

## 7th Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals Side Event:

### “Saving the Banana: Innovative and Multi-Stakeholder Approaches to Confront the Global Challenge of Fusarium Wilt, Tropical Race 4.”

The 2022 Forum consists of an opening and a closing, a Ministerial Session, six Thematic Sessions, three Special Events, which will be held in a hybrid format, as well as Pre-events, Roundtables, Exhibit, and Side Events, which will be fully virtual.

In this regard, the Global Alliance Against TR4 is pleased to organize a side event for the 7th Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals. This event will take place in the form of a panel with two organizations, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and Bayer Cropscience.

The main goal of our side event is to facilitate information-sharing on approaches to confront the Fusarium Wilt, Tropical Race 4, and will take place **Wednesday, May 4, 2022 from 9 am to 10 am EST (NY time)**. This will be a 60-minute session, hosted in English through the virtual platform Zoom/Whova.

Whova is the official event platform to host the virtual elements of the Forum. It provides registered participants with all-in-one access to the livestream of all sessions of the STI Forum.

For further information, please contact the Alliance Technical Assistant, Mrs. Camila Reyes ([global.alliance@iica.int](mailto:global.alliance@iica.int)).

## REGISTER HERE

To register through Whova, STI Forum.

[The Seventh Annual Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs \(STI Forum\) Registration \(whova.com\)](#)

([Agenda at a glance](#) | [More information](#))

### **Background: Global Alliance Against TR4**

*Fusarium Wilt, Tropical Race 4 (TR4)*, is a serious fungal disease affecting banana production in Latin America, Asia and Africa; at present, there is no proven biological or chemical application to confront the disease.

In February 2021, the *Global Alliance Against TR4* was officially launched. The launch event included the signing of a legal framework document and an IP protocol which guide the structures, operations and the Alliance's approach to open access innovation; **the launch event was attended by the members of the alliance's steering committee.**

The **Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)** acts as the secretariat of **the Alliance**, responsible for administrative and technical tasks. The Steering Committee, including IICA, Solidaridad, Chiquita, Bayer, Wageningen University, Corbana and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) is responsible for strategic guidance.

Today, the Alliance consists of **20+ member organizations**, including highly influential and impactful organizations, such as Banco Pichincha, CATIE, Chiquita, COLEACP, Corbana, Del-Monte, Dole, Fyffes, Gates Foundation, GIZ, GlobalG.A.P., IITA, Solidaridad, Tropic Biosciences, Wageningen University, University of Queensland, Yara, and more.

The Alliance has completed **programme proposals in 3 areas**: Prevention and Training; Breeding and Genetics; and Methods of Control, **and has kicked off short-term activities in each one. For example**, aerial mapping in Peru; sample sequencing to test for the presence of the disease; first steps towards determining key underlying genetics through conventional and modern (gene-editing) breeding technologies; and on-farm capacity building and training in Ecuador. Donor engagement to secure funding for scaling-up activities is on-going.

#### **10 ways the Alliance is bringing value to members**

1. Demonstrating **commitment** to solving a pertinent and global food security challenge
2. Demonstrating how leading organizations are part of the solution **to global agricultural challenges** through engagement and collaboration in a key multi-stakeholder platform
3. Using the Alliance to **open new doors to donors** and the international development/IFI community
4. Directly and indirectly supporting members' strategic **business and sustainability objectives**
5. Gaining **goodwill** and **credibility** with governments, donor community, food value chain and civil society stakeholders, and access to new opportunities, partners, customers, etc.
6. New opportunities to **showcase member innovations, solutions and expertise**, potentially through innovative funding mechanisms
7. **Helping to further biotechnology and innovation policy**
8. Potential to **leverage existing partnerships**
9. Tangibly **demonstrating** to major multilateral organizations the members' **commitment to food security challenges**
10. Developing **stronger ties** to biotechnology and other key research outfits.