



From farm to Fork: Integrating biodiversity into agrifood value chains

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Challenges

Globally, about 40% of the planet's surface is used for agricultural purposes. According to the FAO, agriculture is responsible for 70% of biodiversity loss, a situation that mainly affects developing countries, where 72% of species of flora and fauna are endangered due to agriculture.

The degradation of ecosystems and the consequent loss of habitat for many animals, plants and micro-organisms are especially dramatic in regions where agricultural crops are sown in monoculture production systems.

Monocultures of pineapple and banana can negatively influence climate and biodiversity. This management can degrade ecosystems, contribute to soil erosion, affect the availability of water sources, and contaminate water and air.

Both crops are in high demand in the European Union (EU), particularly in Germany. Among the largest exporters to the EU market in 2015 were Costa Rica (940,000 tonnes) and the Dominican Republic (330,000 tonnes). The three most important importing countries were Belgium, the United Kingdom and thirdly Germany (698,000 tonnes).

Bananas and pineapples are Costa Rica's main agricultural exports; together, they occupy almost 90,000 hectares of the territory.

In the Dominican Republic, about 49% of the country's 48,000 square kilometer area is used for agricultural purposes.

Compatibility between highly productive agriculture and biodiversity conservation is possible and indispensable to guarantee, on the one hand, a secure food supply and, on

Project name	From farm to Fork: Integrating Biodiversity into Agrifood Value Chains
On behalf of	German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)
Countries	Costa Rica and República Dominicana
Counterpart	Ministry of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica; Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic
Total volume	5,000,000 (5 million euros)
Duration	4 years (November 2018 to October 2022)

the other, the protection of the diversity of ecosystems and species.

Our approach

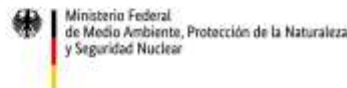
Project activities will take place in two countries: Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic. Both countries will support the integration of conservation, protection of natural capital and valuation of ecosystem services in banana and pineapple value chains, increasing sustainability in production through biodiversity-responsible measures. Del Campo al Plato promotes the participation of key actors along the value chains, including plantation owners and managers, quality and sustainability standards and/or certification organizations, exporters, importers and traders, agricultural education centers, as well as final consumers.

The political counterparts of the project are the Ministry of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica (MINAE) and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic (MIMARENA).

Implementada por:



Por encargo de:



de la República Federal de Alemania

En cooperación con:



The project is funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI), with support from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), and is implemented by the German Development Cooperation, GIZ and the Global Nature Fund. The project's host country is Costa Rica.

Expected results

Through five products, the project searches:

1. Include biodiversity criteria for banana and pineapple crops in national and international standards and food business procurement guidelines. Through appropriate measures, responsible agricultural practices with biodiversity in terrestrial ecosystems will be consolidated, both for soil conservation and for the preservation of species diversity. As a first step, pilot farms will be identified to implement biodiversity-responsible measures, which will provide information for improving biodiversity criteria in national and international food sector standards and corporate procurement guidelines. A biodiversity performance monitoring and verification system and training program will be developed.
2. Develop an Innovation Fund for Biodiversity, which supports the conception and implementation of biodiversity-responsible measures in production. This fund will support producers with technical advice, materials and equipment for the implementation of biodiversity-responsible measures in production systems.
3. Establish a Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) model for financing areas of biological connectivity developed by value chain actors in productive regions. In addition, actors throughout the value chain will invest in the creation of these areas, which will interconnect valuable ecosystems and increase the resilience of these and cropping areas to climate change. In this way, an intrinsic motivation of the actors to invest in the connectivity of key ecosystems will be fostered.
4. Increase the level of awareness of the food sector and end consumers of the value of biodiversity. Food companies and end consumers will be sensitized to express their preference for buying bananas and pineapples produced under biodiversity-responsible conditions, and to recognize these efforts by paying a differentiated price for these products. These measures will contribute to an improvement in consumption behaviour in importing countries.
5. Disseminate and systematize experiences at the national, regional and international levels. The good practices generated and documented will be presented in regional and international networks and forums. Through the involvement of the private sector, new contacts, additional capital and initiatives for the mainstreaming of biodiversity in agriculture will be promoted, thus promoting the implementation of the Aichi Goals 4, 7, 8 and 20), as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDS) (especially SDS 6, 12, 14 and 15).res.

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