



CARIBBEAN PLANT HEALTH DIRECTORS

PROTECTING CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURE

THE MUSA TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

PURPOSE

To assist in providing technical and policy recommendations to the Caribbean Plant Health Directors (CPHD) Forum towards safeguarding the Caribbean from threats and /or impacts of the introduction, economical damage and spread of Musa pests through scientific investigation, research and provision of advice on all matters related to pests of Musa.

PESTS OF CONCERN

Fursaium oxyspurum cubenese (TR4), *Ralstonia solanacearum race 2*, Banana streak disease, Banana bunchy top virus, *Mycosphaerella fijiensis*

TWG CHAIR

DOMINICA : Mr. Nelson Laville

TWG MEMBERSHIP

- Dominica (Chair)
- FAO (Mentor)
- CIRAD (Mentor)
- USDA APHIS IS
- St Lucia
- Suriname
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- Jamaica
- Dominican Republic

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- * Make recommendations to the Plant Health Directors Meeting for consideration of Musa pest to be placed on national/regional priority pest list
- * To advise the forum on Musa pests which pose a threat to the region
- * Recommend system (s) for prevention, surveillance and monitoring of Musa pests
- * Recommend management and /or eradication strategies for Musa pests
- * Recommend training and capacity building for Musa spp
- * Advise on Emergency preparedness measures for emerging issues and /or outbreaks if required
- * To provide information on Musa pests to produce public awareness material (in conjunction with the communication TWG) targeting all stakeholders to include policy makers.
- * Encourage and initiate research to enhance the management of Musa pest in the Region
- * To advise on the development of a regional notification system for Musa Pest
- * To create awareness and advocacy for safeguarding the Region from Musa pest especially FoC TR4
- * Make recommendations on any issue (including ISPMs, etc.) concerning Musa pest to the Caribbean Plant Health Directors to guide on discussions internationally, regionally and nationally.

CONTACT INFORMATION: musa@cphdforum.org

KEEP TR 4 OUT OF THE REGION

Our food security and economy is in your hands

For more information please visit the CPHD website

www.cphdforum.org

FUSARIUM OXYSPORUM FSP. CUBENSE

TROPICAL RACE 4

FACT SHEET

What is it?

Tropical Race 4 (TR4) is a strain of the fungus *Fusarium oxysporum f.sp cubense* that causes fusarium wilt of plantains and banana including the Cavendish group.

Potential Impact

Global Banana production is under serious threat. Tropical Race 4 (TR4) is capable of losses of at least 85% of the 110 million tons of banana and plantain produced every year in the World

How is it introduced and spread?

- ⇒ Introduction is most commonly via infected planting material
- ⇒ Introduction can also occur via infected soil transported on shoes or used machinery or tools
- ⇒ Spread occurs :
 - By root to root contact and through soil
 - From an infected parent plant into the suckers
 - With soil and water movement or on contaminated pruning tools

Where is it now?

First detected in Taiwan it has spread across Asia, including Malaysia, Indonesia, China, the Philippines, Australia, Pakistan, Laos, Vietnam and India. Between 2013-2015 TR4 made the 'cross continental jump' to Mozambique, Oman, Jordan and Lebanon, . TR4 has not yet reached Latin America and the Caribbean, and it is critical to keep this **fungus out!** Exclusion (prevention of entry) is our best defense.

How is it controlled?

Currently the only effective control measure for Tropical Race 4 is exclusion. Tropical race 4 is extremely difficult to control once established, as the fungus remains alive in the soil for decades and there are no fungicides or cultural control measures that can be effectively applied to control it.

What is being done regionally?

The CPHD has been building awareness among all its stakeholders and conducted training in identification, diagnosis and prevention techniques. Collaborations among key regional, hemispheric and global partners such as the USDA, OIRSA, CIRAD, IICA and FAO have been strengthened. CPHD has formed a special Musa Technical Work Group (TWG) to focus on plant health of banana and plantain and the threat of TR4. EXCLUSION OF TR4 from the hemisphere is the FIRST and HIGHEST PRIORITY.

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