PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF ERADICATION OF AVOCADO SUNBLOTCH VIROID (ASBVd) AND POTATO SPINDLE TUBER VIROID (PSTVd) IN AVOCADO

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Leaf samples of 473 avocado (*Persea americana* Mill) plants of 35 varieties grown at La Molina Experimental Sation – INIA, Peru, were studied to identify the Avocado sunblotch viroid (ASBVd), and the Potato spindle tuber viroid (PSTVd). Detection of the two viroids was carried out at the International Potato Cente's laboratories, La Molina, Peru by means of the nucleic acid spot hybridization (NASH) technique. Our first results show that 93 (19.6%), and 55 (11.6 %) of the studied samples were infected by ASBVd and PSTVd respectively. The varieties showing the two diseases were: villacampa, collinred, naval, hass**,** and bacon. All the plants showing to be NASH positive were rooted out and burned to prevent dissemination of the viroids. We have currently identified viroid-free plants to propagate avocado either as rootstocks, buds for grafting, or the two strategies. Our results will benefit nursery avocado activities, and avocado growers, which in turn will result in a sustainable commercialization domestically and abroad.