



From Farm to Fork: Mainstreaming of biodiversity in agricultural food value chains

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Challenges

Bananas and pineapples are agricultural crops with 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). Belgium, the United Kingdom and Germany (698,000 tonnes)¹ stand out as the three largest importing countries, respectively.

In Costa Rica, bananas and pineapples are the main export agricultural products; together, they occupy almost 90,000 hectares of the territory². In the Dominican Republic, around 49% of the country's 48,000 square kilometers of surface area is used for agricultural purposes³.

Globally, approximately 40% of the planet's surface is used for agricultural purposes. This represents a challenge for the world's biodiversity at a time when 72% of the flora and fauna species are threatened, mainly due to agriculture, a situation that mainly affects the developing countries.

The compatibility between a highly productive agriculture and biodiversity conservation is possible and indispensable to secure a sustainable food supply and to guarantee the conservation of ecosystems and their biodiversity.

Project name	From Farm to Fork: mainstreaming of biodiversity in agricultural food value chains
On behalf	German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Nuclear Safety (BMU)
Countries	Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic
Counterpart	Ministry of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica (MINAE); Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic.
Total volume	€ 5,000,000 (five million EUR)
Duration	4 years (november 2018 to october 2022)

Our approach

The project's activities take place in two countries: Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic. In both countries, the project supports the integration of conservation, the protection of natural capital and the valuation of ecosystem services in banana and pineapple value chains, increasing productive sustainability by means of responsible biodiversity measures and practices.

From Farm to Fork promotes the participation of key stakeholders along the value chain, including plantation

¹ <http://www.fruchtportal.de/news/artikel/022720/belgien-und-uk-sind-grossten-eu-bananen-importeure>

² http://www.infoagro.go.cr/BEA/BEA27/superficieProduccion.html#e_01

³ <http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index/en/?iso3=DOM>

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Global Nature Fund

owners and managers, certifications and standards organizations that supervise quality and sustainability, exporters, importers and traders, agricultural learning centers and teaching institutions, as well as consumers.

The project is funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI, for its German acronym), with support from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU, for its German acronym), 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 seeks to:

1. Include biodiversity criteria for banana and pineapple crops in national and international standards, and in the guidelines for procurements and acquisitions of companies in the food sector.

By implementing appropriate measures, good agricultural practices will be consolidated in terrestrial ecosystems, both for soil conservation and for the preservation of the diversity of species. The first step is identifying pilot projects in farms that implement responsible biodiversity measures, which provide valuable information to improve current biodiversity criteria in national and international standards for the food industry and for companies' procurement patterns. A biodiversity performance verification and monitoring system will be developed, as well as a training program.

2. Develop a Biodiversity Innovation Fund, to support the development and implementation of biodiversity-oriented measures in crop production. This fund supports producers through technical assistance, materials and equipment for the development of responsible biodiversity measures in production systems.

3. Establish a financial mechanism (e.g. model of Payments for Ecosystem Services or PES) to finance the biological connectivity areas established in productive regions by stakeholders of the value chains. Furthermore, the stakeholders of the whole value chain will invest in the creation of these areas, which will interconnect valuable ecosystems and increase their resilience to climate change. Thus, and intrinsic motivation will be encouraged to invest in landscape connectivity in key ecosystems.
4. Increase the level of awareness of the food sector and end consumers regarding the value of biodiversity. Food companies and end consumers will be sensitized to express their preference for 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 improve consumer behavior in importing countries.
5. Disseminate and systematize experiences at the national, regional and international levels. Good agricultural practices generated will be documented and presented in networks and regional and international forums. Through the involvement of the private sector, new contacts will be encouraged, additional capital will be invested and new initiatives for the integration of biodiversity in agriculture will be supported, which will promote the implementation of Aichi Targets 4, 7, 8 and 20, as well as the Sustainable
6. Development Goals (SDGs) (especially SDGs 6, 12, 14 and 15).

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