
Challenges and opportunities in operating a plant-associated bacteria collection

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Biological Resource Centre holding plant-pathogenic resources are strategic for plant health. By preserving the pathogens diversity, they are invaluable tools to understand the dissemination of pathogens over time and their epidemiology. They also can help understand the emergences.

However, the management of such resource centres is not without challenges. These challenges can be very different in their nature, being organizational, legal, scientific or financial.

From the example of CIRM-CFBP, the French Collection for Plant-associated Bacteria, <https://cirm-cfbp.fr>, we'll explore different types of challenges and the solutions we found to overcome them.

Interestingly, the challenges to obtain the ISO9001 certification and the update of the collection to make compliant to regulations were very effective to improve the reputation and visibility of the collection. Along with scientific challenges, i.e. the production of DNA barcode for all the 7000 resources available at CIRM-CFBP, this permitted to significantly improve the value of the resources. And in the end, the mode added-value we can bring to the scientific community, the easiest it is to prove the collections' usefulness and to secure funding.

Finally, the challenges got transformed into new competences and expertise for the collection, reshaping our activities and permitting us to provide a better service to the scientific community.