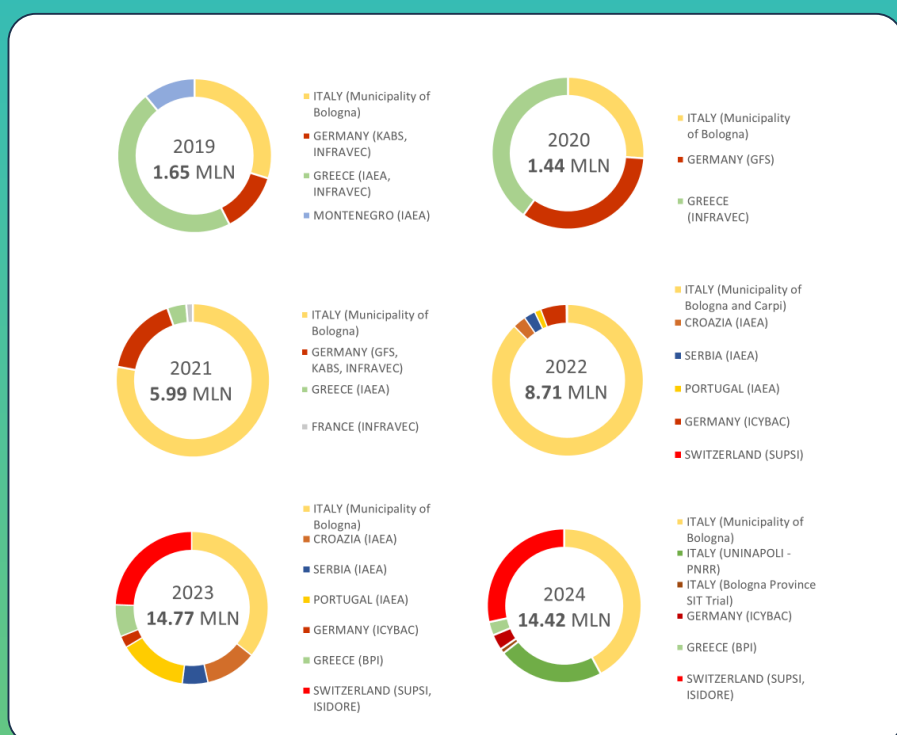


# PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY OF *Aedes albopictus* STERILE MALES

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## BACKGROUND

The Sterile Insect Technique is a genetic control method which consists in the production and release of a large number of sterile males, which mate with wild virgin females that subsequently lay infertile eggs. The SIT mass rearing facility established at the Centro Agricoltura Ambiente in Crevalcore, Italy, has the capacity to produce 1 million males per week, and in the summer 2024 produced more than 14 millions sterile males.

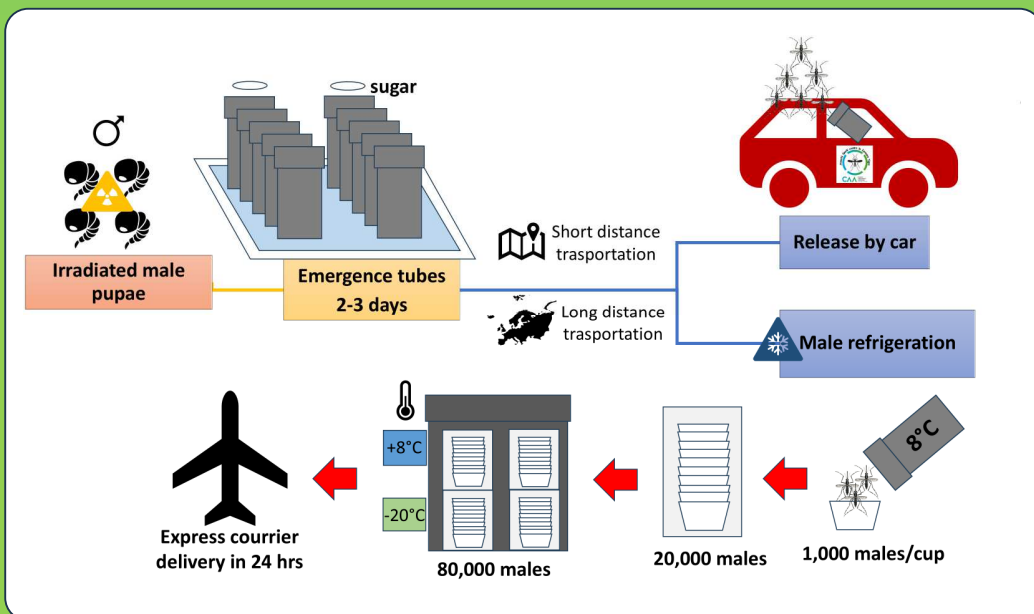
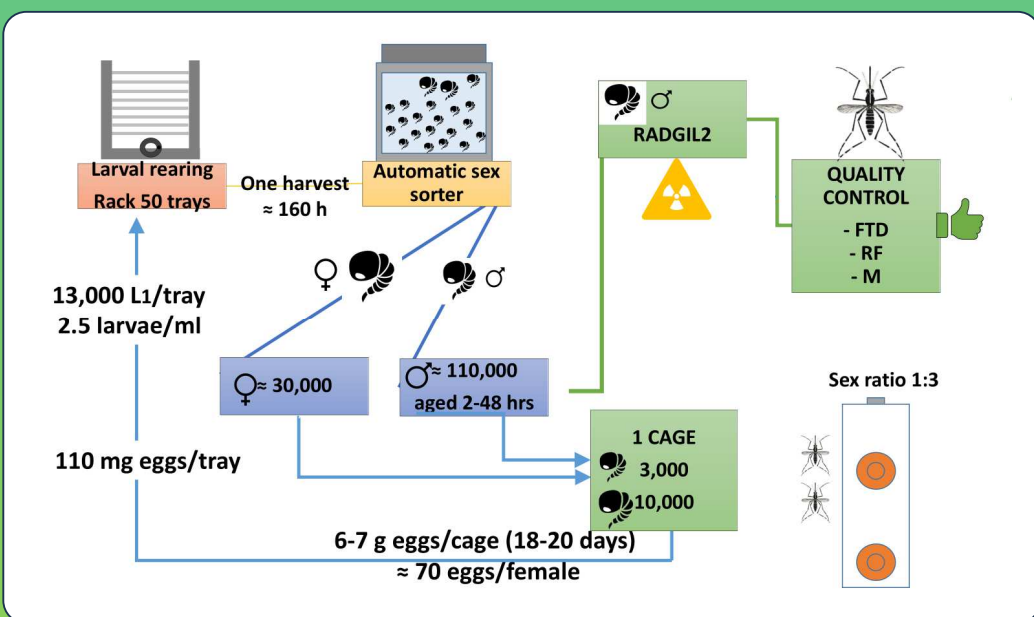


## MASS REARING PRODUCTION PROCESS

Larvae of *Aedes albopictus* are reared in larval rearing units (racks with 50 trays each) and pupae are collected after 160 hours from egg seeding, male pupae are separated from the females by means of an automatic sex-sorter. The male pupae productivity for every larval rearing unit is around 110,000 male pupae. The residual female presence is below 1%.

## IRRADIATION, EMERGENCE AND RELEASE PROCEDURE

The male pupae are X-ray irradiated and left to emerge inside emergence tubes. The tubes are maintained for two/three days to allow complete adult emergence. In case of short distance transportation sterile males can be released directly with the tubes by car, while for long distance transportation males are refrigerated and shipped by express courier.



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