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Update on Fusarium TR4 global coordination

Prepared by IPPC Secretariat



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Mandate from the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures 17 (2023) on TR4

The CPM-17 (2023) requested the IPPC Secretariat to coordinate the global action on Fusarium Tropical Race 4 (TR4), using the proposals presented by the Latin American and Caribbean group (GRULAC) in CPM 2023/CRP/08 as an initial framework.

This paper CPM 2023/CRP/08 defines the IPPC Secretariat's next activities:

A program for the prevention, preparedness and response to Fusarium TR4, involving carrying out communication campaigns with NPPOs and implementing simulations for emergency response. The aim is to develop capacities in TR4 in:

- Detection and diagnosis
- Surveillance for an early warning system.
- Containment of any existing outbreaks of TR4 in affected countries
- Biosecurity measures at entry or cross-border points, wide areas, farms, and affected regions.
- Development of tolerant or resistant varieties to TR4, involving plantains and not just bananas (IPPC to provide support to IAEA)



IC Team on Fusarium TR4 activities for 2021 – 2023:

- Revision of the contributed resources on TR4 – 12 contributed resources posted on IPP
- Series of virtual training workshops on surveillance, diagnostic, inspection, and simulation exercises on TR4 delivered
- Prevention, preparedness and response guidelines developed and published



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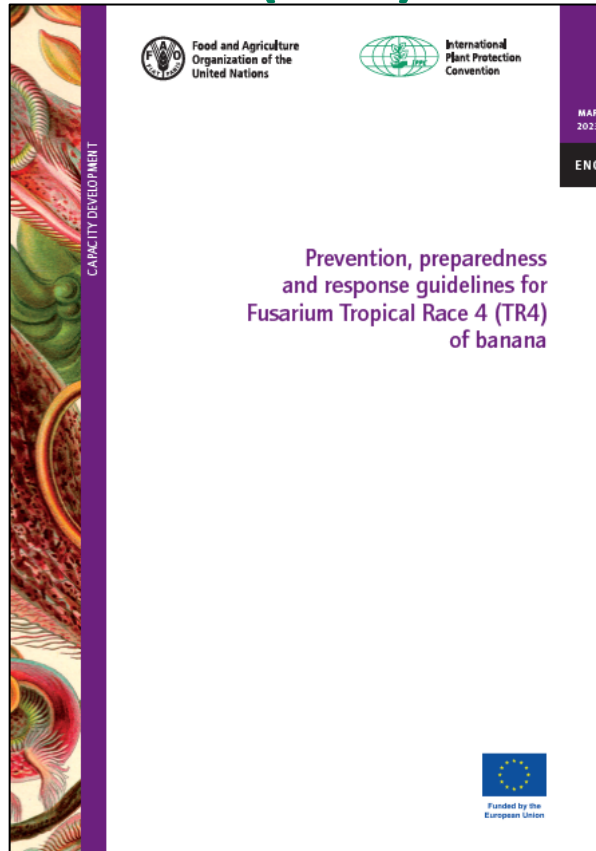
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Prevention, preparedness and response guidelines for Fusarium Tropical Race 4 (TR4) of banana (EN, published in 2023)



Developed based on the Fall Armyworm (FAW) guidelines.

- Distribution and biology of the pest
- When TR4 is absent – prevention and preparedness plan
- When TR4 is officially detected and confirmed – first response
- Gathers materials, tools and actions that NPPOs may undertake to prevent introduction of TR4

❖ French translation available, Spanish under finalization





IC Team on Fusarium TR4 – post CPM-17 (2023) activities

- The IC Team on Fusarium TR4 membership reinforced to support the delivery of following activities in Africa:
 - Surveillance course
 - Diagnostic course
 - Tabletop exercise
 - Simulation exercise



- These activities were delivered under the project “FAO support to COMESA trade facilitation programme (GCP/INT/387/COM)
- The materials to be made available globally



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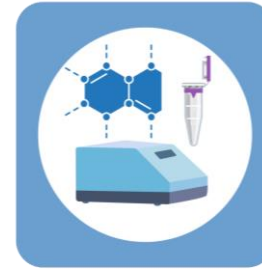


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Learning activities delivered

IPPC/IAEA hands-on training course on Fusarium TR4 diagnostics



- Co-organized in collaboration with the Joint FAO/International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Centre.
- Addressed to officials responsible for official diagnostic matters from 9 African countries.
- Technically supported by experts from the Implementation and Capacity Development (IC) Team on Fusarium TR4 and ICA (Colombia NPPO).
- Delivered in Vienna, Austria, from 22 – 26 April 2024.
- Training course can be repeated with the IAEA when needs arises.





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Learning activities

IPPC virtual course on surveillance for Fusarium TR4



- To train officials on Fusarium TR4 surveillance in African countries.
- The training encompassed detection, delimitation, monitoring, and epidemiological data management on Fusarium TR4.
- The program aimed to equip the participants with the knowledge and skills to determine their countries' ongoing Fusarium TR4 pest status and respond to potential pest outbreaks.
- Training course can be repeated on request.





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Support to field activities on TR4 Support to Venezuela and participation in the OIRSA regional simulation exercise on TR4

- The IPPC Secretariat participated in the field missions **to support Venezuela in facing the outbreak with FAO Mesoamerica and OIRSA**
- The IPPC Secretariat supported the OIRSA and FAO Mesoamerica regional **simulation exercise** on TR4, which was held in Nicaragua from 24 to 28 April 2023.





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Tabletop exercise on TR4

- The tabletop exercise on TR4 recreates situations of a TR4 outbreak in a fictitious country
- Participants handle decision-making to address common situations before, during, and after an outbreak and can outline a contingency plan and a communication plan during the exercise.
- The exercise was successfully delivered during the 2023 IPPC Regional Workshop in Africa [SPOTLIGHT: Building resilience against Fusarium Tropical Race 4 \(TR4\) in Africa - International Plant Protection Convention \(ippc.int\)](#).
- The tabletop technical document was reviewed by experts within the IC Team for Fusarium TR4 and external experts supporting IC Team members.
- Comments to be revised and the document to be finalized for the tabletop exercise to be replicated in other regions.





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Delivery of hands-on simulation exercise in Nairobi, Kenya

- The key message of the simulation exercise: prevention is the only current viable option against Fusarium TR4.
- Simulation exercises are a preparedness tool.
- Simulation exercise facilitated by the IPPC Secretariat and technically support by FAO Mesoamerica and hosted in collaboration with FAO Kenya and Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services (KEPHIS) on 20-24 May.
- 13 COMESA countries participated, including Kenya.
- Attended by non-NPPO participants from Kenya, including other government agencies, African Union- IAPSC (RPPO), academic institutions, farmers.
- In total, 50 participants.
- Simulations at the laboratory and field.





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The way forward: resource mobilization and public-private partnership (PPP)

- As requested by CPM-18 (2024), development of a resource mobilization plan as there are currently no funds available for this program.
- Development of Public Private Partnerships to advance TR4 **Global Coordination**, as requested by the IPPC Community.
- PPP would allow the funding of **countries'** preparedness and response activities on TR4.





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Thank you

IPPC Secretariat

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