

**Field Trial: EcoFlora – Field Trial on Plantains**

<b>Product:</b>	EcoFlora	<b>Product Type:</b>	Plant and Soil Inoculant
<b>Crop:</b>	Plantain Bananas Var. Roatán	<b>Location:</b>	San Rafael, Veracruz, Mexico Plot: La Vega
		<b>Treated Area:</b>	1 hectare
		<b>Control Area:</b>	9 hectares



**Method of product application and results:**

The chemical fungicide Mancozeb had been used in this farm until it did not control any more the proliferation of the fungus Black Sigatoca. Eight days after the last Mancozeb application, the banana trees in the treated 1 hectare plot were sprayed with the following blend:

- 2 liters of EcoFoliar
- 500 grams of EcoFlora
- 1 liter of humic acids as food source for the microbes

The blend was diluted with tap water and applied with a tractor sprayer. The blend was applied every two weeks for a total of six applications. The trial was carried out during the rainy season of August to October. The progression of the disease was monitored by counting the number of healthy leaves per plant, 12 to 20 days after the application of the products. The growers consider that the disease is controlled when the plant has 10 healthy leaves.

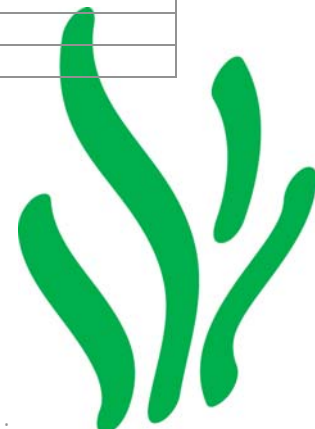
**Results**

The following table indicates the number of healthy leaves per plant of banana.

Date of Application	Date of Monitoring	Number of healthy leaves
August 1	August 13	8
August 14	August 27	9
August 28	September 15	9
September 11	September 30	10
September 25	October 15	11
October 9	October 27	11

**Questions or Concerns?**

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In this area of México, chemical fungicides were applied to banana fields every week and these pesticides were not controlling the proliferation of the Black Sigatoca disease. The results with EcoFlora + EcoFoliar showed control of the proliferation of the Black Sigatoca, with applications spaced out every two weeks.

Consequently, there would be only 16 applications of EcoFlora + EcoFoliar per crop cycle, whereas with chemical fungicides there were 37 applications during the crop season. Therefore, the reduction in the number of applications with a tractor imply less damage to the soil by compaction, and half the application costs incurred with the application of chemical fungicides.

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