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**SUGAR BEET DIAGNOSTIC SERVICE:
A WINNING SYSTEM FOR ALL INVOLVED**

**Service de diagnostic pour betteraves sucrières : un système profitable pour
tous les participants / Diagnose-Service für Zuckerrüben: gewinnbringend für
alle Beteiligten**

ABSTRACT

The Dutch sugar beet research institute, IRS, offers a free diagnostic service for sugar beets grown in the Netherlands. Agricultural consultants and extension specialists have the opportunity to send in samples of sugar beets. The system has many advantages. In case growers do have a problem in their sugar beet field or pile, they can contact their consultants. Often these consultants can help the farmer directly, based on their experience. But when they don't recognise the problem directly, or are in doubt about the cause, they can send a sample to the diagnostic lab at IRS. In this way farmers are guaranteed of a right diagnosis and the knowledge of consultants increases. The right diagnosis is important for management decisions and prevents a waste of resources. Moreover, new or upcoming diseases are observed in an early stage and affected growing areas are known for specified extension. Example of a new disease is the recently new discovered foliar fungus stemphylium. Another example is the early discovery of the Rz1 resistance breaking of the AYPR tetrad variant of the BNYVV A-type. In addition to this, the Dutch sugar beet research institute has a good overview of the most important causes of yield loss and can easily find inoculum and naturally infested fields for further research. All these advantages increase, directly or indirectly, the financial yield for Dutch sugar beet growers. Examples are given.
