

Notification of the presence of a harmful organism (1555) – closing note

1 General information	
1.1 Title	Eradication of an outbreak of Tomato brown rugose fruit virus in Germany (Lower Saxony)
1.2 Executive summary	<p>On 30th July 2021, the Dutch authorities informed the Julius Kühn-Institute (JKI) about a positive test result for Tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV). A producer of tomato fruits had sent a sample to a private laboratory in the Netherlands. The responsible plant protection service in Lower-Saxony inspected the relevant greenhouse and took samples of symptomatic and asymptomatic plants. The outbreak of ToBRFV in a greenhouse was confirmed by the official laboratory of the plant protection service of Lower-Saxony. Official eradication measures were taken, including destruction of plants and disinfection measures.</p> <p>One year later, in August 2022, bell pepper plants were extensively tested in the affected greenhouse. No more ToBRFV could be detected. The infestation is therefore considered to have been eradicated. Furthermore, ToBRFV has been regulated as a Regulated Non-Quarantine Pest (RNQP) since January 2025.</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
3 Location	
3.1 Location	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.	Absent: pest found present but eradicated
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: not widely distributed and under official control
5 Finding, sampling, testing and confirmation of the harmful organism	
5.1 How the presence or appearance of the harmful organism was found.	Information submitted by professional operators, laboratories or other persons. The producer observed suspicious symptoms and sent a sample to a private laboratory in the Netherlands. The laboratory informed the Dutch authorities, who informed the JKI.
5.2 Date of finding:	02-08-2021
5.3 Sampling for laboratory analysis.	Samples were taken on 03-08, 09-08 and 18-08-2021 to determine the extent of the infection. Sampling was performed on symptomatic as well as asymptomatic plants.
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 PM 7/146 (1) Tomato brown rugose fruit virus
5.6 Date of official confirmation of the harmful organism's identity.	26-08-2021
6 Infested area, and the severity and source of the outbreak in that area	
6.1 Size and delimitation of the infested area.	2 ha
6.2 Characteristics of the infested area and its vicinity.	Physically closed conditions: greenhouse Plant already planted, not to be reproduced or moved
6.3 Host plants in the infested area and its vicinity	<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>

6.4 Infested plant(s), plant product(s) and other object(s).	<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i> (20,000 pce)
6.5 Vectors present in the area	<i>Bombus terrestris</i> : Bumble bees which were used for pollination inside the greenhouse were removed immediately after notification of the suspected occurrence.
6.6 Severity of the outbreak.	Only few tomato plants showed symptoms. Sampling was performed on symptomatic as well as asymptomatic plants and all samples were tested positive for ToBRFV.
6.7 Source of the outbreak	The source of the outbreak is unknown and trace back investigations are ongoing. The young plants were produced in another Member State.
7 Official phytosanitary measures	
7.1 Adoption of official phytosanitary measures.	<p>Official phytosanitary measures have been taken. No demarcated area was established.</p> <p>After notification of the suspected occurrence first measures were taken to avoid possible spread of the pest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - movement of plants was prohibited; excluding fruits of asymptomatic plants (until confirmation of infestation) - work in the greenhouse had to be performed under strict hygiene measures - bumble bees were removed from the greenhouse and destroyed <p>Official phytosanitary measures are ongoing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - destruction of plants and material that cannot be disinfected - disinfection of all material and machinery that is used for the clearance of the greenhouse - disinfection of all greenhouse surfaces and all objects that were involved in tomato production <p>No demarcated area was established because the outbreak is located in a greenhouse and immediate eradication of the pest in the greenhouse was targeted.</p>
7.2 Date of adoption of the official phytosanitary measures.	03-08-2021
7.3 Identification of the area covered by the official phytosanitary measures.	2 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.
7.6 Specific surveys.	Yes
8 Pest risk analysis/assessment	Pest risk assessment is not required. Since 2025, ToBRFV is not classified as quarantine pest anymore but is regulated as RNQP.