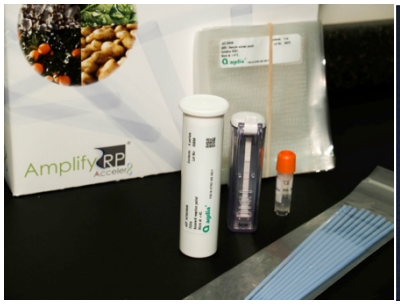
PRESS RELEASE

AGDIA-BIOFORDS COMMERCIALIZES ITS FIRST RAPID MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTIC TEST TO DETECT THE PATHOGEN RESPONSIBLE FOR LITTLE CHERRY DISEASE

Évry (France), June 16th, 2014

Agdia-Biofords, a company located on the Genopole campus and an affiliate of the American company Agdia Inc., has made available a new rapid molecular diagnostic kit for the detection of the virus responsible for little cherry disease, which results in small, badly formed and insipid cherries.

Little cherry 2 virus (LChV2), the pathogen responsible for little cherry disease, is an RNA virus that can infect all types of cherry trees, be they for production or decoration. The disease can be transmitted through grafting or by Coccidae insects that feed on the sap of the tree. Trees infected with the virus produce small, pale and bland cherries that are difficult to commercialize.



Left: The LChV2 kit from Agdia-Biofords.

Right: Cherries from a tree infected by LChV2 (left) compared to cherries from a healthy tree (right) Reference: Mekuria *et al*., Journal of Virological Methods 205 (2014) 24–30.

To aid in the battle against this disease, Agdia Inc. has developed a novel, easy to use, rapid detection kit for LChV2. The kit is built upon the company's isothermal amplification-based AmplifyRP™ Acceler8™ technology that enables the amplification of the virus's RNA from a sample of leaves. It works at a single constant temperature (no thermal cycling is needed) and requires no particular technical skills. The result is read from a flow strip (similarly to a pregnancy test) after only 30 minutes.

The kit has been validated on numerous strains of LChV2 and shown to not react to other pathogens, such as little cherry virus 1 or western X phytoplasma, known to cause similar symptoms.

Agdia-Biofords is the only company in the European, African and Middle-Eastern markets to furnish a rapid molecular diagnostic kit for LChV2. "*The virus is spreading quickly in the American Northwest and was detected for the first time this year in Australia, but its presence in Europe has not yet been confirmed,*" explains Marcos Amato, Managing Director of Agdia-Biofords. "*With our rapid detection kit, imported plants and grafts can be easily tested at borders, thus preventing the introduction of the virus in currently uncontaminated countries and protecting orchards from little cherry disease.*"

For more information on AmplifyRP™ Acceler8™ LChV2: http://www.agdia-biofords.com/produits-services/amplifyrp

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About Agdia-Biofords. Agdia-Biofords is a member of Genopole and the Végépolys competitiveness cluster. It represents Agdia Inc. in Europe, Africa and the Middle East. The company commercializes several kits for the detection of plant pathogens and GMOs, as well as kits for growth hormone assays. Its customers are mainly seed companies, horticulturists and research and plant diagnostics laboratories. With its 30 years of experience and numerous partnerships around the world, Agdia-Biofords provides its expertise in plant pathologies and GMO detection to a wide range of agricultural segments.
www.agdia-biofords.com

About Genopole. Genopole is the leading French biopark dedicated to research in genetics and biotechnologies for healthcare and the environment. Genopole unites 19 research laboratories, 80 biotech companies and 21 technical platforms as well as university training programs (Évry-Val-d'Essonne University). Its objectives are to favor the development of research in genomics, post-genomics and other related fields, assure the transfer of resulting technology to the industrial sector, establish academic-level training programs for these fields, and finally to create and support biotech companies. Genopole is funded mainly by the Ile-de-France Regional Council (30%), the Essonne Department Council (26.5%) and the French State (15.7%).
www.genopole.fr