

## Identification of bacterial diseases in imported seed potatoes

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Due to insufficiency of local seed potato production, every year a considerable amount is imported from other countries. Through imported seed potatoes, there is a chance of introducing pests and diseases to the country. To prevent entry of quarantine pests and other diseases, suitable safeguards need to be taken. Thus, there is a necessity to identify different types of bacterial diseases in imported seed tubers and recognize the quarantine pathogens in potato tubers with reference to bacteria. Visual observation of diseases was done at the port of entry (sea port) during the plant quarantine inspection of imported seed potatoes. Laboratory analysis of representative samples was done for further identification of pathogens, by observing cultural characteristics and adopting biochemical tests. Two hundred and twenty nine samples were tested during the period of September 2005 to March 2006. Investigations revealed that the diseases like common scab (*Streptomyces scabies*), netted scab (*Streptomyces reticulisacabies*) and soft rot (*Erwinia carotovora* pv. *carotovora*, *Erwinia carotovora* pv. *atroseptica* and *Erwinia chrysanthemi*) were recorded within the limits of health

standards prescribed by the Department of Agriculture. During this period bacterial wilt (*Ralstonia solanacearum*) and ring rot (*Clavibacter michignensis*) were not detected in tested samples.

Key words: Seed potato, Quarantine diseases, health standards

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