

Integrated management of *Fusarium* wilt of bananas in the Philippines and Australia



Key details

Location

Philippines

Duration

Start Jun 2014

End Dec 2019

Budget

AUD 1,002,051

Commissioned organisation

Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Partners

Australian Banana Growers Council;
MegaManila Pest Management Specialists Inc.;
Provincial Agriculturist Office Davao Del Norte;
University of Southeastern Philippines;
University of Queensland

Project Leader

Dr Anthony Pattison

Program

Horticulture

Project code

HORT/2012/097

Overview

This project aimed to improve the long-term management of *Fusarium* wilt and the livelihoods of smallholders and communities dependent on export Cavendish bananas production.

Fusarium wilt is the biggest threat to the Philippines' substantial Cavendish bananas export industry, impacting the trade and livelihoods of smallholder banana producers.

About 10% of the land currently used for export production in Mindanao is infected with *Fusarium* wilt, which is continuing to spread, with differing degrees of severity.

The export industry could be wiped out in as little as five years if *Fusarium* wilt of bananas is not controlled in Mindanao. This would disrupt the livelihoods of up to 300,000 families.

This project aimed to develop techniques to limit *Fusarium* wilt losses to smallholder Cavendish production in Davao del Norte and Ladyfinger production in Australia; evaluate the effectiveness of integrated crop management approaches in enabling commercial banana production where *Fusarium* wilt is present; and determine barriers to adoption of systems to suppress *Fusarium* wilt in banana production.



Project outcomes

- Developed options to limit losses in banana production by improving knowledge of on-farm biosecurity.
- Evaluated integrated crop management approaches to enable commercial banana production in the presence of *Fusarium* wilt.
- Determined the barriers to adoption of *Fusarium* wilt management practices.
- Demonstrated how international collaborative projects could benefit both partner countries and contributed to a case study for the 2017 Foreign Policy White Paper.



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