



EcoFlora Field Trial on Plantains var. Roatán

Product: EcoFlora
Crop: Plantains

Trial setting: Field trial
Location: San Rafael, Veracruz, México

Method of product application

The chemical fungicide Mancozeb had been used in this farm until it did not control any more the proliferation of the fungus Black Sigatoka. A one hectare plot was treated and nine hectares were used as control. Eight days after the last Mancozeb application, the banana trees in the treated 1 hectare plot were sprayed with 500 grams of EcoFlora.

EcoFlora 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, period of the highest incidence of the disease as rains alternate with heat periods. 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

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 Sigatoka disease. All plants in the control plot had less than 8 healthy leaves.

Table indicating the number of healthy leaves per banana plant.

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

The results with EcoFlora showed control of the proliferation of the Black Sigatoka, with applications spaced out every two weeks. Consequently, there would be only 16 applications of EcoFlora 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.