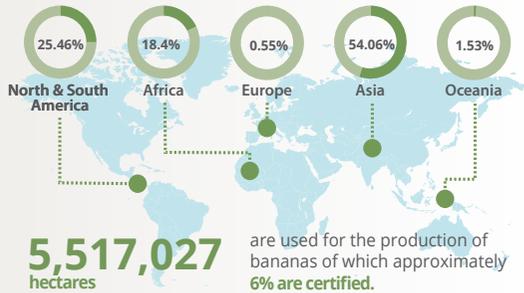


World Banana Production by Region

2019



Source: FAO



Top Five Banana Exporting Countries

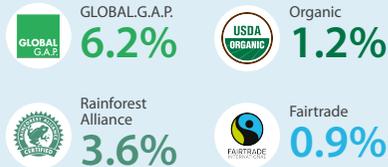
2020

	Thousand Tons	% of share
Ecuador	7,036	32.66%
Philippines	3,808	17.68%
Guatemala	2,407	11.17%
Costa Rica	2,380	11.05%
Colombia	2,034	9.44%

Source: FAO Banana Statistical Compendium 2020

Top Four Sustainability Standards for Banana

% Share of total area harvested - 2019



Source: The State of Sustainability Markets by Commodity, 2021

Varieties and consumption

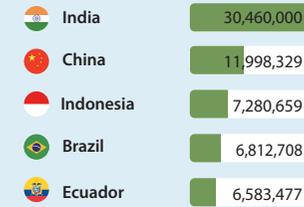


Funded by



Top Five Banana Producing Countries

2019



Source: FAO

Top Five Banana Importers

2020

	Tons	% of Global Imports
EU	5,156,567	27.2%
USA	4,097,690	21.6%
China	1,818,806	9.6%
Russia	1,515,711	8.0%
Japan	1,068,130	5.6%

Source: FAO

THE BANANA JOURNEY

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.



Propagation

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 kg, 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.



Packing and grading

The bananas are sorted by size and are washed before being packaged in corrugated carton boxes. Bananas can be packed as whole hands, part hands, or clusters.



Storage

Once packed, the bananas are stored at temperatures between 13°C and 14°C and 90-95% of relative humidity.



Shipping and ripening

Before arriving at the stores, bananas go to ripening rooms (cold rooms with controlled atmosphere). These ripening rooms are normally located at the distributors facilities.



Banana ripeness

Retail stores will normally receive ripe bananas (color code 3 to 4).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Sustainable Banana



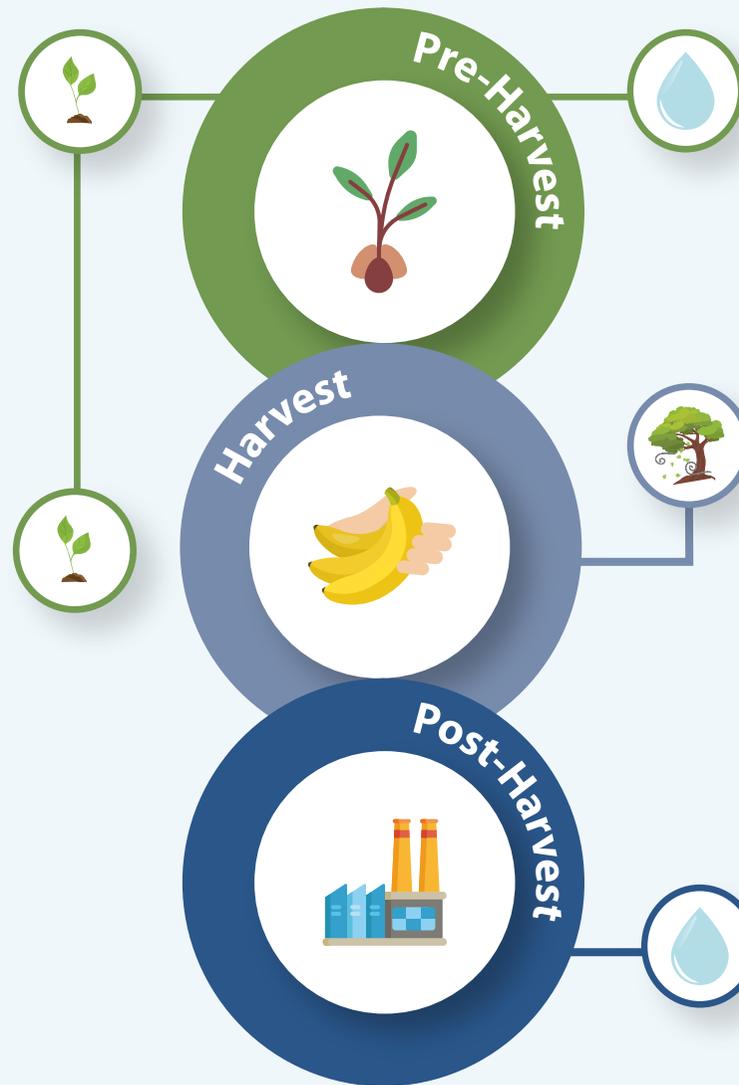
Practices and Benefits

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



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

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

Water Conservation

- Recycling water at the packing facility and installation of filtration systems to treat water used in processing

About us: The eco.business Fund aims to promote business and consumption practices that contribute to biodiversity conservation, to 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.

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