

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

In the context of the **Action Alliance for Sustainable Bananas (ABNB)**, supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and in cooperation with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, we - the signatory actors in the banana sector - are working together to adapt the banana supply chain to climate change and to mitigate climate change. By joining forces and aligning approaches within the ABNB and existing initiatives and forums, such as the World Banana Forum, we want to contribute to improving the income of producers and to enable them to reduce negative effects of climate change on their income through targeted measures.

Representing the private sector and civil society actors in the banana sector, **we recognize the need to take a proactive role in promoting socially and environmentally sustainable supply chains in the scope of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development**. Given the **urgency of climate-adapted production**, we will proactively contribute to its development and establishment in coordination and collaboration with all relevant stakeholders.

Based on current climate models¹, impacts of climate change on banana producing regions, particularly in Latin America, are likely. Standards have played a crucial role in designing and implementing climate change adaptation and mitigation practices, but more needs to be done. Signatory standards commit to continuously improving the climate-sensitivity of their standards, their advisory services and projects.

The ABNB has conducted an expert survey² 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 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:

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|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Composting | 6. Plastic recycling |
| 2. Cover crops | 7. Plastic reduction |
| 3. Mulching | |
| 4. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) | |
| 5. Buffer zones | |

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 in piloting the climate measures as well as to support them in establishing these measures as standard procedures if possible. Beyond that, the companies source at least also those bananas for which the measures were implemented during production. In addition, they will provide a relevant financial amount to the producers, so that they can make the necessary investments to implement the measures.

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](#).

Addressing global challenges in agricultural supply chains.

By working towards climate change adaptation and mitigation, we aim to 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 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, plan to phase out the remaining highly hazardous pesticides in accordance with the PAN HHP list.

Date and signature