
SPECIFIC GUIDELINE

NRL-Proficiency Test for Analysis of Pesticide Residues in Okra Homogenate (NRL/PT-FV/2022/Okra-1)



Conducted by
National Referral Laboratory



ICAR-National Research Centre for Grapes

भाकृअनुप-राष्ट्रीय अंगूर अनुसंधान केंद्र

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Introduction:

This proficiency test (PT) is directed to laboratories belonging to APEDA recognized laboratories and other commercial food testing laboratories planning for APEDA/FSSAI/EIC recognition for testing food commodities for domestic and export purposes.

The PT aims to obtain information regarding the quality, accuracy, and comparability of test results for pesticide residue in okra reported by the laboratories from the country for export purposes. Participating laboratories will be provided with an assessment of their analytical performance that they can use to demonstrate their analytical performance and compare themselves with other participating laboratories.

Registration for the proficiency test:

This PT is mandatory for all the APEDA recognized laboratories that are intended to analyse the RMP sample of okra for export to EU countries under Hortinet for the ongoing season. The other food testing laboratories who cover the minimum 70% of target analytes in the scope of the laboratory as per Annexre-1 of the registration form can also be voluntarily participate. Any confirmation on participation pre-assumes that the laboratory has the capability to analyze minimum 70% of the analytes in target list.

To participate, each laboratory must complete the registration through **online portal** on given link below before the registration deadline.

Link for registration:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSccCi9zpCOxr6CJXhf0wBmMOCwFmIrT2WKTtEHQz0dg6YeZ9Q/viewform?usp=pp_url

The registration fee per laboratory as follows:

Registration fee/ Lab = Rs. 10,000 + GST (18%)
= Rs. 11,800 (Eleven thousand eight hundred only)

In the online registration should clearly indicate the delivery address of the Test Item. The organizer of the PT/ the courier agent will not be responsible for the non-delivery of the Test Item due to the wrong delivery address provided by the laboratory.

On successful registration, the laboratory will receive a confirmatory mail from the organizer. The registration fee does not include the courier charges, which will be communicated separately to the participants on an actual basis and should be paid to the official courier agent as cash on delivery.

Test item:

This proficiency test is based on analyzing okra homogenate having incurred residues/spiked with pesticide analytical standards. The test item will be homogenized and sub-sampled into coded bottles. Ten bottles containing the test item will be chosen randomly and analyzed in duplicates to check for homogeneity. The test item will be stored frozen ($-20 \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$) before shipment to participants. Three bottles, again chosen randomly, will be analyzed by the organizer over a period of time to confirm the stability of the pesticides in the test item (firstly, when the test items are shipped, then a few days after the deadline for participant results).

Amount of Test Item: Participants will receive **approximately 150 g of okra homogenate**

Shipment of the Test Item:

The sample will be shipped to the participating laboratory on the scheduled date through the official courier agent identified by the organizer. On the same day, the laboratory will receive the Courier details, the tracking number, and the invoice (on an actual basis) in the laboratory's name for the shipment through E-mail.

Laboratories must make their arrangements for the receipt of the Test Item and payment of courier charges. The laboratories should make the necessary arrangements for receiving the shipment even if the laboratory is closed during the period. The organizer will not be responsible for any return of the shipment item.

Test item Receipt by the laboratory:

The test item will be delivered to the participant laboratories on/or before the scheduled date. As per the invoice communicated, the shipment charge should be paid by the laboratory to the courier agent at the time of delivery. **Any failure on payment of shipment charge to the courier agent will disqualify the laboratory from the PT, and no registration fee will be refunded.**

Once the laboratory receives the test item, its arrival must be reported to the PT organizer in the prescribed format on the same day by E-mail. If the laboratory does not respond by this date, the organizer will assume that the test item has been received and accepted by the laboratory.

If any laboratory has not received the test item by the deadline specified, they must inform the organizer immediately by E-mail (apedanrlpt@gmail.com)

Advice on test item handling:

Once received, the test item should be stored deeply frozen ($-20 \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$ or less) prior to analysis to avoid any possible deterioration/spoilage. The test item should be thawed and mixed thoroughly before taking the analytical portion(s). All participants should use their own routine standard operating procedures for extraction, clean-up and analytical measurement and their own reference standards for identification followed by quantification.

Submission of results:

Once the laboratory has analyzed the test item and is ready to submit their test results, they must enter their results in the format provided by the organizer and send it to the following E-mail address: apedanrlpt@gmail.com. All analyte concentrations must be expressed in mg kg^{-1} together with the associated recovery expressed as percentage. The number of significant figures should be based on the guidelines provided in SANTE 12682/2019. Additional significant figures may be recorded for the purpose of statistical analysis. Please bear this in mind when reporting data:

Residue levels above the reporting level should be rounded to **three decimal points**.

Results should not be reported where a pesticide was not detected or was detected below the laboratory's LOQ. In both cases, this will be considered as 'ND' (Not Detected) or <LOQ. If a pesticide was not sought/analysed, it will be considered as 'NA' (Not Analysed). The actual results/residue levels measured must be reported as numbers.

Announcement of the PT result:

The organizer will evaluate the results at the end of the proficiency test, once the deadline for the receipt of results has passed. The organizer will communicate the electronic version of the preliminary report to the individual participants through E-mail within the time schedule. The hard copy of the final report will be hosted on the ICAR-NRCG website and/or will communicate to the individual participant laboratory through E-mail. This report will include information regarding the design of the test, the homogeneity and stability results, a statistical evaluation of the participant's results as well as graphical displays of the results and any conclusions. Further relevant information considered to be of value may also be included.

ACTIVITY AND DEAD LINE:

Activity	Dead line
Opening Registration period	25 th August, 2022
Deadline for Registration	20 th September, 2022
Shipment of the Test Item	26 th September, 2022 to 30 th September, 2022
Deadline for receiving Test Item by the laboratory	04 th October, 2022
Deadline for receiving the result from the laboratory	15 th October, 2022
Preliminary Report	03 rd November, 2022
Final Report	05 th December, 2022

Organizer and Committee: NRL/PT-FV/2022/okra-1

The Organizer:

National Referral Laboratory

ICAR-National research Centre for Grapes Manjiri Farm, Pune- 412307, India

Organising Team:

Program director:

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Program Co-ordinators:

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