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## EcoFungi in Banana Nursery

<b>Product:</b>	<b>EcoFungi</b>	<b>Trial setting:</b>	<b>Field Trial</b>
<b>Crop:</b>	<b>Banana <i>Musa sp.</i></b>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>Guayas, Ecuador</b>

### Methods

The effect of EcoFungi was studied with banana plants originated from meristematic tissues. Thirty plantules were inoculated at a rate of 0.2 grams of EcoFungi per plant. Plants were placed in pots holding 200 grams of a substrate made of soil and cow manure, with 160 ppm of P and 6.9% organic matter.

The soil used was selected for having a significant amount of native mycorrhizae. Thirty plants were planted in the same substrate but were not inoculated with EcoFungi. These later plants were used as control treatment.

After 45 days of growth, all plants were measured for total length, number of leaves, width of leaves and percent infection in roots (using the staining and grid technique). The experiment was run twice.

### Results

Even though the soil used for the trials had native mycorrhizae as shown by the percent infection in the roots of control plants, a statistically significant effect was determined with the addition of EcoFungi in all parameters evaluated ( $P < 0.05$  ANOVA) except for number of leaves in Experiment 1.

Experiment 1	Control	EcoFungi
Length of plant (cm)	8.6	9.0*
Number of leaves	5.0	5.3
Dry weight of plant (mg)	360	623*
% roots infected	15	28*

Experiment 2	Control	EcoFungi
Length of plant (cm)	7.23	10.03*
Number of leaves	6.0	6.7*
Foliar area (dm <sup>2</sup> )	0.27	0.43*
Dry weight of plant (mg)	612	940*
% roots infected	20	54*

\* indicates significant difference  $P < 0.05$  ANOVA