Institut für nationale und internationale Angelegenheiten der Pflanzengesundheit

Institute for National and International Plant Health

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Notification of the presence of a harmful organism (1318) – closing note

1 **General information**	
1.1 Title	Eradication of *Ralstonia solanacearum* in Germany (North Rhine-Westphalia)
1.2 Executive summary	In 2021, a consultant of a tomato grower found suspicious tomato plants in a greenhouse. The plants showed wilting. A sample was sent to the laboratory and the plant protection service was informed. The plant protection service took samples that were tested positive for *Ralstonia solanacearum* in the official laboratory of North Rhine-Westphalia. Official eradication measures were taken and trace back and forward investigations were performed. **<u>Update 2024:</u> In July and November 2021, two official inspections were carried out in the operators premises including sampling and testing of tomato plants in the laboratory. In 2022, two official inspections were carried out including sampling and testing of tomato plants in the laboratory. In 2021 and 2022, all samples were tested negative for *Ralstonia solanacearum*. Two official inspections were planned in 2023. The first samples in 2023 were taken and tested. Besides tomato, cucumbers were also sampled. All samples were tested negative (8 samples of tomato, 3 samples of cucumber). Trace-back investigations are completed. The Member State concerned has reported that no *Ralstonia solanacearum* was found in the place of origin of the tomato plants. Samples of water have been tested negative, too. The source of the outbreak could not be clarified. The eradication measures were successfully completed at the end of 2023.**

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	North Rhine-Westphalia
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 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, few occurrences
4.4 Pest status in Germany after the official confirmation of the presence of the harmful organism.	Present: under eradication, few occurrences
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. Firstly, a sample was sent by a consultant to the laboratory. The consultant found suspicious symptoms like wilting.
5.2 Date of finding:	13-01-2021
5.3 Sampling for laboratory analysis.	Date of sampling: 19-01-2021 On 4 January, the sample taken by the consultant arrived in the laboratory. Official samples were taken on 14 and 19 January 2021.
5.4 Name and address of the Laboratory	Landwirtschaftskammer Nordrhein-Westfalen Pflanzenschutzdienst Gartenstraße 11 50765 Köln-Auweiler Germany
5.5 Diagnostic method	According to peer reviewed protocols PM 7/21 (2) - *Ralstonia solanacerarum*

	PCR and ELISA tests for plant pathogenic bacteria, biochemical test of the isolate to fulfill the EPPO protocol.
5.6 Date of official confirmation of the harmful organism's identity.	05-02-2021
6 **Infested area, and the severity and source of the outbreak in that area**	
6.1 Size and delimitation of the infested area.	7.7 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	*Solanum lycopersicum*
6.4 Infested plant(s), plant product(s) and other object(s).	*Solanum lycopersicum* (18,164 pce)
6.5 Severity of the outbreak.	Wilting on tomato plants.
6.6 Source of the outbreak	The source of the outbreak is not known. The grower uses UV disinfection for irrigation water and water samples were tested negative. In addition, a hygiene concept with high standard is implemented. It was presumed that the pathway of the pathogen might have been the young plants that were delivered from another Member State. **<u>Update 2024:</u> Trace-back investigations are completed. The Member State concerned has reported that no *Ralstonia solanacearum* was found in the place of origin of the tomato plants. Samples of water have been tested negative, too.**
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. Measures according to Council Directive 98/57/EC and the German “Verordnung zur Bekämpfung der bakteriellen Ringfäule und der Schleimkrankheit”. The demarcated area was established according to § 5 KartRingfV. **<u>Update 2024:</u> No further occurrence of *Ralstonia solanacearum* was detected during the regular inspections of the stocks and the place of production. The eradication measures were successfully completed at the end of 2023.**

7.2 Date of adoption of the official phytosanitary measures.	14-01-2021
7.3 Objective of the official phytosanitary measures.	Eradication
7.4 Measures affecting the movement of goods.	Measures do not affect import into or movement within the Union of goods.
7.5 Specific surveys.	Yes, official controls were carried out for 3 years including visual inspections and testing.
8 **Pest risk analysis/assessment**	Pest risk assessment is not required. Harmful organism is listed in Annex II B of Regulation (EU) 2019/2072.