Global Programme on Fusarium Wilt Disease of Banana

“We have no bananas today?”

Fazil Dusunceli
Agriculture Officer, Plant Production and Protection Division
FAO Emergency and Rehabilitation – Informal Donor Meeting
7 October 2014
The Crop:

- 8th most important crop worldwide
  - 4th in the LDCs
  - the most exported fruit crop

- Annually
  - 17 million tonnes exported
  - value: USD 7 billion

- 400 million people worldwide depend on it either for food or their livelihoods
The disease: Fusarium wilt (Panama disease)

- Fungal disease
- Soil borne
- No effective eradication

A new race:
Tropical Race 4 (TR4)
affecting Cavendish
TR4 – Impact:

- Race 1: wiped out Gros Michel variety in 1900s
  - Estimated losses: USD 2.1 billion
- TR4: production area in West Sumatra, Indonesia decreased by half
  - Estimated losses: USD 134 million/year
- TR4: exportation of Taiwan province of China to Japan decreased by 85%

![Graph showing the reduction in production area and exportation over time.](image-url)

(West Sumatra, Horticulture Processing and Marketing Department, 2005)
Threat:

* www.panamadisease.org
Current alarm: Mozambique

3 000 families and neighbourhood

(Fen Beed, IITA)
### Relevance to FAO?

**Goals:** Alleviate food insecurity, poverty and improve livelihoods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Objectives of FAO</th>
<th>Banana and the disease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S01 Eradicate hunger &amp; food insecurity</td>
<td>Banana is a source of food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SO2 Increase <strong>production</strong> sustainably</td>
<td>Can cause total loss on Cavendish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SO3 Reduce rural poverty</td>
<td>Banana is source for livelihoods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SO4 Sustainable food systems</td>
<td>Global challenge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SO5 Increase <strong>resilience</strong></td>
<td>New records, new risks expansion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recent efforts and initiatives:

**FAO workshops and initiatives:**

- Awareness raising and advocacy
- Caribbean workshop in Trinidad & Tobago
- East Africa workshop in Kenya and Rwanda
- Regional project for Latin / Central America
- Emergency project in Mozambique
- Other requests
African Consortium for Foc TR4

- To provide factual and accurate information on the Foc TR4 outbreak in Mozambique, and its threat to Africa, in a transparent and objective way.

- To develop a strategy to protect bananas in African against Foc TR4.

- To initiate activities to address the threat of Foc TR4 on the African continent.
World Banana Forum’s Task Force consultations:

- **Objectives:**
  - Encourage global collaboration among interested parties;
  - Ensure dissemination of relevant information on TR4;
  - Ensure that prevention strategies to avoid long distance spread;
  - Support existing initiatives.

- **Members:** farmer organizations, research institutions, companies, NGOs & governments

- **Secretariat:** Based at FAO operating at global level

- [www.fao.org/wbf](http://www.fao.org/wbf)
Recent efforts and initiatives:

Other International initiatives

- Bioversity International,
- International and regional networks,
- International Atomic Energy Agency (FAO / IAEA lab)
- Private sector
- Efforts by National Institutions and Universities
- +
Follow up:

A framework to promote
• Dialogue,
• Synergy,
• Collaboration and
• Actions

The challenge
• Ongoing efforts
• Internal consultations
• International dialogue and consultations
• Calls for assistance

Global programme
Actions Needed:

- **Management**
  - Development and deployment of resistant varieties
  - Crop management tools

- **Prevention, preparedness and emergency response**
  - Cooperation & strategy
  - Empowerment of countries
Major thematic areas and objectives:

• **Policy** and planning support, advocacy, awareness raising,
• **Monitoring**, surveillance, risk analysis and early warning
• Guidance on **legislation** and implementation of **phytosanitary measures** and standards
• Development & deployment of **resistant cultivars** and IPM tools
• Training and **capacity** building in countries at risk
• International **collaboration** and knowledge exchange
Internal Capacities

HQ Units:
- AGP - Plant Production and Protection Divisions
- IPPC – International Plant Protection Convention
- FCC - Food Chain Crises Framework
- TCE - Technical Cooperation Department
- EST - Market and Trades Division - IGG on Tropical Fruits and Bananas
- WBF – World Banana Forum
- IAEA – International Atomic Energy Agency
- OPC – Office o Partnerships and Advocacy

Decentralized Offices:
- Africa: RAF, East Africa, South Africa, Central Africa
- Near East: Cairo, Tunis
- Latin America: Central America, Caribbean
- Asia Pasific: RAP - Bangkok
Partners / Collaborators:

- **External Partners**
  - International organizations / initiatives
  - International and regional networks
  - Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPO)
  - Industry, producer organizations and NGOs
  - Advanced Research Centers, Universities
  - National Institutions+
The way forward:

- **Awareness** raising activities at all levels,
- Respond to **Emergencies** and local requests,
- Consultation with stakeholders and potential partners,
- **Resource** mobilization,
  - Public – Private partnerships and
  - south – south cooperation modalities
- **Implementation**
- Work together

- Technical discussion: 8 October 2014; 09.00-11.00; Room D838
- Technical consultation workshop (9-10 December 2014)
Work together to improve food security and livelihoods of 400 million people.