

19th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

#Planthealth for food security, environmental protection
and safe trade

CPM
19

KNOWLEDGE SHARING ON FUSARIUM TR₄ AND ROLE OF PUBLIC- PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

PRESENTATION ON GHANA'S PRIVATE SECTOR COLLABORATION WITH THE NPPO

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Background Statistics on Ghana

□ Introduction

Population - **35 million (2025 estimates)**

Gross Domestic Product - **37.9 billion US\$**

Agriculture - **21.1% of GDP**

Total Land Area - **22.7 million hectares**

Banana/Plantain Production Area - **347,000 hectares**

Total Commercial Banana Production - **>128,000 metric tonnes (2024).**

Location - West Africa and shares borders with Cote d'Ivoire to the West, Togo to the East, Burkina Faso to the North and the Southern border is the Gulf of Guinea.



National Banana Production and Trade

- Ghana is a banana producing country and production is mainly from the Middle-belt to the South covering about 8 Regions (Ashanti, Ahafo, Bono, Bono East, Central, Eastern, Greater Accra, Volta and Western).
- Ghana is ranked 26th Banana Exporter in the World
- The major destination of Ghana's Banana are France, Spain, UK, Italy, Czech Republic, Belgium, Germany, and Senegal.
- Banana is the most exported horticultural product in terms of volume and value
- It is among the horticultural crops which have been prioritized for export development, and there are on-going government programmes to attract more investments into the sector.
- This makes Ghana a major supplier of quality bananas in West Africa, with huge potential to further increase production and exports.
- Ghana's exports targets the niche markets in Europe

Main Producers and Type of Production

The commercial production of banana on large scale is mainly by; **Golden Exotics Limited, Volta River Estate** and **Musahamat Farms Limited**. However, new plantations have been established in the Volta and in the Upper West Regions.

Banana plantations in Ghana covers a total land area of 4,006 hectares with and annual production of more than 128,000MT.

There are two main production in Ghana, the small scale and the large scale. Information on volumes produced on small scale production is scanty since the plantations are scattered across the regions

Varieties Grown

There are four main varieties of banana grown in Ghana.

These are Cavendish, Apple Banana, Plantain, Red Banana and Burro Banana locally called “Alata Kwadu”.

Current Status of Banana Fusarium wilt (Foc TR4)

Banana Fusarium wilt **has not been reported** in Ghana but present in Africa.

Ghana and its neighbouring countries have **a lot of porous borders** and would need Regional collaboration to prevent the Banana bunch top virus and TR4 introduction and spread within the country and the ECOWAS Sub-regions.

The **NPPO** have **a weak surveillance system** to **detect early and respond immediately** to any disease invasion

The PPRSD have inspectors at our entry/exit points across the country, but there are limited inspection facilities (Port Cabins with laboratories)

Tropical race 4 (TR4) strain of Fusarium **has not been reported in Ghana** but the potential to impact the banana sector is very high looking at the porous nature of the entry points at border posts and the movement of humans and goods between neighboring countries.

Action Needed

Equipping the NPPO Laboratory

The PPRSD has a plant pathology laboratory for carrying out plant health diagnostics on pathogens

There is the need to equip the laboratory with the requisite equipment and reagents to enable the NPPO conduct rapid tests on foc TR4 whenever necessary on suspected or reported cases.

Capacity Building

Capacity building for identified personnel of NPPO is very important towards the success of carrying out effective diagnostics and confirmation of the pathogen in banana/plantain in Ghana.

Recent Surveillance

Recent surveillance have been carried out by the NPPO led by the Director and involved other experts from academia and research institutes in Ghana.

Major banana plantations were visited and suspected samples were collected for further investigations

The surveillance activity was conducted within the southern and middle belt of Ghana where most of the plantations are located.

None of the suspected samples collected were positive of the foc TR4 fungus.

Collaborations

The collaboration between the private sector and the NPPO should be strengthened especially in creating more public awareness on foc TR4 in Ghana.

The public sector has the strength to influence policy and can reach to farmers in divers locations. The private sector has economic interest in preventing TR4 and also financial resources and access to specialized knowledge. The synergy of the two can result in various collaborations such as :

- Funding and Resource Mobilization
- Research and Innovation
- Training and Capacity Building
- Early Warning Systems and Surveillance
- Establishing uniform on-farm protocols for Monitoring and Control of foc TR4
- Market access and Trade Regulation

Conclusion

There are ongoing discussions between the Banana Producers Association, representing commercial banana growers, and the NPPO to collaborate to form a national TR4 Task Force for the purpose of monitoring and control of foc TR4.

Support and collaboration has been sought from AFRUIBANA, COLEAD and CIRAD.

AFRUIBANA (The umbrella organization of banana and other fruit producers in Africa) is coordinating the progress of the cooperation between the private and public sectors in the main banana producing countries of Cote D'Ivoire, Cameroon and Ghana.

Banana and Plantain are major sources of food and economic activity in Ghana and no effort should be spared to protect the industry.

Collaboration between the private sector and the public sector is imperative in ensuring that the Foc TR4 is kept at bay.

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