manager** responsible for each VSPP production site
- **Quality manager** responsible for the quality management system

❖ Qualification

❖ Maintain a training procedure



2nd European conference on *X. fastidiosa* - Ajaccio - 2019-10-29/30



Xylella Fastidiosa Active Containment Through a
multidisciplinary-Oriented Research Strategy

A - Quality management system requirements

All sites

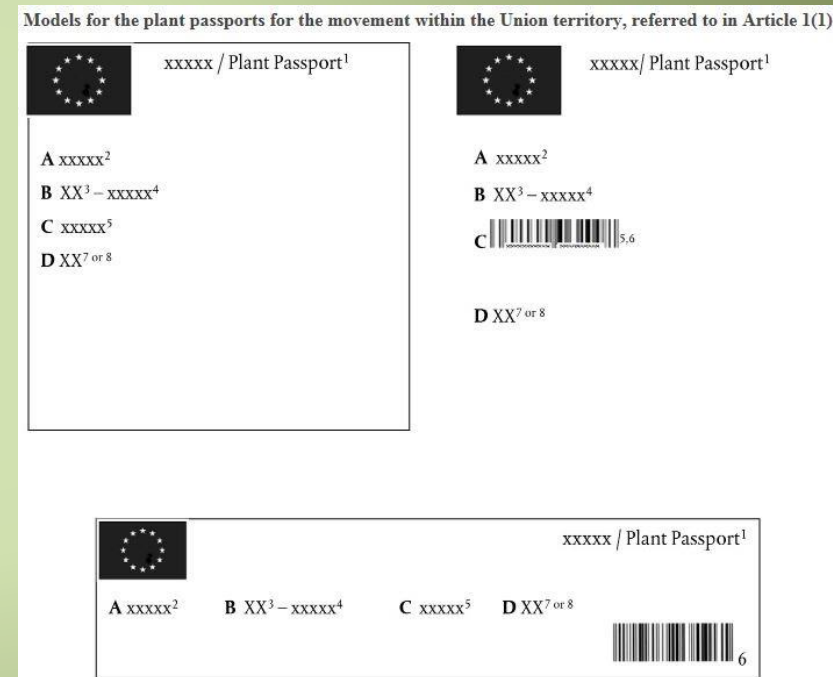
■ Traceability

System to **track and trace** the entire history of a lot (back / in / forward)

Obligation to **notify** quarantine pests

Obligation to carry out an **assessment of the suppliers**

Use of a **VSPP** logo



2nd European conference on *X. fastidiosa* - Ajaccio - 2019-10-29/30



Xylella Fastidiosa Active Containment Through a multidisciplinary-Oriented Research Strategy

A - Quality management system requirements

All sites

■ Documents

System to manage and maintain documents

- **Quality manual**

(name, description of activities, hosts, categories, organizational organigram, flow chart of production processes, etc.)

- **Procedures**

- **Working instructions**

- **Information on the physical layout of the sites**

- **Regulatory forms**



2nd European conference on *X. fastidiosa* - Ajaccio - 2019-10-29/30



Xylella Fastidiosa Active Containment Through a
multidisciplinary-Oriented Research Strategy

A - Quality management system requirements

All sites

- Complaint handling

Complaint procedure for written and oral (internal and external) complaints

Recall procedure complying with NPPO regulations



2nd European conference on *X. fastidiosa* - Ajaccio - 2019-10-29/30



Xylella Fastidiosa Active Containment Through a
multidisciplinary-Oriented Research Strategy

A - Quality management system requirements

All sites

- Internal (self-assessment)

Independent and skilled auditor (can also be external auditor)

Min 1 audit/year

Analysis and corrective action for any non-conformity

Effectiveness of corrective actions verified and recorded



2nd European conference on *X. fastidiosa* - Ajaccio - 2019-10-29/30



Xylella Fastidiosa Active Containment Through a multidisciplinary-Oriented Research Strategy

A - Quality management system requirements

All sites

- Management review

Review the effectiveness of the Quality management system.

-> Objectives/outcomes must be:



2nd European conference on *X. fastidiosa* - Ajaccio - 2019-10-29/30



Xylella Fastidiosa Active Containment Through a multidisciplinary-Oriented Research Strategy

B - General prevention of pests

All sites

■ Perform a risk analysis

Establish a **procedure** (method, responsibility, frequency, updating...)

Identification of possible risks

- For each process, each production site (including surroundings)
- Focus on plants, plant products, growing media, soil, water, personnel & machinery

Risk analysis by a 'risk manager'

Develop mitigation measures



2nd European conference on *X. fastidiosa* - Ajaccio - 2019-10-29/30



Xylella Fastidiosa Active Containment Through a
multidisciplinary-Oriented Research Strategy

B - General prevention of pests

All sites

- Apply general plant health measures

Production site free from relevant pests & vectors before starting production,

Control host plants entering in the production site,

Limited access to the production site,

Regular inspections (written and photographic records),

Selection of propagation material based on vigour, quality, trueness to type, absence of pest symptoms,

Good production practices (e.g. regular sanitation, weed control etc.)
Etc.



2nd European conference on *X. fastidiosa* - Ajaccio - 2019-10-29/30



Xylella Fastidiosa Active Containment Through a
multidisciplinary-Oriented Research Strategy

B - General prevention of pests

All sites

- Establish a crisis management procedure

Isolation of infested material

Information (internal and external)

Investigations (tracing back and forward analysis)

Cleaning and **sanitation** (in compliance with NPPOs)

Recall procedure should be established



2nd European conference on *X. fastidiosa* - Ajaccio - 2019-10-29/30



Xylella Fastidiosa Active Containment Through a
multidisciplinary-Oriented Research Strategy

C - Pest specific requirements

For *Xylella fastidiosa*

■ 1 - Conditions for acceptance

- ✓ **Sampling and testing** using a molecular test, or
- ✓ **Production from seeds**, or
- ✓ **hot water treatment** (*Vitis*: 50°C, 45 min), or
- ✓ **use material produced under VSPP**.

AND

- ✓ **Preventive treatments** against vectors,
(or visual inspection in absence of registered treatment)

1



Declaration of
List of XF-host plants
Categories
to be covered



2nd European conference on *X. fastidiosa* - Ajaccio - 2019-10-29/30



Xylella Fastidiosa Active Containment Through a
multidisciplinary-Oriented Research Strategy

C - Pest specific requirements

Declaration of
List of XF-host plants
Categories
to be covered

For *Xylella fastidiosa*

■ 2 - Maintenance

- ✓ 'use of insect-proof facilities all along the production chain' following EPPO PM 5/8 'Plants grown under complete physical isolation'



Nets used should be knitted,
Mesh size < 1mm (**adult vectors**),
5m buffer zone with plants control (**vector instars**),
Double door,
Vector control.

Possible exemption: hot water treatment for *Vitis*.

- ✓ visual examination of the plants
- ✓ regular testing based on risk analysis



2nd European conference on *X. fastidiosa* - Ajaccio - 2019-10-29/30



Xylella Fastidiosa Active Containment Through a
multidisciplinary-Oriented Research Strategy

Organisation of the system

Basic principles

■ Possible bodies:

- Inspection bodies in charge of the plant for planting certification
- National & international certification bodies
(e.g. ECOCERT, certification bodies for Global G.A.P.)

■ Audits:

- Initial external audit
- Self assessment (e.g. once a year)
- Regular external audit (e.g. every 3 years)



2nd European conference on *X. fastidiosa* - Ajaccio - 2019-10-29/30



Xylella fastidiosa Active Containment Through a
multidisciplinary-Oriented Research Strategy

Organisation of the system

Basic principles

- A 3rd level control could check consistency between countries and bodies involved
- An international certification/inspection board could be in charge to:
 - revise the VSPP Standard
 - define minimal criteria for recognition of regional, national or international control bodies



2nd European conference on *X. fastidiosa* - Ajaccio - 2019-10-29/30



Xylella Fastidiosa Active Containment Through a
multidisciplinary-Oriented Research Strategy

Organisation of the system

An implementing tool of Art. 91 of Regulation 2016/2031 ?

NPPOs could recognize VSPP control bodies at national level

Any producer or reseller **already authorized to issue plant passports** and **certified according to the VSPP** certification programme would therefore be regularly audited by a control body recognized by the NPPO

➡ facilitate approval by NPPOs of its **pest risk management plan** according to Article 91

➡ may qualify for plant passport inspections with a reduced frequency.



2nd European conference on *X. fastidiosa* - Ajaccio - 2019-10-29/30



Xylella Fastidiosa Active Containment Through a multidisciplinary-Oriented Research Strategy

Conclusion: benefits of the VSPP

- Improve transparency
 - > **more confidence for buyers;**
 - > **more confidence for NPPOs;**
 - better traceability -> more adapted measures in case of finding;
- Improve general quality in relation to plant health
 - > **benefits for trade** (incl. export);
 - > **reduce risk of a pest finding** and its financial consequences
 - (incl. EU Plant Passport withdrawal);
- Facilitate approval by NPPOs of pest risk management plans



2nd European conference on *X. fastidiosa* - Ajaccio - 2019-10-29/30



Xylella Fastidiosa Active Containment Through a
multidisciplinary-Oriented Research Strategy

A risk-based certification for *Xylella fastidiosa*



Interested in receiving feedback from stakeholders associations (towards a pilot project testing the VSPP?) and NPPOs (about organization of the system)



Xylella Fastidiosa Active Containment Through a
multidisciplinary-Oriented Research Strategy



Xylella Fastidiosa Active Containment Through a
multidisciplinary-Oriented Research Strategy



2nd European conference on *X. fastidiosa* - Ajaccio - 2019-10-29/30