

GRULAC PROPOSAL IPPC CPM-17 ON THE SUBJECT OF BANANA WILT CAUSED BY Fusarium oxysporum fsp. cubense R4T

The priority to analyze the phytosanitary problem of banana wilt caused by Fusarium Race 4 Tropical on the CPM 17 agenda is an opportunity to inform the NPPOs, banana and plantain production and marketing chains, the scientific community and academics and all consumers in the world of the pandemic-level impact of the most destructive pest of Musaceae. It will affect the population that uses plantains and bananas in their food, since it is part of the diet of millions of inhabitants, as well as the export sectors and consumers, since there will be a lack of banana fruits and their costs will be reflected in the markets

On behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean group (GRULAC) and of the countries that agreed on the prioritization of the issue of banana wilting, we request the following points from the IPPC:

1. Manage before the FAO, international organizations related to agriculture and marketing, as well as other sources of financing, a program for the prevention, containment and management of banana wilt through the implementation and facilitation unit led by Sarah Brunel and in full compliance with the IPPC Development Agenda implementation on Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems.
2. Carry out a communication and sensitivity campaign before authorities of the banana and plantain producing countries, for example, through notes and face-to-face meetings between Secretary Osama and the Ministers of Agriculture that allow leading regional strategies.
3. Implement at the emergency level action simulacrum for the prevention, containment and management of the pest under the governance of the IPPC Secretariat and RPPOs from different parts of the world.
4. Promote an international center for the improvement of bananas and plantains in homology to that of corn and wheat (CIMYT) or that of potatoes (CIP), in compliance with the IPPC development Agenda on Research Coordination.
5. Strengthen capacities in:
 - a. Detection and integral diagnosis --- as a target pest: FOC R4t, in addition to other soil pathogens and those of viral and bacterial etiology, which are or will be the intermediate epidemics before the collapse due to FOC R4T.
 - b. Surveillance or monitoring for an early warning system with an early warning reaction capacity for TR4. It includes satellite detection, the use of drones, specific canine units, among others that allow the rapid location of the presence of the pest.
 - c. Containment of existing outbreaks for TR4 in the affected countries, which implies eradication strategies and biosecurity cordons between affected areas and those that are free of wilt.
 - d. Biosafety measures and actions for TR4, at the level of entry or cross-border points, of wide areas, farms and affected areas.

- e. Management or health of the soil that implies the conservation and increase of beneficial organisms or biological controllers.
- f. Development of tolerant or resistant varieties to TR4, involving plantains and not just bananas.
- g. Training and dissemination, for all levels or publics involved with an emphasis on virtual and face-to-face courses, field schools, simulacrum for the prevention or containment of FOC R4T.
- h. Development of a phytosanitary extension plan for TR4, for the transfer of knowledge and adoption by producers as soon as possible.
- i. Support for research and specific product proposals to support the integrated management of FOC R4T.
- j. Promote survival or sustainability strategies for affected producers, such as crop substitution or agricultural insurance for small producers.
- k. Support the mobilization of the FOC R4T phytosanitary commando led by OIRSA as a specialized technical group to deal with outbreaks or in actions to contain and prevent Fusarium wilt.
- l. Studies and projects for the implementation of alternative production systems to banana cultivation in regions affected by the plague.