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CLARIFICATION OF THE DEFINITION OF VIRUSES IN THE GLOSSARY

Submitted by Germany

Note by the secretariat: In this paper Germany proposes possible amendments to annexes II, III and VII of the standard as a result of discussions on the pest list.

A. CLARIFICATION OF THE DEFINITION OF VIRUSES

1. Introduction

When discussing the pest list prepared by France TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/2003/10/Add.1 at the extended bureau meeting in Edinburgh there were different interpretations and definitions concerning virus diseases.

The UNECE Standard does not mention individual viruses in Annexes II and IV.

But in Annex I, point 2, it is required that certified initial stock has to be free of viruses X, Y, S, M, A as well as leaf roll.

In the EU Directive 2002/56/EC for seed potatoes there are no minimum requirements to be satisfied by the crop. It contains only requirements for the progeny.

The UNECE Standard contains in Annex II minimum requirements for the crop of different classes and categories.

Under point 3, mention is made of “the proportion of growing plants showing symptoms of (severe) virus diseases”. In the requirements for the progeny in Annex IV mention is made of “the proportion, in direct progeny, of plants showing symptoms of mild or severe virus diseases.”

To clarify the different definitions and interpretations the terms should be defined in Annex VII.

2. Proposals

Include into Annex VII of the standard the following terms:

Severe virus diseases manifest themselves through deformations with or without discolorations of the foliage with or without tuber necrosis. Deformation can be rugosity, crinkle, rolling and rigidity of the leaves or dwarfing of plant as with the severe mosaic or the leaf roll disease. Severe virus disease can result in significant yield reduction.

The following viruses or virus combinations are usually the origin of severe virus diseases:

PLRV, PVY, PVA or PVM,
PVY + PVX, PVA + PVX or PVX + PVS.

Mild virus diseases manifest themselves only through leaf discolorations as mosaic and leaf marks (mild mosaic). They hardly influence the yield. The following viruses are usually the causes of mild virus diseases: PVX or PVS.

Latent Viruses

Leaves or tubers can contain potato viruses which do not cause symptoms on leaves or tuber necrosis (which are latent) but can nevertheless be detected with help of a diagnostic method (ELISA, PCR etc.).

Tuber necrosis

Under special conditions the PVY-strain PVY^{NTN} can cause ring shaped or surface necrosis which extend only to 0.7 cm into the tuber. Similar symptoms can be caused by the tobacco rattle virus or MOP- TOP virus. The presence of these viruses can be shown through the appropriate laboratory diagnostic or through cutting samples of the tubers.

