

## Open event & diagnostic training workshop summary

A 3-day event (13-15 September 2016) was organised by Forest Research (FR) and SASA (Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture) as part of their participation in the Horizon 2020 POnTE (Pest Organisms threatening Europe) and Euphresco projects. The event was funded by DEFRA and was hosted by SASA at their base near Edinburgh, Scotland.

The morning of the first day was an open session directed to stakeholders, policy makers and interested parties. Research scientists from Italy and France gave presentations on the current *Xylella fastidiosa* situation in their countries (distribution, susceptible hosts and symptoms). The EU Directives and emergency control measures implemented for its containment and the implications for the UK in nursery and retail sector were then discussed in detail.

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/plant/PlantHealth/PlantDiseases/Xylellafastidiosa>

The workshop made great use of SASA quarantine facilities and was aimed at diagnosticians from different UK organisations (FR, SASA, Fera, RHS (advisory service), RBGE, DARD, AFBI), and also DAFM in the Republic of Ireland and NVWA from The Netherlands). The objective was to present, discuss and demonstrate the EPPO diagnostic protocol PM7/24 (2) for *Xylella fastidiosa* including the processing of samples, isolation methods and media, different DNA extraction protocols, and different detection methods including direct tissue blot immunoassay (DTBIA), conventional PCR, Realtime PCR and loop mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP). The diagnostic experiences shared by the trainers were invaluable and the workshop was very informative, practical and will ensure that the necessary diagnostic tools are embedded successfully in the various laboratories.