



**PHYTOSANITARY ADMINISTRATION
REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA**

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EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN
PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATION
1 Rue Le Notre
75016 Paris
FRANCE

SUBJECT: First outbreak of Potato spindle tuber viroid (PSTVd) in Slovenia

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are notifying the first outbreak of Potato spindle tuber viroid (PSTVd) (Pospiviroidae) in the territory of Slovenia.

After the notification of the Dutch NPPO on finding PSTVd infected ornamental plants a follow up inspection was done at Slovenian place of production in October 2006 and a plant of *Brugmansia cordata* was found positive. During the monitoring in Republic of Slovenia further 9 samples of *Solanum jasminoides* were found positive in December 2006. An official survey was imposed in 2007. At different places of production 29 samples of *S. jasminoides* and one sample of *Solanum rantonnettii* were found positive.

Identification of PSTVd was done in officially approved virological laboratory of Agricultural Institute of Slovenia. Two step reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) was used after RNA extraction using QUIAGEN RNeasy plant mini kit according to EPPO PM7/33(1) Diagnostic protocol for regulated pests. In 2006 all PCR products were sequenced, later only a sample of *S. rantonnettii* and randomly samples of *S. jasminoides*. Sequence analyses confirmed the presence of PSTVd. The infection of *Brugmansia cordata* was also confirmed by lab of Dutch Plantenziektenkundige Dienst.

Since in ornamental plants the PSTVd infection is symptomless, all registered producers were inspected in spring 2007. Samples were taken from final pot plants and their mother plants. Eradication measures were imposed: all infected series and mother plants were destroyed. Mother plants were imported in different years: 2000, 2002, 2003 and 2006. The notification to NPPOs is in progress to enable tracing back to the origin of infection.

The current status of PSTVd in Slovenia can be described as: present only in protected cultivation where host plant are grown, under eradication.

Yours sincerely,

Katarina GROZNIK
Director

CC: IPPC Secretariat – Portal IPP