

Promoting Technologies for Integrated Management Plantain

An integrated knowledge-based system constitutes a *sine qua non* for realizing the enormous potentials of plantain in filling the food security gap in West & Central Africa.

Plantain and banana are important staple foods and sources of income for millions of people in many West and Central Africa countries. Together, they provide more than 25% of carbohydrates for about 70 million people in the region. In Cameroun for example it is the most commercialized agricultural product second only to potato. However, such fungal diseases as black sigatoka and *Fusarium* wilt coupled with insect and nematodes infestations, declining soil fertility, and use of low yielding pest susceptible varieties have continued to take their toll on the crop's productivity. Inappropriate use of pest control methods and out-dated age-old cultural techniques also constitute major production constraint.

This CAADP-compliant project was conceptualized on the principles of working with farmers in their fields with the aim of ensuring a comprehensive assimilation of proven techniques that should improve crop productivity. The essence of working directly with farmers is to consolidate their confidence in the use of proven technologies, specifically disease and pest resistance varieties, IPM and integrated soil fertility management. The project is also meant to strengthen the capacity of the producers in the use of these technologies for increased and sustained plantain production.



Fruiting crop infected by black sigatoka disease. Photo: IITA

Main Beneficiaries

The small and medium scale producers of plantain are benefiting from healthy plantain planting materials, and from improved cultural techniques. The private sector marketers and processors of plantain products will benefit from an enhanced and steady plantain supply chain. Scientists of the national research systems are acquiring new techniques in improving productivity of plantain.

Main Regional Benefits

Improved techniques in plantain production will be out-scaled to countries of West and Central Africa.

Partners

This CAADP-aligned project is funded by DFID and is being coordinated by CORAF/WECARD. It is being implemented by the following: Institut de recherche agronomique pour le développement, Cameroun; Centre Africain de Recherches sur Bananiers et Plantains, Cameroun; DGRST-Congo Brazzaville; Institut National pour l'Etude et la Recherche Agronomique, DR Congo; Institut National des Recherches Agricoles du Bénin; Institut Togolaise de Recherche Agronomique; Crop Research Institute, Ghana.

Components	Outputs	Outcomes	Impact
<p>1</p> <p>Capacity Strengthening</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated agricultural research for development capacity of scientists to work with producers strengthened • Capacity of producers in the early identification of ravaging pests strengthened • Appropriate visual training and extension materials produced 	<p><u>Outcome 1</u> Effective cultural practices in plantain production</p> <p><u>Outcome 2</u> Tools and best practices assimilated in rural communities involved in plantain production</p> <p><u>Outcome 3</u> Knowledge of producers of planting materials enhanced</p>	<p>Improved productivity of plantain farms in Cameroun, Congo Brazzaville, Benin, Togo and Ghana</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Technology Adaptation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved planting materials identified • Improved varieties of plantain proposed • Improved cultural techniques proposed 	<p><u>Outcome 4</u> Improved productivity of plantain crops</p> <p><u>Outcome 5</u> Increased availability of improved planting materials resistant to pests and plant lodging</p>	<p>Improved income, and enhanced wellbeing of plantain producers in Cameroun, Congo Brazzaville, Benin, Togo and Ghana</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Bio-physical Challenges</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major insect pests of the crop identified for each of the countries • Enhanced planting materials proposed • Soil fertility needs for plantain production identified for each producing zone 	<p><u>Outcome 6</u> Increased reclamation of abandonment rural farmlands heavily infested by nematode pest and disease</p> <p><u>Outcome 7</u> Increased reclamation of abandonment farmlands that had lost their soil fertility</p>	<p>Improved income, and enhanced wellbeing of plantain producers in Cameroun, Congo Brazzaville, Benin, Togo and Ghana</p>

For more information

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