Experience with accreditation and quality assurance in the plant health services of the Federal Länder of Germany

Karl-Heinz Pastrik
Chamber of Agriculture Lower Saxony
Plant Protection Office, Hanover

Chairman of the Working group ‘Quality Assurance in Plant Health Services’
National Plant Protection Organization of Germany

- Germany is a federal state
  -> several levels of administration

- On the level of the Federal States
  -> there are 16 Federal Länder, which are by german legal act responsible for the implementation of the federal law in the Länder,

  -> including: - control measures,

  - surveys and routine testing.
Germany: National Plant Protection Organization according to IPPC

**BMELV**: Federal Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection

**JKI**: Julius Kühn-Institut, Institute for national and international Plant Health

Other Countries (EC states, Non-EC states)

Internat. bodies (EPPO, IPPC)

European Union (several committees and working groups)

Federation

**BMELV**
- Plant Health Section
- legislation, information, coordination

**JKI**
- Plant Health Institute
- information, co-ordination
- notification,
- risk assessment,
- research,
- diagnostic,
- organizing inter-lab. comparison

Ministries of the Federal Länder (16)
(Länder consultants for plant health)

Plant health services of the Federal Länder
- implementation, inspection
- import, export, domestic inspection
- instruction of measures
- central and regional offices and points of entry
- diagnostic laboratories for routine testing

Information and co-ordination

Technical supervision and information and co-ordination

Information (including reports, comments)

* BMELV: Federal Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection
** JKI: Julius Kühn-Institut, Institute for national and international Plant Health
Working group: Quality Assurance in Plant Health Services

2009 the directors of the plant health services of the Federal Länder established a **working group** to promote the accreditation process.

**Working group:** ‘Quality Assurance in Plant Health Services’

**Chairmen:** Karl-Heinz Pastrik, Jan Kruse

The objectives of the working group are:

- cooperation in the field of quality assurance and accreditation,
- harmonization of detection methods in Germany,
- collaborative validation/verification of detection methods according PM 7/98.
The tasks of the working group:

- coordination of the sub-working groups,
- annual reporting to the directors of the plant health services,
- sending representatives to the panel of experts (sectorial committee) of the accreditation body (DAkkS).

Additionally, sub-working groups were formed in the fields of:

- Bacteriology, Nematology, Virology and Entomology.

These sub-working groups are responsible for:

- Validation / Verification of detection methods,
- Organisation and evaluation of proficiency tests,
- Annual reporting to the working group.
The present status of accreditation at the plant health services in Germany

- accredited:
  - Lower Saxony -> flexible
  - Mecklenburg-Western-Pomerania -> flexible
  - Rhineland-Palatinate -> flexible
  - Bavaria -> flexible
  - Hesse -> flexible
  - Saxony -> flexible
  - Hamburg -> fixed

- in preparation:
  - most of the remaining plant health services.
How do you deal with validation?

- By sending representatives to the sectorial committee of the accreditation body (DAkkS), it was possible to integrate the EPPO-Standard PM 7/98 (2) into the DAkkS documentation system.

“This DAkkS document transfers unaltered the content of the EPPO-Standard PM 7/98 (2)”

-> Validation / Verification are carried out according EPPO-Standard PM 7/98 (2) respectively DAkkS document 71 SD 4 029.
How do you demonstrate expertise?

- Use of diverse controls within a test (NAC/PAC; NIC/PIC) -> 1st line of control.

- Periodic testing of blind samples -> 2nd line of control.

- Participation in proficiency tests -> 3rd line of control.

- Attendance in working groups, sub-working groups, technical meetings, etc., (confirmed by certificates of attendance),

- Yearly updated lists of activities: publications, presentations, etc.

- Internal audits.
Thank you for your attention!