

World Banana Forum (WBF)

working together for sustainable banana production and trade
A public-private partnership facilitated by the Trade and Markets Division of FAO

Project concept note

Beneficiary countries:	Banana producing and exporting countries; key import markets
Project duration:	2012 to 2014
Self funding:	US\$ 510,000
Sought from donors:	US\$ 730,000
Total budget:	US\$ 1,240,000



The need for urgent action

Bananas are the world's most exported fresh fruit both in volume and value (US\$7 bn/year). They are an essential source of income and employment for millions of rural people in developing countries. However, the use of agrochemicals for intensive monoculture production and declining producer prices have triggered numerous environmental and social challenges. These can only be properly addressed if all the sector's stakeholders collaborate.

A series of international conferences gathering key players from the banana industry, public sector and civil society forged consensus on the need to establish a permanent forum. The **World Banana Forum (WBF)** was launched at a conference organized by FAO in Rome in 2009 with the participation of some 150 stakeholders from the banana sector worldwide. Three thematic working groups were established to address the sector's most urgent **environmental, social** and **economic** challenges.

Objectives

The WBF promotes the global adoption of **best practices in sustainable banana production and trade**. It provides a permanent space of assembly where the stakeholders of the sector collaborate to promote:

- sustainable management of natural resources;
- mitigation of climate change and uncontrolled environmental impacts;
- respect for human rights (labour rights, health and safety at work);
- gender equity and decent work;
- fair distribution of value along the supply chain;
- knowledge sharing (sharing information on best practices).

The WBF focuses its activities on **finding practical solutions to field problems** which rapidly generate gains for all stakeholders. The Forum's outputs are made available to the entire banana sector worldwide in three languages (English, French and Spanish).

Ongoing activities

The WBF monitors the developments in the banana sector and seeks joint solutions to the challenges. Its working groups focus on identifying and disseminating best practices in the industry. Their activities include:

1. Analyzing the environmental impact of banana production and trade. Discussing and promoting practical solutions;
2. Proposing mechanisms to ensure a fairer distribution of value along the banana supply chain;
3. Assessing the respect of labour rights, gender equity and occupational health and safety (OHS) in banana plantations. Analyzing data to develop specific proposals;
4. Analyzing indicators of decent wages for reference guidelines for employers and employees.

Future outputs

1. Guidelines for sustainable banana production and trade;
2. A virtual library of best sustainability practices;
3. Indicators for decent wages established at country level;
4. The Third Conference of the World Banana Forum.

FAO's role

The Secretariat of the WBF is managed by the Trade and Markets Division of FAO. As an intergovernmental organization, FAO is trusted by all stakeholders, who appreciate its professionalism, neutrality and technical expertise. FAO gives the WBF the objectivity and credibility that are prerequisites for its success.

Required funding

The WBF has established a mixed funding scheme which mainly relies on annual participant fees. However, these are not sufficient to fund all the necessary activities. **Donor funding would be used to support the following activities:**

1. Elaboration and dissemination of best practices;
2. Production, translation, printing and distribution of technical and information materials;
3. Participation of non-profit key stakeholders from developing countries who are not able to participate without financial assistance;
4. Coordination of aforementioned activities and global dissemination of outputs;
5. Organization of international conferences for promoting best practices.

Contact Information



Secretariat of the World Banana Forum

Working together for sustainable banana production and trade

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