

# 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

#Planthealth for food security, environmental protection  
and safe trade

CPM  
19

**Simulation exercise in Kenya and response capacities  
strengthened through the Phytosanitary Capacity  
Evaluation**

**Florence Munguti**  
**KEPHIS, Kenya**

## *Simulation Exercise -Fusarium oxysporum f.sp. cubense Tropical Race 4 (TR4) for COMESA countries*

- *Fusarium oxysporum f.sp. cubense* Tropical Race 4 (TR4) poses a significant threat to banana production in Africa
- Identified as a key priority pest for many regions including **COMESA** member states.
- Due to the biological nature of the fungus and its reproductive structures, eradicating Fusarium TR4 is not technically feasible.
- Exclusion remains the primary approach to maintaining its absence, and **prevention measures** are crucial in delaying its introduction into new territories.





- Fusarium TR4 has been reported in Mozambique, Mayotte and recently in Grande Comoros Island.

- Many countries are at a great risk of introduction of the pest

- Proactive steps to strengthen preparedness capacity in these countries are needed

## New banana disease found in Mozambique ( *Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp.cubense Tropical Race 4)

Publication Date	Sun, 01 Sep 2013, 00:00
Last Updated	Dec. 22, 2016, 10:21 a.m.
Report Number	MOZ-03/2
Country	Mozambique
Pest Id	<i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> f. sp. cubense - (FUSACB)

### First report of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. cubense Tropical race 4 in Mayotte

The NPPO of France recently informed the Secretariat of the first finding of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. cubense Tropical race 4 in Mayotte (overseas territory). The pathogen was detected in one plot of banana (*Musa* sp.), varieties Baraboufaka (ABB, sub-group Bluggoe) and Kissoukari (AAB, sub-group of Silk) in Poroani, south west of Mayotte. Symptoms (yellowing and wilting associated with the presence of necrotic vascular bundles) were observed in October 2019. The fungus was identified by PCR, isolation in pure culture and determination of its vegetative compatibility group.

The pest status of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. cubense Tropical race 4 in Mayotte is officially declared as: **Present**, only in some parts of the Member State concerned.

### First Report of Fusarium Wilt of Cavendish Bananas Caused by *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. cubense Tropical Race 4 in the Grande Comoros Island

Mouzdalifa Mmadi, Hamza Abdou Azali, Diane Mostert ✉, Isabelle Robène, and Altus Viljoen

Affiliations ▼

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### *Simulation Exercise -Fusarium oxysporum f.sp. cubense Tropical Race 4 (TR4)*

- IPPC coordinated the hands-on simulation under the project "FAO support to **COMESA trade facilitation programme**"**1 – GCP/INT-387-COM (2018-2022)**
- Hosted by the NPPO of Kenya (KEPHIS) in May 2024
- FAO-meso America experts provided technical support
- **55 participants** included representatives from **NPPO's** from **13 COMESA countries**
- **Other participants** from Kenya included farmer representatives, County Agricultural officers as well as representatives from Kenyan government agencies (National research institution, universities and other regulatory agencies in Horticulture industry in Kenya).





## Objectives of the Hands-on simulation Exercise

- To test specific aspects of preparedness and response capabilities in COMESA countries for prevention, containment, removal, and management of risk pests, using Fusarium TR4 as an example
- To test relevance of contingency planning, coordination and application of tools and techniques for emergency preparedness
- To improve understanding of communication within and between official government agencies and between official government agencies and private sector.





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## Simulation Exercise Scenarios

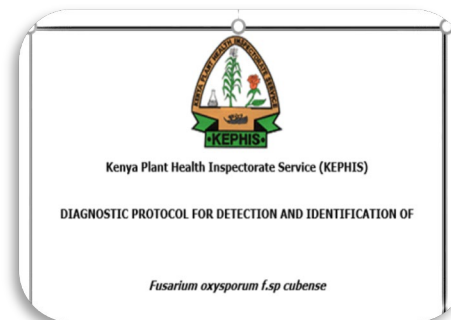
### At port of entry



### At the Farm



### Laboratory



### Contingency plans





### Lessons Learned

- Preparation allows countries to review their phytosanitary systems, including capabilities, resources and components of a contingency plan and highlight areas of improvement.
- Enhancing Diagnostics capacity is key to support pest surveillance for rapid response.
- Need to sensitize and communicate the contingency plan to all stakeholders emphasizing their roles
- Coordination among the actors is key
- Quarantine measures must be strengthened to prevent cross-border movement of infected planting materials.



## Response capacities strengthened through the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation Case of Kenya

- Kenya has participated in 3 PCE's (2002, 2018, 2023)
- Through PCE, Kenya's Phytosanitary systems have been strengthened through the following;
  - Enhanced capacity of Laboratories -Funding that has enabled the NPPO to construct labs, buy equipment
  - Development of National Phytosanitary Policy –aligned with international standards
  - Plant Protection legal framework reviewed and regulations developed
  - Established well functioning PRA and pest surveillance units, Research and compliance unit





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# Thank you



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