



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



International
Plant Protection
Convention



19th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

#Planthealth for food security, environmental protection
and safe trade

CPM 19

FAO activities on Fusarium TR₄

Achievements and challenges

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Content

- Background
- Challenges and proposed solutions
- FAO Updates
 - IPPC Secretariat activities: completed and on-going
 - Plant Production and Protection Division
 - World Banana Forum
 - Emergency and Rehabilitation





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Background

- FAO Strategic Framework 2022-2031 which seeks to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- In 2023, CPM, the IPPC **governing body**, **mandated IPPC Secretariat** to lead global coordination of Fusarium TR4 activities
- Based on proposal by Latin American and Caribbean group (GRULAC)
- Focus on **prevention, preparedness, and response** to Fusarium TR4





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FAO: Capacity development activities delivered

- **Empowering NPPOs to develop capacity in surveillance, diagnostic and emergency preparedness**, including developing contingency plans, through:
 - Virtual training course (surveillance) and hands-on exercises (diagnostic and simulation exercise) with contingency planning, and transfer of knowledge within and between continents with a simulation exercise in Kenya,
 - IPPC guide in English, French, Arabic, and Russian: Emergency Preparedness: a guide for developing contingency plans for outbreaks of quarantine pests, and
 - IPPC guide in English and French: Prevention, preparedness, and response guidelines for Fusarium Tropical Race 4 (TR4) of banana.





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FAO: Capacity development activities delivered

- **International conference** on Fusarium TR4 in Africa with participation from 458 delegates from 78 countries (May, 2022)
- Regional **hands-on diagnostic training** for 24 African and Near East countries on Fusarium TR4 identification, management strategies, and impact assessment in collaboration with Stellenbosh University, Hazyview and Durban (October 2022 & July 2024)
- Workshop in Saint Lucia- Castries on **preparedness, contingency planning and regional collaboration** with 32 participants from 10 Caribbean countries (1-7 September 2024)





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FAO: Capacity Development activities delivered

Training for NPPOs, research and extension officers in Sub Saharan African countries on undertaking **risk assessment and contingency planning** for Fusarium TR4

- **2023 workshops:** Two workshops in Johannesburg, South Africa and Nairobi, Kenya.
 - Training for **24 East and Southern African countries** on developing Fusarium TR4 contingency plans.
 - Under the STOSTAR project, a **regional strategy for Fusarium TR4 prevention** was developed for the Southern Africa Subregion.
- **2024 Workshop:** Lomé, Togo
 - **Trained** representatives from 12 countries in Central and Western Africa.





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FAO emergency preparedness activities

Turkiye



Lebanon



Comoros



Bangladesh, Nepal and Vietnam



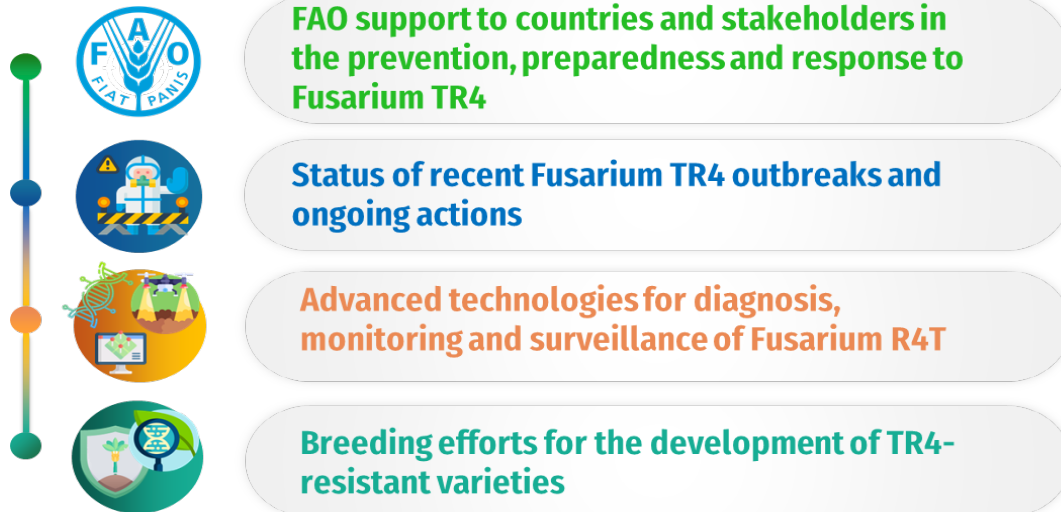
Venezuela



World Banana Forum: Activities in 2024

- **Global Conference of the World Banana Forum (11th of March 2024, FAO Headquarters)**
 - Half-day dedicated to **Fusarium wilt TR4 and the future of the banana industry.**

Main Discussed Topics:





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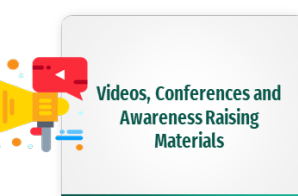
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TR4
GLOBAL
NETWORK

An initiative of the
World Banana Forum

FAO Capacity development activities delivered

- Establishment of the TR4 Global Network (TR4GN) and organizes demand-driven webinars, events and activities based on the banana industry needs.
- The TR4GN also maintains a database with hundreds of Fusarium TR4 related resources.
- In January 2025 the WBF organized a Webinar on Fusarium Wilt TR4 in Asia: Lessons Learned and Current Innovations with participation of researchers and private sector organizations from China, India, Philippines and Viet Nam.





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World Banana Forum: Activities for 2025

- Organize new **TR4-related webinars** to raise awareness and share innovations.
- **Expanding the TR4 Global Network Database** with additional resources.
- **Implement a pilot project with the Global Soil Partnership** to strengthen the capacity of smallholder banana exporters in Colombia on sustainable management of soils.

TR4
GLOBAL
NETWORK

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**Fusarium Wilt TR4 in Asia:
Lessons Learned and Current Innovations**

15 January, 2025

- Discuss challenges faced by key banana-producing countries in Asia, and actions implemented following TR4 incursions.
- Share experiences of Asian stakeholders in managing TR4, showcasing innovative disease management strategies and new technologies being developed in the region.

10:00 - 12:30 Italy 17:00 - 19:30 China (CST)	17:00 - 19:30 Philippines 14:30 - 17:00 India (IST)	16:00 - 18:30 Viet Nam (ICT) 04:00 - 06:30 Ecuador / Colombia	03:00 - 05:30 Costa Rica 05:00 - 07:30 Dominican Republic
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WORLD BANANA FORUM Working together to sustainably increase banana production

Logos: FAO, WBF, and various partner organizations.





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Challenges and solutions for further capacity development activities

- Lack of regular survey programmes and diagnostics capacities
- Porous borders between countries
- Difficulty is sourcing certified planting materials
- **Challenges with coordination** of global activities due to **lack of resource mobilization**
- Proposed solutions and subject of today's side session
 - **Collaboration** between international institutions, NPPOs and research institutions to reduce repetition and replication and efficient use of resources
 - Support for **innovation and science**
 - Encourage **Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)** between government and industry.





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FAO: On-going implementation support to contracting parties

- **Collaborating with African Union Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (AU-IAPSC)** to understand on-going needs of countries in the COMESA region.
- **Empowering NPPOs and other phytosanitary professionals** through:
 - **IPPC Plant Health Campus** with free, certified and downloadable training materials for capacity development, including, a new e-learning course on emergency preparedness and an online tool as a smart-game.





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**Thank
you**

**IPPC Secretariat
Plant Protection and Production Division
World Banana Forum**

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