

Experience of Flexible Scope at Fera -
Diagnostics and Plant Clinic



Fera Plant Clinic



Specialist Facilities



Fera Plant Clinic

Molecular
Technology Unit

The Plant Clinic

Insect Monitoring

Entomology

Virology

Bacteriology

Mycology

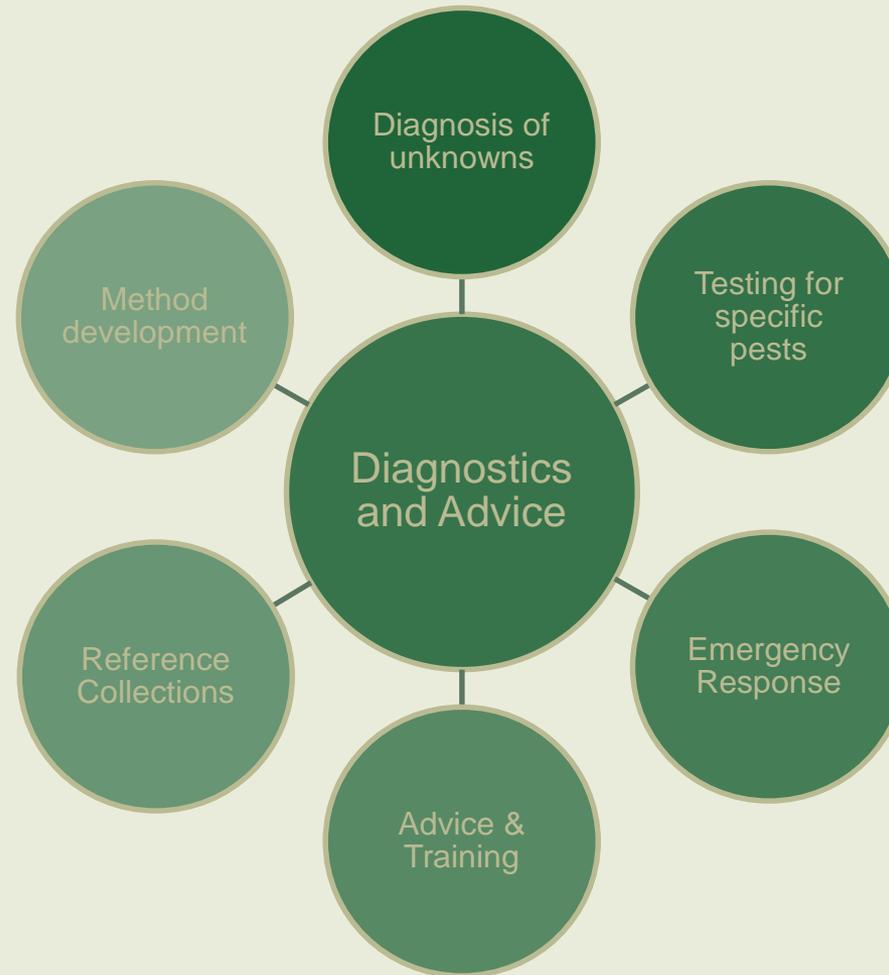
Nematology

Seeds

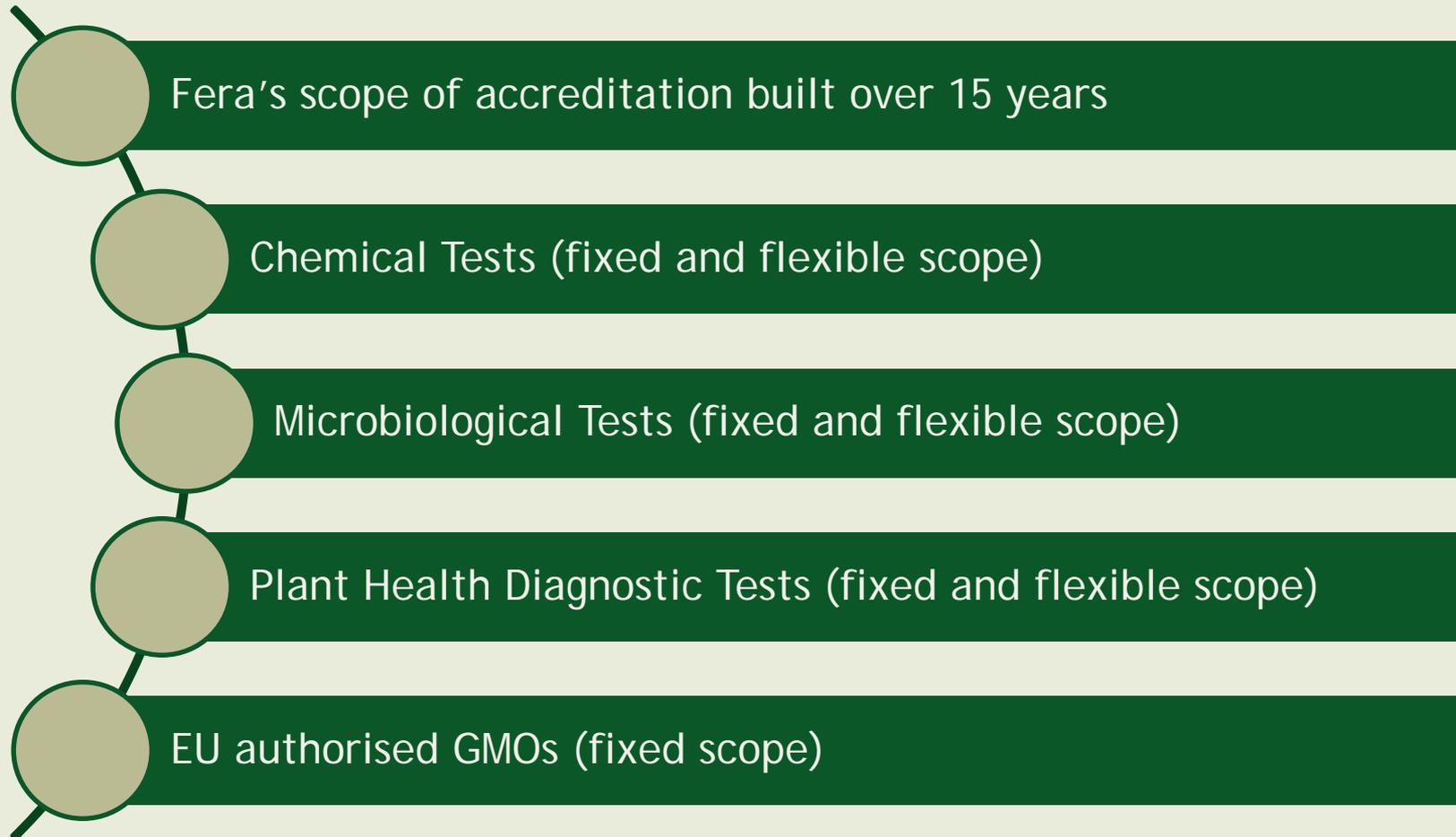
- More than 30,000 samples each year for government and commercial customers worldwide
- Quarantine glasshouse and drainage facilities
- 200+ years of experience across Plant Clinic
- Online sample tracking - Samtrack



What we do



ISO17025 at Fera



Our 'slightly flexible' flexible scope:

Qualitative analysis of plant pathogens and pests using real-time PCR

- Matrix - plants and plant materials
- Procedures covering management (review, decision making, approval), validation and control (reference material, proficiency and calibration).

Issues

- Limited uptake.
- Historically, our fixed scope has met customer requirements.
- Not flexible enough to meet future business needs and a post-Brexit world.

A more flexible approach to
meet our future needs



The building blocks



Fera Quality Manual

ISTA accreditation*

Real-time PCR Flex

ELISA Fixed (2)

LAMP

Morphological ID

Culturing methods

Validation and Verification

Staff competence

Fera Quality Manual

Plant Health Diagnostic Process

Real-time PCR

Conventional PCR

ELISA

Sap Inoculation

IF Microscopy

Culturing methods

Morphological ID

New Method....

New Method....

New Method....

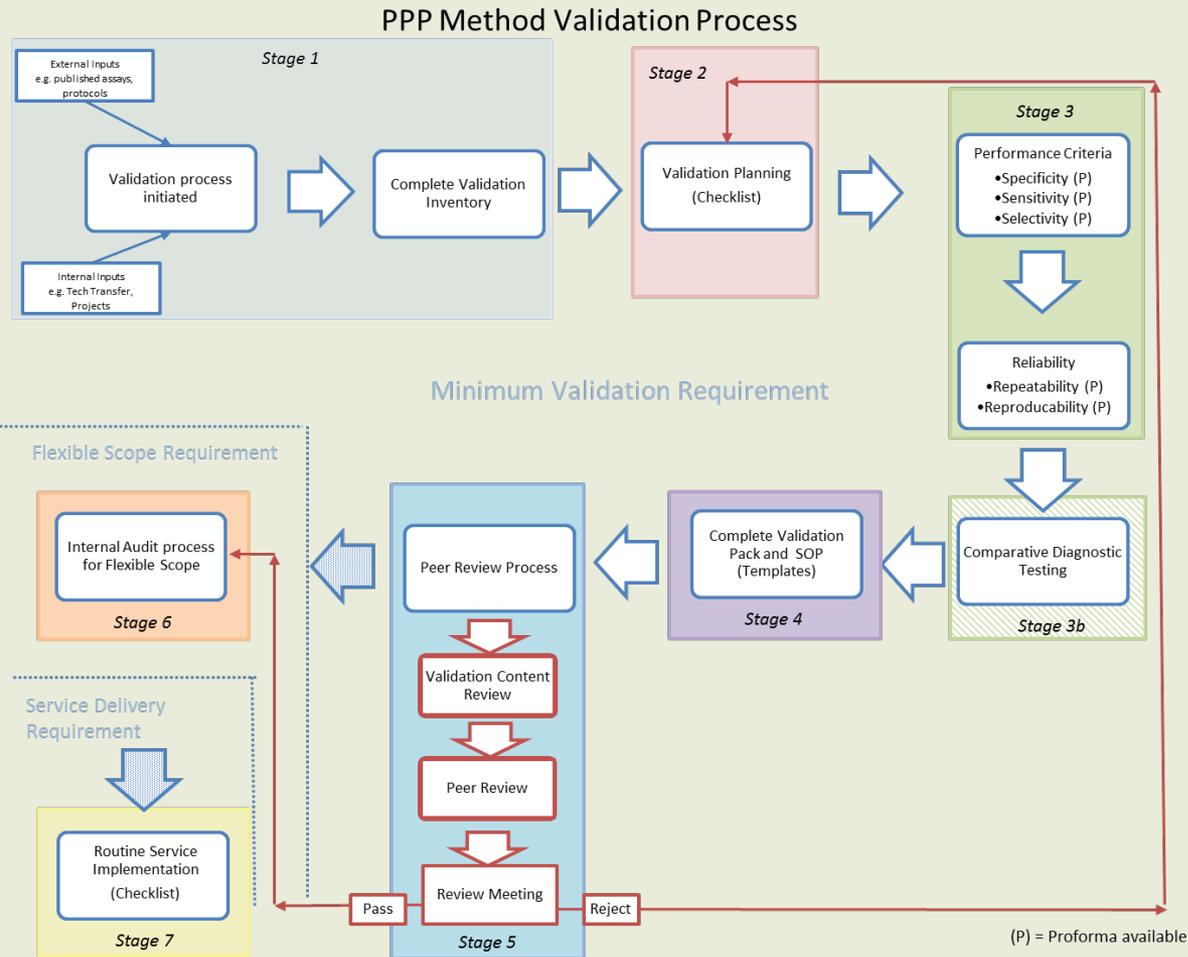
ISTA accreditation*

Collections**

Validation and Verification

Staff competence

Validation Process



What next?

- Renewing the overarching document for flexible scope in Plant Health - a wider remit for diagnostics.
- Screening versus confirmatory tests; a clear delineation in the way we manage our scope
- Use of CPD (continued professional development) aligning to the Royal Society of Biology (PHPR, CBiol) to evidence competency.
- Effective engagement with the teams to improve understanding of flexible scope.
- Continuing to build on our foundations.

Thank you for your
attention!

