



T.C.  
MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK  
General Directorate of Food and Control



Date: 12.05.2016

Subject : Declaration of Turkey on *Xylella fastidiosa*.

Please find the phytosanitary status declaration of Turkey on *Xylella fastidiosa* as follows:

The presence of *Xylella fastidiosa* was first reported on the Journal of Plant Pathology (2005), 87 (3), p. 246 in Turkey and argued that the disease detected on almond trees (*Prunus amygdalus L.*) from seven different orchards. The diagnose was carried out by DAS-ELISA using commercial kits (Loewe Phyto Diagnostica Biochemica, Germany) and as a conclusion it was stated that "These data seem to substantiate the likelihood that *Xylella fastidiosa* is associated with scorched almond trees in southern Turkey".

Upon the publication which was mentioned above, the situation has been intensively investigated. Then it has been considered by the Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock that the publication on the finding of *Xylella fastidiosa* in Turkey is not reflecting the reality and can not be accepted due to the following points:

- 1- The diagnosis was carried out by only DAS-ELISA. It is admitted in the publication that "These data seem to substantiate the likelihood that *Xylella fastidiosa* is associated with scorched almond trees in southern Turkey" but it is not certain. To confirm the results PCR methods have to be also done but the researchers didn't carry out PCR methods to find out the exact result. For scientific confirmation, it is definitely necessary to do diagnosis by also PCR methods.
- 2- We contacted with the researchers and learned the orchards where they collected the samples. It was stated by the researcher that the infected trees were all destroyed at that time and the following years they couldn't find any symptoms of the disease. Even so, intensive surveys were carried out and samples were analysed from the mentioned areas and the vicinity. But *Xylella fastidiosa* has not been found.
- 3- Although it has been passed more than 10 years, there is no detection of *Xylella fastidiosa* in Turkey.
- 4- In 2012, experts from Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock were trained on diagnosis and sampling in Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari, Italy. Then trainings were provided to the laboratory experts in the country in 2013. Survey instructions and information documents were prepared and disseminated in Turkey. *Xylella fastidiosa* surveys were included in to the Plant Health Implementation Program for the whole country and since 2014, the annual surveys on *Xylella fastidiosa* have been conducted throughout the country. Surveys have been carried out meticulously and samples were analysed and up to now there has not been detected *Xylella fastidiosa* in Turkey.

Eskişehir Yolu 9.km Lodumlu/Ankara  
Telefon No: 0312 258 77 43 Faks No: 0312 258 77 89  
E-Posta: [taha.asikoglu@tarim.gov.tr](mailto:taha.asikoglu@tarim.gov.tr) İnternet Adresi:  
[bitkisagligi@tarim.gov.tr](mailto:bitkisagligi@tarim.gov.tr)

Bilgi için: T.AŞIKOĞLU

Telefon No:

5- These information was provided to EPPO and evaluated. Then on PQR database and EPPO Global database it is accepted that the publication is unvalid.

Turkey considers *Xylella fastidiosa* as a high risk for national production of many plants thus implements strict measures and takes all necessary actions to prevent introduction to Turkey. The import measures were defined in the Regulation on Plant Quarantine for the countries which *Xylella fastidiosa* is present. Since Turkey is in the accession period of European Union (EU), the regulations on plant health are mainly in line with EU regulations and a harmonized regulation on *Xylella fastidiosa* is under preparation.

**Consequently, Turkey declares that *Xylella fastidiosa* is not present in Turkey and do not confirm the above mentioned publication.**

  
Murat SAHIN

NPPO Contact Point of TURKEY  
nppo@tarim.gov.tr  
Head of Plant Health and Quarantine Department  
General Directorate of Food and Control  
Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock/ TURKEY