

















- **Supported the hosting of the IPPC Regional Workshops for the Caribbean and Latin America Regions (2022 and 2023).**

IICA working in collaboration with IPPC, FAO, CAHFS, CAN, COSAVE and OIRSA to plan the IPPC Regional Workshops for the Caribbean and Latin America which seek to promote participation of Caribbean and Latin America Countries in the IPPC standard setting processes and encourage compliance with international phytosanitary standards. In 2022, fifty-three Plant Health Professionals from seventeen Caribbean countries and seven regional/international institutions participated in the standard setting process and have an increased awareness of capacity building tools developed by the IPPC. Latin American workshop met 78 Plant Health Officials from 18 countries and 8 regional/international institutions. In 2023, for Caribbean workshop 20 persons from fourteen Caribbean countries attend the workshop which was held in-person in Antigua and Barbuda, and 95 Plant Health Professionals from 17 countries and 6 regional / international organizations attend the workshop which was held in hybrid format in IICA Headquarters, Costa Rica, for Latin America Region. More information [Janet.laurence@iica.int](mailto:Janet.laurence@iica.int) and [Rodrigo.astete@iica.int](mailto:Rodrigo.astete@iica.int).

- **International Plant Health Day - IPHD**

To commemorate the “International Plant Health Day”, IICA shared key messages on its social networks. More information [Rodrigo.astete@iica.int](mailto:Rodrigo.astete@iica.int)

### **2.3. In relation to adopting good practices and improving response to emergency situations:**

- **Preparing the Caribbean to Safeguard its Borders against Priority Plant Pests.**

To strengthen National Plant Protection Organizations to prevent/manage the entry of key priority plant pests into the Caribbean, a series of capacity building activities were conducted. The first activity trained plant health professionals from NPPOs on an approach to assess the status of their National Emergency Pest Response Systems through the conduct of Tabletop Simulation Exercises. This resulted in twenty-one (21) plant health professionals from six countries being trained (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Jamaica, Grenada, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago). These trained individuals utilized the knowledge gained to conduct tabletop simulation exercises for priority pests, including the Tomato Leafminer, Citrus Canker and Potato Brown Rot. More than 120 stakeholders from the emergency pest response system participated in these exercises across the target countries. Based on these exercises, countries were able to assess the status of their emergency response systems and identified key areas which need to be strengthened to protect their borders from pest incursions. Funded under the Greater Caribbean Safeguarding Initiative for which IICA is the executing agency (Funding provided by the USDA APHIS PPQ).

More information [Janet.laurence@iica.int](mailto:Janet.laurence@iica.int)

- **Development of GAP Audit Course and Manual for improved trade of fresh produce in the Caribbean.**

Towards strengthening the competence of public and private sector professionals in GAP Auditing, an e-course and Manual were developed. The course covers the principles and practice of GAP Auditing and targets in the main extension and field officers, and producers. This course was delivered through IICA’s e-learning platform with over 200 persons completing the first edition of the course. More information [Janet.laurence@iica.int](mailto:Janet.laurence@iica.int)





- **Support Barbados and the OECS in managing IAS threats posed by the horticulture trade pathway particularly those that pose the greatest risk of becoming invasive**

Within the above context, IICA was contracted by CAB International to undertake a study to generate information on managing IAS threats posed by the horticulture trade pathway particularly those that pose the greatest risk of becoming invasive. The information will inform appropriate policy, legal and institutional frameworks for all aspects of management of IAS in Barbados and OECS. The following were successfully completed:

- Identification and prioritisation of key species in the Horticulture trade pathway (ornamental non-food plant species -including aquatic and marine plant).
- Documented the existing measures to manage threat of introduction of IAS posed by the Horticulture trade pathways and determined their efficacy.
- Recommended measures for managing the risks associated with these potential invasive species within a SMART Action framework.

CAB International Funded Initiative. More information [Janet.laurence@iica.int](mailto:Janet.laurence@iica.int)

- ***Fusarium oxysporum* Tropical Race 4**

**“ALER4TA Project to strengthening capacities and biosafety in Ecuador, Colombia and Peru, against *Fusarium oxysporum* tropical Race 4 (Foc RT4) in musaceae”**

With GIZ support, a Field School (ECA) was developed with IICA methodology, on Foc RT4 biosafety with 32 attendants from Ecuador, 22 from Colombia and 23 from Peru. Musaceae producers have been trained in biosecurity, to date 467 attendants in Ecuador (29.6% female), 621 in Colombia (26.6% female), and 314 in Peru (13.1% female). A cabinet drill was developed to analyze relevant issues for each country. Project will be extended to Bolivia with the same activities in the last half of 2023. Support was provided for the provision of Biosafety kits for Agrocalidad and Musaceae producers in the country.

Support for the implementation of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), supporting Agrocalidad process and the updating of GAP regulations for processed grains (cocoa and coffee), as well as the updating of the GAP+ regulations which increases a component of deforestation free.

IICA support Agrocalidad first Foc R4T field drill in Machala and shared by streaming, and training workshops for Musaceae producers nationwide on Moko disease *Ralstonia solanacearum*.

More information [Lorena.medina@iica.int](mailto:Lorena.medina@iica.int)

**“Strategy to strengthen production and agro-export in Venezuela.”**

With the objective to know the pathogens involved in the disease known as sudden wilting or false Panama disease, the study “False Panama disease or sudden wilting status in Panama Musaceae”. Sampling was carried out in Aragua and Carabobo States, looking for diseased plants with symptoms of yellowing of leaves, necrosis, and wilting. *Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp. Cubense was identified causing the symptoms, predominant in most of the analyzed samples. Other organisms identified were *Ralstonia solanacearum* and a bacterium that causes soft rot, presumed to be *Pectobacterium carotovorum* or *Dickeya paradisiaca*. Within this framework, IICA supported the Seminar “Current situation of Foc RT4 in Venezuela and disease experience managing”, more than 300 NPPO technicians, academics and producers strengthened their capacities.

IICA, with Global Alliance against TR4 financing, in alliance with the Agronomy Faculty of Central University of Venezuela (FAGRO-UCV), the Venezuelan Institute of Scientific Research (IVIC) and the



Musaceae Network of Venezuela (MUSAVEN) , supported the study for the molecular determination of the races or strains of Foc, Moko and black Sigatoka, in Venezuela bananas producing areas, it was possible to identify *Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp. Cubense RT4 in the sampled areas. Sampling and diagnosis are being expanded and deepened to the Aragua State.

More information [Yanira.vasquez@iica.int](mailto:Yanira.vasquez@iica.int)

### Strengthening the emergency response capacity on FOC TR4 in Nicaragua

IICA contributed to support drills in 4 departments to strengthening the response capacity and territorial coordination of government agencies related to plant health, against the risk of this pest for the Musaceae production areas in the country. It was involved the Institute of Agricultural Protection and Health - IPSA, the Ministry of Health - MINSALUD, other ministries and decentralized entities such as the Institute of Agricultural Technology - INTA, the Agricultural Ministry - MAG and the Ministry of Family Economy - MEFCCA. Altogether, this effort strengthens the capacities of 340 people, 85% technicians from public services that support producers in the territories. More information [Mauricio.carcache@iica.int](mailto:Mauricio.carcache@iica.int)

### Strengthening the emergency response capacity in FOC TR4 in Mexico

IICA support a training on priority pests of banana crops, with emphasis on Fusarium wilt of Musaceae - carried out by SENASICA as part of its annual training and surveillance program - approximately 50 attendees. As well as the exchange, between banana producers, on good practices on the management of Fusarium in Ecuador, Colombia, Costa Rica and the Soconusco Region, Mexico, with 200 online attendants. More information [Rocio.campuzano@iica.int](mailto:Rocio.campuzano@iica.int)

### Support to the GICSV FOC TR4 Working Group

This WG is a forum for analysis and coordination of the Regional Plant Protection Organizations - RPPOs - of Americas to coordinate actions, address and disseminate the most relevant aspects to have a hemispheric strategy. More information <http://apps.iica.int/GICSV/default.aspx>

### Support to the Global Alliance against FOC TR4

The efforts of the Global Alliance against TR4 focus on prevention and training, genetic improvement, and control methods. More information about the Global Alliance against FOC TR4. More information <https://iica.int/es/global-alliance>

### IICA Network on Musáceas - *Fusarium oxysporum* Raza 4 Tropical (Foc R4T)

Created to contribute to knowledge management and development of joint, articulated and synergistic actions, supporting the efforts of member countries to *Fusarium oxysporum* Tropical Race 4 prevent and control in Musaceae. More information [Erika.soto@iica.int](mailto:Erika.soto@iica.int)

- **Huanglongbing (HLB)**

### “Strategy to strengthen agriculture production and export in Venezuela.”

The study “Strategies for the Comprehensive Regional Management (MIR) of HLB in the High Valleys of Yaracuy and Carabobo in Venezuela” was carried to know the HLB status in High Valleys of Yaracuy and Carabobo areas, as well as identifying the needs to strengthen national capacity to control this pest. Within this framework, the Workshop “Preliminary Proposal for Regional Integrated Management of the Huanglongbing in the High Valleys of Carabobo and Yaracuy” was held to identify actions for a consensual proposal for an HLB IPM project in the VACyY, establish the HLB Technical



Council for Integrated Pest Management in citrus fruits production in the Country, and promote a technical mission to Brazil. More information [Yanira.vasquez@iica.int](mailto:Yanira.vasquez@iica.int)

- **Good Agricultural Practices - GAP**

In Costa Rica, the implementation of GAP and GMP in cacao chain has been supported, to ensure high-value markets for fine and aroma cocoa. More information [sacha.trelles@iica.int](mailto:sacha.trelles@iica.int)