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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

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Ref. No.

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Date

21/11/21/21

22/10/2021

**Mr. Samuel Bishop**

*International Plant Health Policy Lead*

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

DEFRA, 11G35, National Agri- Food Innovation Campus, Sand Hutton, York, YO41 1LZ,

United Kingdom

Ref: Declaration of status of *Xylella fastidiosa* in Ethiopia

In reference to our previous letter that the ministry has reported absence of *Xylella fastidiosa* in site of production up on collection of 240 samples of pelargonium, Erysimum, Hebe, Helichrysum, Heliotropium, Lavandula, Osteospermum and Vinca from DESA plants, Dummer Orange/Red Fox Ethiopia, Syngenta/Ethiopia Cutting, Florensis Ethiopia, Florensis Abyssinia and Maranque plants flower farms located in the rift valley areas of East Shewa and Arsi Zones tested at Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service.

The Ministry has extended surveying and sample collection from Zuquala flower farm and out farms of Adama, Lume, Bora, Batu (Zeway), Boset, Merti and Nura Era districts in addition to the above mentioned farms to confirm the area declaration. 851 samples of Acacia, Coffee, Citrus, and grapes in addition the above list of host plants were collected and tested using Real time PCR following recommended protocol of Ouyang et al. 2013 at National Agricultural Biotechnology Research Center of the Ethiopian Institute of Agriculture.

Therefore, the Plant Health and Product Regulatory Directorate (PHPRD) of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, the National Plant Protection Organization of Ethiopia would like to officially declare by this communication in writing that *Xylella fastidiosa* does not occur in Ethiopia. The Ministry will continue inspection and monitoring and testing of the pathogen in other parts of the country to ensure safe trade as

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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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per requirements provided in Annex IV of regulation (EU) 2020/1201. Please note the attached detailed report. We Looking forward to your continued cooperation.

Sinslerly



**Girma Bekele**  
**Director General for Plant**  
**Health Regulatory**

