



**AKTIONSBÜNDNIS FÜR  
NACHHALTIGE BANANEN**  
ACTION ALLIANCE FOR  
SUSTAINABLE BANANAS

## **STATEMENT BY THE ABNB ON THE DEBATE ON BANANA PRICES**

In a public press release and in other statements, banana producers and plantation workers from Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Colombia and Panama have commented on an extensive price reduction by German retailers. The press release vehemently opposes a price reduction because it could lead to a significant loss of jobs. It also runs counter to current efforts, particularly those being made by the German government and the EU, to create a fair and sustainable banana supply chain.

Germany is one of Europe's largest buyer countries of bananas. 70% of the bananas sold in Germany are imported from the countries mentioned above. Current pricing in Germany, which seeks to make the tropical fruit even more attractive to consumers, is seen as problematic by the countries signing the statement. The press release points out that a further reduction in banana purchase prices is not acceptable as this would prevent compliance with both social and environmental standards.

The banana producers and exporters emphasise that "Sustainable production involves certain costs that are entirely borne by the manufacturer while the rest of the stakeholders in the value chain escape any responsibility. [...] We believe it is essential for the entire value chain to be made economically, socially and environmentally sustainable. To achieve this, it is necessary to establish an effective shared responsibility that redistributes the costs associated with sustainability among all the stakeholders along the value chain."

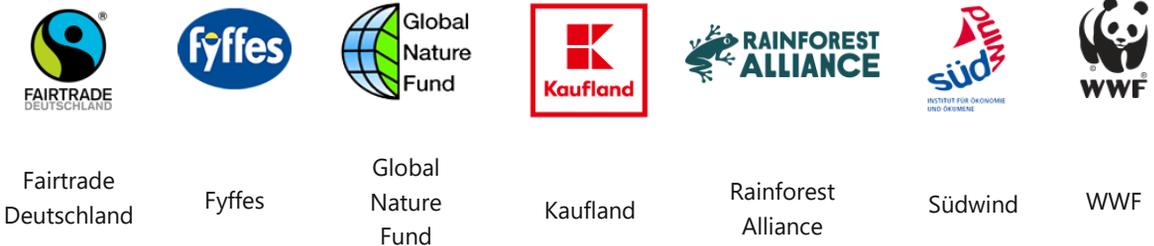
As members of the Action Alliance for Sustainable Bananas (ABNB), the civil society organisations Global Nature Fund, SÜDWIND and WWF, the companies Fyffes and Kaufland and the certification organisations Fairtrade Deutschland, GLOBALG.A.P. and Rainforest Alliance have begun a dialogue in order to improve the social, ecological and economic conditions in the banana value chain. This collaboration between non-governmental organisations and the private sector is supported by the German government. One of the aims of the ABNB is to improve living and working conditions and wages in the production countries through vertical cooperation with the partners in the value chain. In the long term, the aim is to ensure that producers are paid at least a living wage, based on the calculation methods used by the World Banana Forum and the ISEAL Global Living Wage Coalition.



Declining prices in the banana sector in Germany and Europe are being watched with great concern by the members of the ABNB. The ABNB stresses the absolute necessity of improving the incomes of small-scale farmers and wages of producers and plantation workers, of raising social standards and of investing in environmental protection and biodiversity conservation measures. The ABNB supports the corresponding change processes.

The ABNB supports the basic statement in the press release because sustainable production also requires the coverage of costs relating to social and environmental standards. This means that banana producers must be given sufficient economic leeway for sustainable production.

The members of the ABNB signing the statement



Further information about the ABNB is available at [www.bananenbuendnis.org](http://www.bananenbuendnis.org)