

Science and Technology Park of Sicily develops revolutionary method for citrus virus Tristeza diagnosis

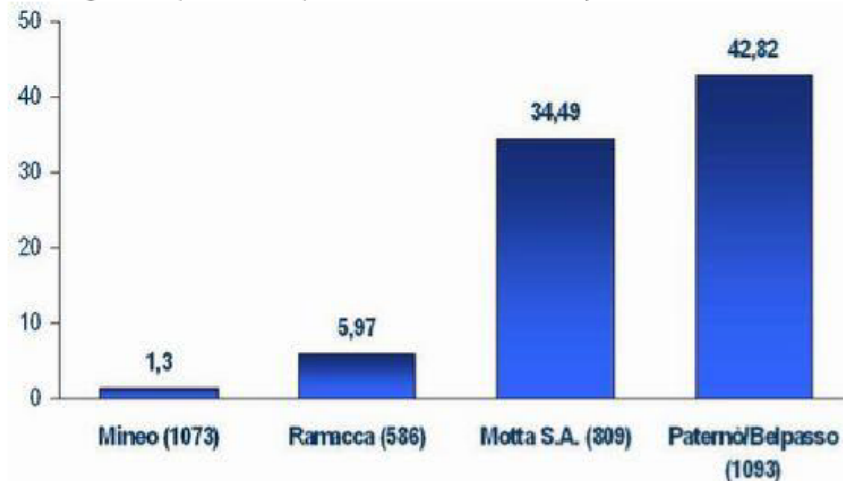
In order to isolate and to precisely characterize each single virus strain of the citrus disease known as "Tristeza", a new analysis technique has been developed by the Italian scientific Institute "Science and Technology Park of Sicily" (PST Sicily). This new method will be now applied in a monitoring plan on the whole Sicilian territory. The plan has been financed by the European Union with the aim to prevent Tristeza virus propagation.



Thanks to the analysis of the PST laboratories, it will be possible to exactly know the aggressiveness degree of each virus strain, with a great advantage in deciding which trees must be immediately eradicated and which ones can be treated in a following moment, allowing a gradual and progressive investment in the orchards renovation programs.

According to PST President Antonino Catara: "Tristeza virus (CTV) has a diffusion range between 10 and 40% in Catania's province, which is one of the main citrus producing areas in Sicily. Tristeza virus causes no risks for the final consumer but the trees which are hit by this disease gradually die and must be eradicated.

Percentage of CTV (Tristeza virus) infected citrus trees in Catania province



PST new analysis method, called CE-SSCP, represents a great achievement in the field of the Tristeza virus research and it will be soon published by an international scientific magazine.

Further info: www.pstsiciliagroalimentare.it