

Workshop 3: Pests and Diseases in Bananas – Projecting the Effects of Climate Change

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Over several decades, ProMusa has addressed important disease threats such as black leaf streak (black Sigatoka), Fusarium wilt, banana streak viruses and Banana bunchy top virus. The workshop on climate change during ProMusa 2011 proposes to expand the bases for more effective projection of climate-change effects of banana pests and diseases. Brazil is an excellent venue for this groundbreaking effort, since EMBRAPA has a substantial research project CLIMAPEST on this subject. The CGIAR-led initiative on climate change CCAFS (Climate Change Agriculture and Food Security - <http://www.ccafs.cgiar.org/>) is also developing numerous electronic tools and focused initiatives. The ProMusa and regional banana networks offer considerable advantages for banana and plantain to be highlighted as a test crop for CCAFS. The workshop participants will develop the following outputs:

1. raise awareness among the banana research community about the available tools for understanding the implications of climate change for banana production with focus on pests and diseases;
2. compile and discuss an inventory of on-going and planned research on climate change effects of banana and its pests and diseases;
3. identify preliminary parameters for modelling the effects of climate change on different banana cultivar groups and key pests and diseases;
4. identify initiatives to be undertaken by ProMusa working groups on the theme of climate change

The workshop will kick off with keynote addresses from two scientists from EMBRAPA's CLIMAPEST initiative Dr Raquel Ghini and Dr Emilia Hamada and from Dr David Turner on banana cultivar response to climate change. Working groups by important pests and diseases and by banana cultivar groups will assemble key parameters for use in modelling the effects of climate change on the banana crop and its pests and diseases.