

The Germplasm Health Unit

Securing the path to food security

Crop germplasm is a high value commodity exchanged at a high frequency for agriculture research and development, and commerce. This activity, however, has an inherent risk of introducing exotic plant pests (= pathogens, insects, weeds, etc.) that could result in potential economic losses. In addition, pests associated with the germplasm may reduce longevity of germplasm in storage and have a negative effect on crop performance.

The Germplasm Health Unit (GHU) of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) utilizes safeguards and procedures to produce, maintain, and export healthy germplasm in accordance with the FAO-International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) regulations, and specific regulations of the recipient country to safeguard agriculture and biodiversity from the risks associated with the entry, establishment or spread of plant pests.

Vision

Safeguard Plant Health and Biodiversity.

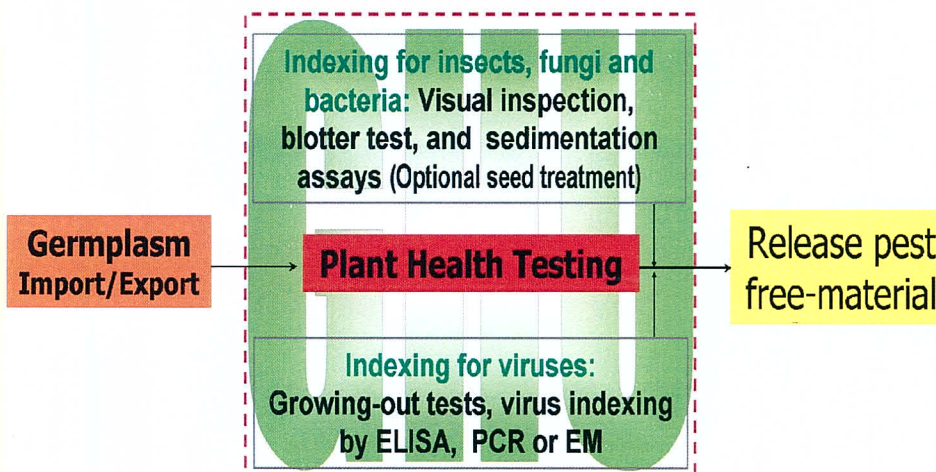
Mission

- Prevent the spread of pests through germplasm.
- Generate new knowledge and tools to support pest control.
- Facilitate production of pest-free germplasm.
- Improve plant health protection measures.
- Transfer knowledge and capacity building of partners.

Mandate

- Monitor the presence of seed-borne pathogens in cassava, cowpea, maize, plantain and banana, soybean, and yam germplasm imported and exported by IITA and its partners.
- Facilitate international germplasm movement in support of IITA's international crop improvement programs.
- Facilitate production of good quality and pest-free germplasm to stakeholders in country programs.
- Conduct health test and certify health status of planting materials to prevent the international spread of pests, particularly to Pest Free Areas (PFA).

Facilitating the safe exchange of germplasm



Production of clean planting materials

