



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

WORLD BANANA FORUM

Working together for sustainable
banana production and trade



Fourth Global Conference of the World Banana Forum

12-13 March 2024 | Green & Red Room – FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

Side Events

Third International Meeting on Gender Equity in the Banana Industry – 11 March 2024

Event on Fusarium Wilt TR4 and the Future of the Banana Industry – 11 March 2024

Global Conference on Living Wages and Living Income – 14 March 2024

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Monday, 11 March (Side Event)

Third International Meeting on Gender Equity in the Banana Industry

Envisioning the future of gender equity in the global banana industry

Green Room, FAO Headquarters

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| 8:15 – 9:00 | Registration of participants and welcome coffee |
| 9:00 – 9:15 | Welcome by FAO <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Tacko Ndiaye, Gender Team Leader, Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division, FAO |
| 9:15 – 9:30 | Opening Remarks by the WBF Secretariat and Task Force on Gender Equity (GE-TF) coordinators <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Camila Reinhardt Hurtado, Decent Work and Sustainable Global Value Chains Specialist, WBF Secretariat, FAO• Ms. Silvia Campos, Senior Advisor Bananas, Fairtrade International <u>and</u> Ms. Stella Davis, Sustainability Manager, Fyffes - GE-TF coordinators |



9:30 – 9:45 Keynote presentations: Collaborating towards the compliance of Human Rights Due Diligence requirements on gender equity

Moderator:

Mr. Pascal Liu, Senior Economist, Markets and Trade Division, FAO

Proposed panelists:

- *Ms. Clíodhnaigh Conlon, Director of Consumer Sectors, Sustainable Business Network and Consultancy (BSR)*
- *Ms. Carolina Jaramillo Ferrer, Sustainability Director, UNIBAN*

SESSION 1

9.45 – 10.30 Introduction: Setting the scene on women in the banana industry

Moderator:

Mr. Pascal Liu, Senior Economist, Markets and Trade Division, FAO

Proposed panelists:

- *Mr. Erdgin Mane, Policy Officer, Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division, FAO*
- *Ms. Iris Munguia, Coordinator, Coordinating Body of Latin American Banana and Agro-Industrial Unions (COLSIBA)*
- *Ms. Claudelle Koudaio, President, Banana Workers' Union Federation of Cote D'Ivoire (FETBACI)*
- *Ms. Camila Reinhardt Hurtado, Decent Work and Sustainable Global Value Chains Specialist, WBF Secretariat, FAO*

10.30 - 10.45 Open discussion with all participants – Priorities and key opportunities

SESSION 2

10.45 – 11.15 Panel Discussion: Ensuring a safe and healthy work environment by addressing the root causes of violence and harassment in the world of work

Objectives: Discuss the challenges and opportunities for enabling a safe and healthy work environment and how to address the root causes of violence and harassment in the workplace.

Moderator:

Ms. Tacko Ndiaye, Gender Team Leader, Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division, FAO

Proposed panelists:

- *Representative from the Minister of Labour, Ecuador (pre-recorded video)*
- *Ms. Adwoa Sakyi, Regional Women's Coordinator, IUF Africa*
- *Mr. George Kporye, Corporate Affairs and Sustainability Advisor, Golden Exotics Ltd.*
- *Ms. Joky Francois, Global Gender Lead, Rainforest Alliance*
- *Ms. Valentina Beghini, Legal Specialist on Violence, Harassment and Non-Discrimination, International Labour Organization (ILO)*



11.15 - 12.00 Open Discussion with all participants – Priorities and key opportunities

12.00 – 14.00 Lunch Break

SESSION 3

14.00- 14.30 **Panel Discussion: Strengthening women's voices and participation in banana production and leadership roles**

Objectives: Discuss actions taken and proposals by industry actors for strengthening women's voices and participation in banana production and leadership roles.

Moderator:

Ms. Tacko Ndiaye, Gender Team Leader, Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division, FAO

Proposed panelists:

- *Ms. Adela Torres, Coordinator of the Coordinating Body of Latin American Banana and Agro-Industrial Unions (COLSIBA)*
- *Ms. Kahlil Apuzen-ito, Sustainability and Resilience Lead, Foundation for Agrarian Reform Cooperatives in Mindanao (FARMCOOP)*
- *Ms. Stella Davis, Sustainability Manager, Fyffes*
- *Ms. Silvia Campos, Senior Advisor Bananas, Fairtrade International*
- *Mr. Edgar Monge, Responsible Sourcing Manager, Tesco (Americas)*
- *Ms. Esinam Poku, Head of Gender and Youth, Industrial Commercial Workers Union, Ghana, ICU-Ghana*

14.30 – 15.15 Open Discussion with all participants – Priorities and key opportunities

15.15 – 15.45 Proposals and recommendations to feed into the GE-TF action plan on gender equity in the banana industry to be achieved by 2030

15.45 – 15.55 Conclusions and final remarks



Monday, 11 March (Side Event)

Fusarium Wilt TR4 and the Future of the Banana Industry

Red Room, FAO Headquarters

13:00 – 13:05 Opening Remarks

- *WBF Secretariat*
- *Mr. Osama El- Lissy, Secretary, International Plant Protection Convention, FAO*

SESSION 1

13:05 – 13:45 Panel Discussion: The role of FAO in supporting countries and stakeholders in the prevention, preparedness, and response to TR4

Objectives: Present and discuss FAO's strategies and portfolio of activities on Fusarium Wilt TR4, focusing on knowledge sharing, capacity building, and comprehensive measures for prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. The session is set to explore FAO's supportive role to stakeholders in addressing TR4 challenges, highlighting successful collaborative efforts across various sectors.

Moderator:

Ms. Sarah Brunel, Implementation and Facilitation Unit Lead, IPPC Secretariat, FAO

Proposed Panelists:

- *Ms. Sarah Brunel, Implementation and Facilitation Unit Lead, IPPC Secretariat, FAO*
- *Ms. Raixa Llauger, Agricultural Officer, Subregional Office for Mesoamerica, FAO*
- *Ms. Pooja Mathur, Head of the FAO- IAEA Plant Breeding & Genetics Laboratory, IAEA*
- *Mr. Maged Elkhaky, Assistant Team Lead - Locusts and Transboundary Plant Pests and Diseases, FAO*

13:45 – 14:00 Open discussions with all participants – Priorities and key opportunities of FAO's support to countries and stakeholders

SESSION 2

14:00 – 14:25 Panel Discussion: Status of recent TR4-outbreaks and current actions

Objective: Discuss the current actions taken by stakeholders following the latest TR4 outbreaks highlighting effective strategies and challenges faced. The focus will be on sharing recent experiences and discuss collaborative responses and key priorities to prevent and respond to a TR4 incursion.

Moderator:

Maged Elkhaky, Assistant Team Lead - Locusts and Transboundary Plant Pests and Diseases, FAO



Proposed Panelists

- *H.E. Danilo Palacios, Minister of Agriculture, Ecuador*
- *Mr. Diego Fernando Caicedo, Director General, General Secretariat of the Andean Community (pre-recorded video)*
- *Mr. José Francisco Zuñiga, Executive President, Association of Banana Growers of Magdalena and La Guajira (Asbama), Colombia*
- *Mr. Hamza Abdou Azali, Director General, National Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment (INRAPE), Union of Comoros*

14:25 – 14:40 Open discussions with all participants - Priorities and key opportunities to prevent and respond to a TR4 incursion

SESSION 3

14:40 – 15:20 Panel Discussion: Advanced technologies for TR4 diagnosis, monitoring and surveillance

Objective: Discuss innovative technologies and methodologies for TR4 diagnostics and the establishment of early warning systems. This session aims to highlight and discuss the significant advancements in surveillance and monitoring of TR4 underscoring the indispensable role of innovation in effectively preventing and detecting TR4 threats.

Moderator:

Raixa Llauger, Agricultural Officer, Subregional Office for Mesoamerica, FAO

Proposed Panelists

- *Ms. Nancy Villegas, Regional Coordinator of Risk Analysis, International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health (OIRSA)*
- *Mr. Desaleng Etalo, Leader of the Banana Research Group, Wageningen University and Research*
- *Mr. Ralf Buss, Regional Coordinator of the ALERT4 Program, German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)*
- *Mr. Miguel Dita, Senior Scientist, Bioversity International-CIAT*

15:20 – 15:40 Open discussion with all participants - Priorities and key opportunities for the development and implementation of technologies for early warning and rapid response



SESSION 4

15:40 – 16:30 Panel Discussion: Breeding Efforts for the Development of TR4 Resistant Varieties

Objective: Present and discuss different initiatives being implemented for the development of TR4 tolerant or resistant banana varieties, undertaken by different stakeholders. This session will explore the significant challenges, opportunities and implications associated with breeding efforts, highlighting the critical role of biotechnology in overcoming TR4.

Moderator:

Matheus Lima, Environment and Sustainability Specialist, WBF Secretariat, FAO

Proposed Panelists

- *Mr. Fernando Garcia-Bastidas, Head of Banana Breeding Program, KeyGene/Yelloway*
- *Mr. Oshry Markovich, Head of Research and Development, Raham Meristem*
- *Mr. Andrew Dominy, Vice-President Product Management, Tropic Biosciences*
- *Mr. Thierry Lescot, Researcher and Agronomist specialized in Dessert Banana and Plantains, French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD)*
- *Mr. James Dale, Banana Research Program Leader, Centre for Tropical Crops and Biocommodities at Queensland University of Technology (pre-recorded video)*

16:30 – 16:50 Open discussion with all participants - Priorities and key opportunities for the development and implementation of resistant varieties

16:50 – 17:00 Closing remarks



Thursday 14 March (side event)

Global Conference on Living Wages and Living Income in the Banana Industry

Green Room, FAO Headquarters

08:15 – 09:00 Welcome coffee

09:00 – 09:05 Opening Remarks

- *Mr. Victor Prada, Secretary, WBF Secretariat, FAO*

Keynote speech:

- *Mr. El'Vis Beytullayev, Rural Economy Specialist, ILO*

SESSION 1

09:05 – 09:50 Panel Discussion: The role of intergovernmental organizations and governments in supporting a joint agenda on living wages/incomes

Objectives: 1) Setting the scene on living wages in the banana industry and understanding how wages have fluctuated throughout the years in relation to impacting factors such as inflation, national legislation, and tripartite agreements – sectoral changes; 2) Understanding the role of intergovernmental organizations in supporting a joint agenda on living wages and incomes.

Proposed panelists

- *H.E. Alexander Astorga, Vice-minister of Labour and Social Security, Costa Rica*
- *Mr. Leonard Mizzi, Head of Unit, European Commission, Directorate-General (DG) for International Partnerships – Sustainable Agri-food systems and Fisheries*
- *Ms. Valeria Villacorta Cussianovich, Sustainability Reporting Technical Manager, European Financial Reporting Advisory Group (EFRAG)*
- *Government representative*

09:50 – 10:30 Open discussion with all participants - Priorities and key opportunities

SESSION 2

10:30 – 11:20 Panel Discussion: Lessons learned under the WBF Multistakeholder Commission on Living Wages/Incomes and its Subgroups on Markets and Methodologies/Tools

Objectives: Outlining concrete priority topics and issues raised during previous meetings, focusing on elements such as sustainable purchasing practices, fair prices for the banana box, methodologies and tools – their implementation and impact in producing countries, price-setting mechanisms, and other elements

Proposed panelists

- *Mr. Wilbert Flinterman – Senior Advisor, Worker's Rights and Trade Union Relations, Fairtrade International*
- *Mr. Xavier Roussel, Chief Marketing and Sustainability Officer, Dole Food Company*



- *Ms. Marike de Peña, Chair of the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Fairtrade Small Producers and Workers (CLAC)*
- *Mr. F. Guillaume Tossa, Project Coordinator and Regional Coordinator for the Banana Industry in Africa, International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco, and Allied Workers' Association (UITA)*
- *Ms. Martha Anker and Mr. Richard Anker, Founders of the Anker Research Institute (ARI)*
- *Ms. Anaïs Falk, Methodology Specialist, French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD)*
- *Ms. Nina Kuppertz, Project Manager, German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)*
- *Ms. Sonia Cordera, Director Sector Initiatives, Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH)*

11:20 – 12:00 Open discussion with all participants - Priorities and key opportunities

12:00 – 14:00 Lunch Break

SESSION 3

14:00 – 14:40 Panel Discussion: Practical and Attainable Solutions – Looking to the Future

Objectives: Looking to the present and future of living wages and incomes in the global banana industry; how to reach attainable, concrete goals; defining a joint agenda on living wages and incomes; practical solutions to be implemented regarding wages with a special focus on Sustainable Purchasing Practices.

Proposed panelists

- *Mr. Felix Strauss, Team Lead Corporate Responsibility, ALDI-SOUTH Group*
- *Ms. Patricia Lauko, Human Rights Specialist & CSR Consultant, LIDL International*
- *Mr. Edgar Monge, Responsible Sourcing Manager, Tesco (Americas)*
- *Mr. Nahuel Tunon, Human Rights Manager, Sainsbury's*
- *Mr. Jose Antonio Hidalgo, Executive Director, Association of Ecuador Banana Exporters (AEBE)*
- *Mr. Mariano Jiménez Zeledón, Legal and Corporate Affairs Manager, National Banana Corporation (CORBANA)*
- *Mr. Emerson Aguirre, President, Producer Association of Colombia (AUGURA) (TBC)*
- *Mr. Jean-Francois Billot, Secretary-General, AFRUIBANA*

14:40 – 15:30 Open discussion with all participants - Priorities and key opportunities

SESSION 4

15:30 – 16:45 Plenary discussion: the WBF's Multi-Stakeholder Strategy on Living Wages and Income

16:45 – 16:55 Concluding remarks

16:55 – 17:00 Event closure