

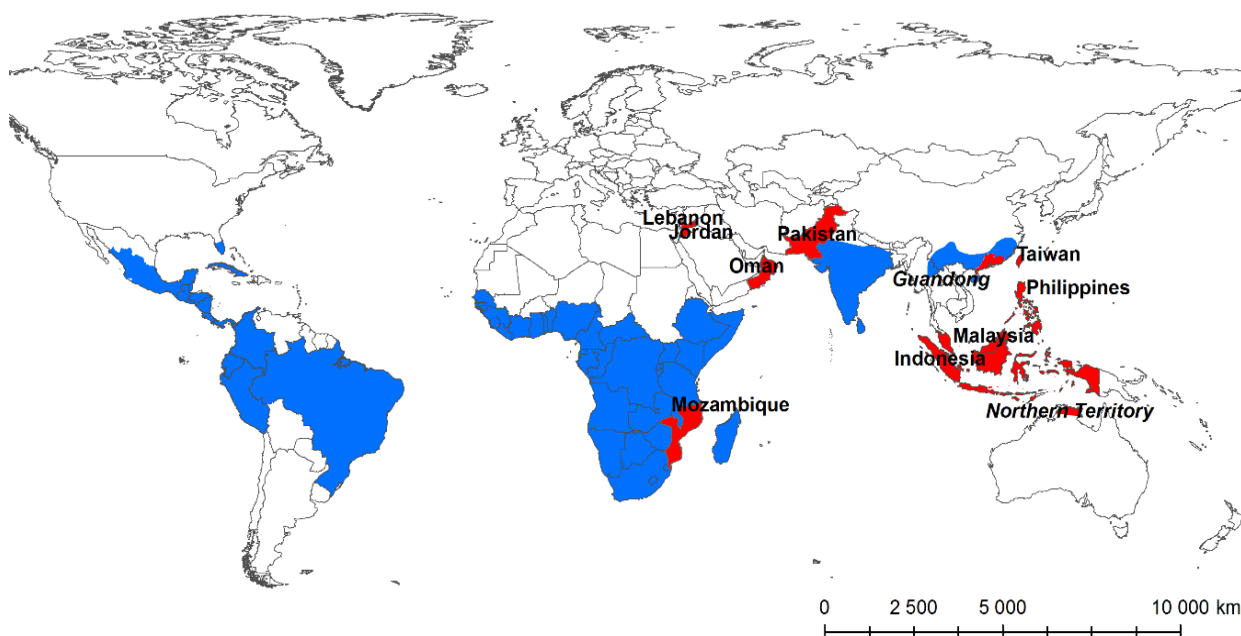
RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT THE ENTRY OF *Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp. *cabense* race 4 TROPICAL

BACKGROUND

The production of banana and plantain is the first non-oil category of economic importance in Ecuador. In our country there are about 268.410 hectares of banana and plantain, of which 95% is exported and supplied to 43 markets worldwide; so that, approximately 30% of global consumption of bananas is from Ecuador. Approximately 2.5 million people depend directly and indirectly on this activity.

One of the most destructive pests for banana and plantain is *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cabense*. In the decades of 50's and 60's, Race 1 of this fungus caused the disappearance of thousands of hectares of Gros Michel banana variety with a great economic and social impact. Fortunately, the emergence of the resistant variety Cavendish allowed the recovery of banana production.

Currently, the worrying emergence of Tropical Race 4 of this fungus (Foc R4T) that has spread rapidly in producing countries such as Australia, China, Taiwan, Philippines, Peninsular Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan and Mozambique, is a serious threat to the production of banana and plantain in Ecuador, since no exist any method of controlling or resistant varieties. This variety of fungus is stronger and mobile; it can easily spread through seed material, soil, water, wind, or can adhere to planting implements such as shoes, clothes and vehicles, even it can stay in different types of crops.



Race 1

Race 4

Preparation: Bioversity International 2015.

PREVENTION ACTIVITIES:

The Ecuadorian Agency for the Quality Assurance of Agriculture - AGROCALIDAD as National Plant Protection Authority has taken actions and phytosanitary measures to prevent the entry of this pest into the country and the region:

- ♣ Establishment of the National Contingency Plan for the prevention, control and eradication of *Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp. *cubense* Tropical Race 4, in order to harmonize and coordinate containment actions with the relevant sectors.
- ♣ Disinfection of containers that enter the country via seaports and public and private alternative ports.
- ♣ Disinfection of passenger's footwear that enter the country by air (international airport).
- ♣ Media campaign that includes diffusion material, videos and training, aimed at unions and associations of producers, technicians, universities, ministries, public officials, passengers, etc.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS IF YOU HAVE VISITED OR TRAVEL TO HIGH-RISK COUNTRIES (WITH PRESENCE OF THE PEST)

- ♣ Do not visit farms in regions where it has been reported the occurrence of Foc R4T unless it's strictly necessary.
- ♣ Do not pick up or carry soil, plants, plant parts of any genus or species.
- ♣ In case you visit plantations, offices or packing plants of banana and plantain is mandatory to use clothing and a pair of shoes exclusively for the visit, which must be disinfected or disposed off in the country you visited.
- ♣ The instruments to take soil samples and plant parts, or any other tool that has been used in plantations, should be left in the country of visit; those equipment that by their type or cost should return to Ecuador, they must be disinfected.
- ♣ No return flights should be taken immediately after visiting a plantation; previously you should take a bath and meet with the specified above.
- ♣ Do not enter to Ecuador any type of souvenir or any article made of materials or vegetable fiber.

It is important to share this information with family and friends, especially if you live in or plan to visit Ecuador from any of these countries. Complying with preventive measures, together we can avoid the entry of this pest into the country.

IN CASE OF SUSPICION OF PRESENCE OF FOC R4T - CONTACT TO 1800 AGRO00 (1800 247 600)
OR TO THE EMAIL: comunicacion@agrocalidad.gob.ec