

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.

