

TESTIMONIAL LETTER FOR *XiltriX* SYSTEM

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) hold very important international collections of staple crops, including clonally propagated crops such as cassava (*Manihot esculenta*), yam (*Dioscorea* spp.), banana and plantains (*Musa* spp.). The most reliable and best way to conserve in perpetuity those clonal crop collections is cryopreservation, confirmed by COVID-19 crisis that provide clear evidence of how a cryobank is critical. Therefore, IITA decided to emphasize on cryobanking, with a long and multi-aspects setting up of more than 10 years. These prerequisites include the crucial inventory and monitoring aspect, which guarantee the efficient, the reliability and the sustainability of any cryobank. From the exhibition at the European Biobank Week in Vienna (13-16 September 2016), we contracted *XiltriX* International B.V. to take care of the equipment and cryobank monitoring system, right from 2016 ending. The system provided by *XiltriX* International B.V., is associated with the *Cryo Products (CryoFill)* cryotank and allowed to oversee the temperature and Liquid Nitrogen (LN) levels in the tank. *XiltriX* also includes alerts in case of temperature and/or liquid nitrogen levels issues (out of higher and lower limits), with telephone text message about time, location, and cause of dysfunction. In general, the *XiltriX* monitoring system was essential in the implementation of IITA cryobank, started in August 2017. Since the *XiltriX* International B.V. system was supplied and installed in 2016 at the IITA Genetic Resources Centre (GRC), it showed effectiveness, stability and easy handling for the inventory and monitoring of IITA cryobank. It has been in constant use and has functioned effectively, meeting all expected purposes.

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