

Notification of the presence of a harmful organism – update

1 General information	
1.1 Title	Update of an outbreak of <i>Meloidogyne chitwoodi</i> in Germany (Lower Saxony)
1.2 Executive summary	<p>On 24th August 2023, symptoms were detected on starch potato tubers indicating an infestation with <i>Meloidogyne</i> during an official survey. The tubers suspected of being infested were sent to the plant protection service of the Lower Saxony Chamber of Agriculture for laboratory examination. On 08th September 2023, <i>Meloidogyne chitwoodi</i> was identified in the samples by qPCR by the official laboratory.</p> <p>A demarcated area containing the infested zone is established. Phytosanitary measures have been initiated in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.</p> <p>Update March 2024: On 8th January 2024 further sampling (soil samples) took place in the field directly adjacents to the infested area (detection in August 2023). The soil samples were sent to the plant protection service of Lower Saxony for laboratory examination. On 06th February 2024, <i>Meloidogyne chitwoodi</i> was identified in three out of eight soil samples by qPCR by the official laboratory of the plant protection service of Lower Saxony.</p> <p>A new demarcated area containing the infested zone was established. The size of the infested area was therewith enlarged from 3 ha to a total of 6.7 ha. Phytosanitary measures have been initiated in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.</p>
2 Information concerning the single authority and responsible persons	
2.1 Notification from	Julius Kühn-Institut (JKI), Institute for National and International Plant Health, Germany

2.2	
3 Location	
3.1 Location	In Lower Saxony
4 Reason of the notification and the pest status	
4.1 First finding in Germany or in the area	Confirmed appearance of the pest in part of the territory of Germany, in which its presence was previously unknown.
4.2 Pest status of the area where the harmful organism has been found present, after the official confirmation.	Present: under eradication
4.3 Pest status in Germany before the official confirmation of the presence, or suspected presence, of the harmful organism.	Present: under eradication
4.4 Pest status in Germany after the official confirmation of the presence of the harmful organism.	Present: under eradication
5 Finding, sampling, testing and confirmation of the harmful organism	
5.1 How the presence or appearance of the harmful organism was found.	Pest related official survey.
5.2 Date of finding:	24-08-2023
5.3 Sampling for laboratory analysis.	Date of sampling: 24-08-2023 Update March 2024: Soil samples were taken on 8th January 2024 and on 6th February 2024, <i>M. chitwoodi</i> was identified.
5.4 Name and address of the Laboratory	Landwirtschaftskammer Niedersachsen – Pflanzenschutzamt Wunstorfer Landstraße 9 30453 Hannover Germany
5.5 Diagnostic method	According to peer reviewed protocols
5.6 Date of official confirmation of the harmful organism's identity.	08-09-2023
6 Infested area, and the severity and source of the outbreak in that area	
6.1 Size and delimitation of the infested area.	6.7 ha

6.2 Characteristics of the infested area and its vicinity.	Open air - production area: field (arable, pasture) Other plant, part of a plant or plant product.
6.3 Host plants in the infested area and its vicinity	<i>Solanum tuberosum</i> (starch potatoes)
6.4 Infested plant(s), plant product(s) and other object(s).	<i>Solanum tuberosum</i> (3 ha), <u>Update March 2024: Soil (3.7 ha)</u>
6.5 Severity of the outbreak	In 2023, several potato tubers in the field showed clear symptoms. Females of <i>Meloidogyne</i> spp. could be detected in 4 out of 5 sampled and microscopically tested tubers. <u>Update March 2024: In 3 out of 8 soil samples <i>M. chitwoodi</i> could be detected only in low numbers. Accordingly, a low level of infestation can be assumed for the field neighbouring to the first infested field.</u>
6.6 Source of the outbreak	Unknown
7 Official phytosanitary measures	
7.1 Adoption of official phytosanitary measures.	Official phytosanitary measures have been taken. Those measures are taken inside the demarcated area. Official measures were implemented in all infested areas as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - restrictions for the movement/utilisation of the infested potatoes - prohibition of cultivation of seed potatoes and other crops/plants (main host plants and plants that are harvested with soil) in the infested area - cleaning of machines and equipment that have been in contact with the infested area or with infested tubers
7.2 Date of adoption of the official phytosanitary measures:	19-09-2023 <u>Update Mach 2024: Date of adoption of the additional official phytosanitary measures: 22 February 2024</u>
7.3 Identification of the area covered by the official phytosanitary measures.	6.7 ha
7.4 Objective of the official phytosanitary measures.	Eradication
7.5 Measures affecting the movement of goods.	Measures do not affect import into or movement within the Union of goods.

8 Pest risk analysis/assessment

Pest risk assessment is not required. Harmful organism is listed in Annex II B of Regulation (EU) 2019/2072.