It takes 9 to 12 months for a banana plant to yield its first fruit.

Soil preparation
Soil should be deep and rich in organic matter, with the capacity to drain quickly as the plants do not tolerate saturated or flooded areas.

Propagating
Bananas do not typically produce seeds, so farmers usually replant the suckers (plant offshoots).

Planting
The suckers are planted in 15 to 20 cm diameter holes.

Production
The plants take 8 to 9 months to flower.

Plant selection
Suckers for the next crop season are selected. Suckers that are poorly positioned, too small, or unhealthy, are removed.

Bagging of the fruit
Weekly inspections are done, and the plants are covered with perforated polyethylene bags to protect the fruit from pests, damage from leaves, dust, and dirt. The plants are marked with colored ribbons to indicate the age of the fruit.

Supporting
Poles are used to support the banana bunches, which can weigh up to 50 kgs, in order to protect them from wind.

Harvesting
Workers hand-pick bananas according to size and color while they are still unripe. A cable system is used to transport fruit from the field to the packaging house.

Top Four Sustainability Standards for Banana

GLOBAL.G.A.P. 6.2%
Rainforest Alliance 3.6%
Organic 1.2%
Fairtrade 0.9%

Top Five Banana Exporting Countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Thousand Tons</th>
<th>% of share</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>7,036</td>
<td>32.66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>3,808</td>
<td>17.68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>2,407</td>
<td>11.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>2,380</td>
<td>11.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>2,034</td>
<td>9.44%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top Five Banana Importers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Tons</th>
<th>% of Global Imports</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>5,156,567</td>
<td>27.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>4,097,690</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>1,818,806</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>1,515,711</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>1,068,130</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top Five Banana Producing Countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Thousand Tons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>39,660,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>11,998,329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>7,280,659</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>6,812,708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>6,583,477</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top Five Banana Exporting Countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Thousand Tons</th>
<th>% of Total Area Harvested</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>7,036</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>3,808</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>2,407</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>2,380</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>2,034</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: FAO Banana Statistical Compendium 2020

Varieties and consumption

There are more than 1,000 varieties of bananas produced and consumed locally in the world (FAO, 2021).

Aprox. 50M tons of Cavendish bananas are produced globally every year (FAO, 2021).

80% of bananas are produced locally (FAO).

More than 100 billion bananas are consumed globally each year (FAO).

12 Kg of bananas are consumed each year globally per person (FAO).

0.05% of global banana production is organic (ITC, 2019).

42.3% of the world's organic banana is produced in the Dominican Republic (ITC, 2019).

17 banana-producing countries are currently affected by Fusarium Tropical Race 4 (F4T), a fungal disease that damages this crop (FAO, 2021).

More than 0.05% of global banana production is organic (ITC, 2019).

Source: FAO (2021)
About us: The eco.business Fund aims to promote business and consumption practices that contribute to biodiversity conservation, the sustainable use of natural resources, and to mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts. By providing financing for business practices that conserve nature and foster biodiversity, the fund seeks investments with both environmental and financial returns. The fund mainly provides loans to qualified financial institutions that on-lend the money to eligible borrowers, which include holders of recognized certifications or those making improvements in line with conservation and biodiversity goals. The fund supports sustainable operations in the sectors of agriculture, fishery (including aquaculture), forestry and tourism.

Contact us: www.ecobusiness.fund info@ecobusiness.fund eco.business Fund S.A., SICAV-SIF Carl-von-Noorden-Platz 5 60596 Frankfurt a. M., Germany 31 Z.A. Bourmicht 8070 Bertrange, Luxembourg

Pre-Harvest

- Forest/Ecosystem Conservation
  - Protection of natural ecosystems
  - Restoration of riparian areas alongside streams and riverbanks to create a buffer zone to prevent flooding

- Soil Management and Conservation
  - Implementation of integrated pest-management practices such as cover crops to create an environment for microorganisms that control pests
  - Use of cover crops between rows of banana crops to enhance soil health, reduce erosion, minimize scrub, preserve humidity, and reduce water stress
  - Recovery of surrounding vegetation to filter water run-off, create biological corridors, and improve soil health
  - Use of non-chemical methods like microorganisms (biocides) to control insects and diseases
  - Use of organic fertilizers such as coffee husk, or compost from banana plant by-products

Harvest

- Integrated Crop Management
  - Implementation of Good Agricultural Practices, including integrated pest and disease management, plant density control, and planting quality seeds
  - Responsible use and recycling of organic matter in order to avoid contamination of soil with crop diseases
  - Collection, recycling, and environmentally responsible disposal of plastic bags used to protect banana bunches

Post-Harvest

- Water Conservation
  - Use of efficient irrigation systems like drip or microsprinklers
  - Optimization of the use of fertilizer to reduce run-off water nitrification
  - Designing of farm layouts in order to prevent water run-off and manage farm drainage
  - Recycling water at the packing facility and installation of filtration systems to treat water used in processing

- Forest/Ecosystem Conservation

Pre-Harvest

- Water Conservation

Harvest

- Integrated Crop Management

Post-Harvest

- Water Conservation