

Voluntary commitment

by actors of the banana sector to adapt to and mitigate climate change

We – the signatory actors in the banana sector – are working together to mitigate climate change and to invest in climate change supply chain adaptation. By joining forces and aligning approaches, we want to contribute to improving yields and to strengthening producers' resilience through targeted measures tackling the negative effects of climate change on farming and livelihoods.

Representing the public, private sector and civil society actors in the banana sector, we recognize the need to take a proactive role in promoting socially, economically and environmentally sustainable supply chains in the scope of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. Given the urgency of climate adaptation at farm level and sustainable purchasing practices at business level, we will proactively contribute to their development and establishment in coordination and collaboration with all relevant stakeholders.

Based on current climate models, negative impacts of climate change on banana producing regions, particularly in Latin America, are likely. Standards have played an important role in promoting and implementing climate change adaptation and mitigation practices, but more needs to be done. Signatory standard schemes commit to continuously improving the climate-sensitivity of their standards, share best practices and learnings and offer collaboration and advise to climate programmes and projects.

The Action Alliance for Sustainable Bananas (ABNB) has conducted an expert survey together with the University of Bonn to prioritize climate change measures in terms of effectiveness, costs and other effects. Based on this scientific evidence and the exchange of experts, seven measures at farm level have been identified that are currently available to most farmers, for example through the ABNB producer manual. They are inextricably linked to the goal of adapting production to climate change and reducing its negative impacts on the environment:



¹ Noleppa, S.; Gornott, C.; Lüttringhaus, S.; Hackenberg, I.; Gleixner, S. (2020): Climate change and its effects on banana production in Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, and Ecuador

² Whitney, C.; Fernandez, E.; Do, H.; Giang Luu, T.T.; Heuschkel, Z.; Luedeling, E. (2020): Decision Support for determining effective climate measures in banana production

We strongly believe that those measures play a crucial role in supporting producers to adapt towards climate change and secure the long-term well-being of their farms.

Signatory companies commit to support standards and producers in piloting the climate measures as well as to support them in establishing these measures, if possible. Beyond that, the companies source bananas from those farms on which the measures have been implemented. In addition, sourcing companies will provide a relevant financial amount to the producers, so that they can make the necessary investments to implement the measures.

Addressing global challenges in agricultural supply chains.

By working towards climate change adaptation and mitigation, we aim to build resilience and preserve the **livelihoods of people and the environment for the future**. We recognize that climate change adaptation and mitigation is a necessity for sustainable banana supply chains. We further recognize the following **core principles of international agreements** and agree to abide by them in our business practices from the moment the agreement is signed:



- (i) Compliance with all legal frameworks, in particular with regard to wages, incomes and prices as well as specifications concerning labor law and environmental protection; as well as compliance with the current laws implementing the EU directive on unfair trade practices;



- (ii) Respect and promotion of human rights and respect for the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights;



- (iii) Protection of valuable ecosystems such as forests, wetlands or savannas, other *High Value Conservation Areas* and protected areas. Prevention of their degradation, and protection and enhancement of biodiversity, the biosphere and the environment as a whole;



- (iv) In close collaboration with producers, signatories strive towards phasing out pesticides listed in the Stockholm Declaration (POPS) or the Rotterdam Convention (PIC) and hazardous pesticides as defined by the FAO/WHO Guidelines for Highly Hazardous Pesticides, as far as possible. In the near future, signatories, in collaboration with the producers, intend to work on phasing out the remaining highly hazardous pesticides in accordance with the PAN HHP list.

Date and signature

