

## **Advice 10-2018 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC on the analysis program regarding the protection of plants against pests.**

### **Questions**

The Scientific Committee has been asked to:

1. assess the proposed analysis program of the FASFC with regard to:
  - a. the adequacy of the programming methodology to the objectives pursued during plant pest controls (pests import prevention and pests spread limitation);
  - b. the relevance of the choices and the implementation of the statistical approaches;
  - c. the relevance of the choices of "matrix/hazard" combinations and selected sampling locations, taking into account the objectives pursued;
2. specify the modalities allowing to establish:
  - a. a multi annual sampling program for vigilance, where the objective will be to detect plant pests;
  - b. a multi annual sampling program for monitoring when the program will seek to estimate plant pest prevalences.

### **Methodology**

The opinion is based on expert opinion and on different scientific references.

### **Answers**

The applied programming methodology, aimed at detecting a prevalence level higher than or equal than 1%, is acceptable in function of the objectives pursued during plant pest controls, namely to prevent importation and to limit the spread of pests (question 1.a.).

Phytosanitary analyses are adequately programmed on the basis of the statistical approach (= vigilance approach) developed in the methodology for the development of the FASFC control program (question 1.b.). The programming of phytosanitary analyses within the 'potato sector' differs from this standard approach but is justified.

With regard to *Gibberella circinata*, the Scientific Committee proposes to analyse also the bark of *Pinus* spp. originating from Portugal and Spain and marketed in Belgium (question 1.c.).

The Scientific Committee is of the opinion that it is necessary to maintain a stable and the widest possible annual base of analyses in the analysis program (question 2.a.).

Question 2.b. does not apply (see below).

### **Conclusion**

The Scientific Committee gives a favourable opinion on the proposed analysis program regarding the protection of plants against pests, but nevertheless makes a number of recommendations.

The full text is available on this website in dutch and in french.