Main objective of the laboratory

- state laboratory tests of plant pests and damages of plants and plant products
- mainly analyses of quarantine pests
- microbiological, microscopic, biochemical, molecular techniques and bioassays
- following the Act on Plant Health Care, observance of Ordinances of Government and EPPO diagnostic protocols for pest’s identification
- publication of new diagnostic cases by lectures, articles in special journals, newspapers for agro-sector, editing quarantine leaflets mainly for phytosanitary inspectors, trainings for inspectors
- work in the international organizations (EPPO, EMN) and projects for phytosanitary sector

The quality management system

- applicable to all activities in the laboratory
- quality manual – basic document of the management system policies related to quality, references to the supporting procedures and technical procedures, it defines responsibilities and competences
- standard operation procedures – description of the laboratory tests
- internal rules – description of the supporting activities related to the diagnostic procedures
- manuals for the laboratory equipment (instructions how to operate the devices)
- records - quality records and technical records
- metrology (calibration) - the continuous control of the correct adjusting of devices
- staff responsibilities - clear definition of work tasks for staff members
- participation in the proficiency and ring tests - successful participation = confirmation of the quality system

Main issues to solve

- preparation, implementation and maintenance of the quality assurance in our laboratories
- clarify the general requirements of the ISO 17025 for the phytosanitary diagnostics
- verify if the system meets the guidelines (internal audits and management reviews)
- preventive and corrective measures
- metrology, equipment (more requirements for financial sources)
- attitude of people (belief in the system and its understanding)
- coordination of the distant laboratories (the different activities, staff)
- time consuming process
- paperwork vs. laboratory diagnostics

Accreditation body

- finally, the laboratory will undergo the ISO17025 assessment by an accreditation body that is certified to perform laboratory accreditation
- Slovak National Accreditation Service (SNAS) - authorised as a sole accreditation body to execute accreditation in Slovakia