

# Description of the plant health network using the example of *Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum*

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Concerning the international plant health network, Germany is a member state (MS) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and signed the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). It is a MS of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) at the regional level. The National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of Germany consists of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), the Julius Kühn Institute (JKI) and the Plant Protection Services of the Federal Länder (PSD). The aim of all plant health network parties is to prevent and control the introduction and spread of pests of plants and plant products and to ensure safe trade.

If a third country is planning a new law or an amendment to a law regarding sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) aspects, this is usually communicated to the WTO MS by a SPS notification mostly with a request for technical comments by the impacted countries. For example, New Zealand (NZL) identified nursery stock of *Vaccinium* spp. as a risk pathway for the

introduction of *Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum* into NZL and published in a SPS notification the amendment to the Import Health Standard (IHS) regarding nursery stocks to prevent the introduction of this pest. In general, the BMEL notices SPS notifications regarding plant health and assigns the JKI with its scientific examination. In the case of NZL, JKI rated the amendment of the standard as scientifically correct. Furthermore, no trade barriers were seen for the export of *Vaccinium* spp. nursery stock to NZL. If required, the BMEL sends technical comments to the European Union (EU), which in turn submits a summarized technical comment of all EU MS to the notifying country. After the amendment entered into force, the relevant law is updated on the plant health homepage of the JKI. In the case of regular export of the notified commodity to the notifying country of destination, additionally a short notice is made in the “Kompendium” of the JKI summarizing the changes concerning inspectors (e.g. export controls).