

Mid-term review 2021*: From Farm to Fork - Del Campo al Plato

Biodiversity in banana and pineapple value chains

The goals of Del Campo al Plato

In the project, biodiversity conservation and related ecosystem services are successfully integrated into banana and pineapple value chains. Biodiversity protection measures are implemented in the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica. Recommendations for improving criteria of standards and procurement specifications of companies have been developed. A communication campaign focusing on consumers in Germany, Austria and Switzerland is in preparation.

From Farm to Fork promotes the participation of key actors along the value chain. This includes food companies and retailers as well as consumers. These target groups are especially addressed in Germany and the German-speaking market.

The political partners of the project are the Ministry of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica (MINAE) and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic (MIMARENA).

The project is funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) with support from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and implemented by the German Development Cooperation, GIZ, and the NGOs Global Nature Fund and Lake Constance Foundation.

What did we achieve so far

- **15 national and international food standards** were evaluated with regard to their criteria on biodiversity. The results are summarised in a baseline report; all

standards received individual feedback with recommendations for improving the criteria.

In a stakeholder process with actors in Germany, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic, recommendations for effective biodiversity criteria in standards and in procurement specifications were developed and published in a brochure. So far, four international standards have taken up some of the recommendations and improved their criteria with relevance for biodiversity.

- As part of an **sector initiative** for biodiversity, actors in the food sector in Germany commit to taking a basic set of biodiversity criteria into account in the future.
- Companies along the value chain are already investing almost 600,000 euros in biodiversity measures. In addition, there are large-scale in-kind services within the framework of the Biodiversity Action Plans.
- **53 farms** with a total area of about 25,000 ha underwent a Biodiversity Check Agrícola BCA until end of 2020. 19 have drawn up a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) from the recommended measures and are implementing measures. This includes improved management of biodiversity on farms as well as measures to improve agricultural practices to reduce negative impacts on biodiversity (use of pesticides, fertiliser management, soil protection, water, waste management).
- **12 pilot farms** with numerous innovative measures for more biodiversity in banana and pineapple cultivation form a network and support the training measures.

Carried out by

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
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On behalf of the



Bundesministerium
für Umwelt, Naturschutz,
Bau und Reaktorsicherheit

In collaboration with

**Bodensee
Stiftung**
Lake Constance Foundation

**Global
Nature
Fund**

- **A training concept** with 4 modules for farm advisors and farmers has been developed. 100 farmers and agricultural advisors have already been trained. This has improved the knowledge of biodiversity in 32 cooperatives and farming organisations. Training concepts for other target groups, e.g. managers in companies, are currently in preparation.
- A **pragmatic Biodiversity Performance App** supports farms in recording and monitoring their biodiversity performance. It is an important milestone for tracking measures and results, incorporating them into corporate reporting routines and reporting on a fact-based basis. In this way, large plantations as well as cooperatives with many smallholders can monitor and control their performance, communicate it to the market and thus add value.
- **30 producers** with a pro-biodiversity business approach were selected in the **Biodiversity Ideas Competition**. They will invest over **440,000 €** in their projects and receive the same amount for advice, as well as for material and equipment to implement the measures. The projects are wide-ranging: from ecological chicken farming in banana plantations to the use of flying drones for optimised monitoring of natural habitats.
- In Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic, three regions were selected for the planning of **biotope corridors** in banana and pineapple growing areas. Riverine ecosystems are particularly suitable for this because they form natural corridors that can be enhanced by appropriate buffer zones. The biotope corridors will link ecosystems and contribute to the protection of endangered species and the conservation of ecosystem services.
- Plantation owners and cooperatives in the regions, as well as exporters, trading companies and food producers are invited to financially support the implementation of the corridors and thus "invest" in the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- In order to make more people on producing countries as well as in the countries of consuming **aware of the value of biodiversity**, close cooperation has been established with actors in Germany and beyond. We are a member of the **Sustainable Banana Action Alliance**,

the Biodiversity in Food Initiative and the BMZ Sustainable Agricultural Supply Chains Initiative. Interest increased significantly over the last years: Biodiversity is now understood as a "mega issue". There is great openness for our concepts in the sector.

- Several companies and two of the most important standards in the banana and pineapple sector are participating in an **consumer campaign for more biodiversity** in the cultivation of bananas and pineapples. Further companies - motivated by our project - communicate on the topic.
- All **experiences are evaluated**, the good practices are presented in regional and international networks and forums and producers in other regions are motivated to adopt them. Conversely, we adopt experiences from initiatives such as the EU LIFE project Food & Biodiversity or the development of BAPs for spice farmers in India or with coffee farmers in Colombia.
- **Already, 12,500 ha have been ecologically upgraded through project measures.**
- **Protecting biodiversity helps to secure the jobs of more than 3,000 workers in banana and pineapple cultivation.**

Project name	From Farm to Fork: Integrating biodiversity into agri-food value chains
On behalf of	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)
Countries	Costa Rica and Dominican Republic
Counterpart	Ministry of Environment and Energy Costa Rica; Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Dominican Republic
Budget	5,000,000,000 € (5 million euros), an increase has been requested.
Duration	4 years (Nov. 2018 to Oct. 2022) An extension of one year has been applied for.

www.fromfarmtofork.net

www.delcampoalplato.com

Further information:

Dr Thomas Schaefer, Global Nature Fund

+49 7732 9995-89

schaefer@globalnature.org

Marion Hammerl, Lake Constance Foundation

+49 7732 9995-45

marion.hammerl@bodensee-stiftung.de