



Rainforest Alliance Policy on Fusarium Tropical Race 4 (Foc TR4) Biosecurity Practices

For Rainforest Alliance and authorized Certification Bodies personnel that carry out activities on Musaceae farms

**January 2020
Version 1**

The Rainforest Alliance Works to conserve biodiversity and ensure sustainable livelihoods by transforming land-use practices, business practices, and consumer behavior.



POLICY

Issue Date:	Binding date:	Expiration date:	Replaces:
Jan 29th, 2020	Immediately	Until further notice	N/A
Developed by:		Approved by:	
S&A Senior Officer		S&A Director	
Linked to (name of documents):		Reference criterion or clause number:	
Rules for planning and conducting audits v.1		Section 6. Audit execution	
This policy is applicable to:		Audit types:	
Rainforest Alliance and authorized Certification Bodies personnel (or anyone acting on their behalf) that carry out activities on Musaceae farms		All	
Crops:		Regions:	
Musaceae		Global	



1. INTRODUCTION

From the smallholder gardens in Asia-Pacific and Africa's Great Lakes Region to the green revolution styled plantations in Latin America, bananas represent a steady source of income and nutritious food to millions of people.

The Rainforest Alliance shares the global concern raised by the spread of the disease caused by the soil-borne fungus *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* Tropical race four (Foc TR4).

Foc TR4 is considered as the world's greatest threat to banana production. Once present, the disease cannot be controlled by common chemical or cultural management practices. Available methods for disease containment are not fully efficient, and alternative options are still at the evaluation stage.

In response to this emergency the Rainforest Alliance developed a comprehensive response plan that builds on four main pillars:

- Adhere and follow regional protocols such as those laid out by OIRSA, and other Regional and International Stakeholders including the Food and Agriculture Organization that support the different phases for Foc TR4 prevention and control;
- Require compliance by Rainforest Alliance Certified operations to national Foc TR4 prevention and control measures, and other related legal frameworks developed by national phytosanitary agencies and regulatory entities;
- Promote the use of biosecurity practices for Foc TR4 prevention and control through integrated pest management and productivity plans in all our Rainforest Alliance Certified operations as per the Sustainable Agriculture Standard (SAS);
- Join forces with public and private sectors to disseminate the required know-how, and support field implementation activities that enhance Foc TR4 prevention and control measures.

Additionally, the Rainforest Alliance and authorized Certification Bodies personnel (or anyone acting on their behalf) that carry out activities on Musaceae farms worldwide, know and implement the biosecurity practices for Foc TR4 prevention, as established in this document.

2. POLICY - FOC TR4 BIOSECURITY PRACTICES

2.1. In countries where Foc TR4 has not been confirmed, the personnel:

- a. Understand and comply with the mandatory regional and national protocols that support the Foc TR4 prevention and control;
- b. Comply with the guidelines established by the farm;
- c. Use the equipment provided by the farm correctly;
- d. Clean and disinfect their shoes;
- e. Limit the movement within the plantation to the strictly necessary, using vehicles from the farm or operation to visit;
- f. Limit contact with crops or plant material; and
- g. Do not collect, receive, or transport soil or plants, or parts of plants, of any genus or species.



2.2. In countries where Foc TR4 has been confirmed¹, in addition to what is described in section 2.1, the personnel:

- a. Do not visit farms² where the disease has been reported;
- b. Do not take flights back to the country of origin immediately after visiting a farm (minimum 1-day of waiting);
- c. Do not buy, and therefore do not enter the country of residence, any type of “souvenir” made with banana or pineapple plant material; and
- d. In the case of visiting Musaceae, coffee or cocoa farms, the personnel purchase/bring additional clothing and pair of shoes and wear them only in the country to visit, or wear borrowed rubber boots. Shoes and clothing are discarded in the country of visit. If needed, the personnel borrow a bag from the farm;

2.3. Rainforest Alliance and authorized Certification Bodies personnel (or anyone acting on their behalf) from countries where Foc TR4 has been confirmed, refrain from visiting Musaceae farms in disease-free countries.

2.4. Rainforest Alliance and authorized Certification Bodies personnel (or anyone acting on their behalf) provide the visited operation a signed declaration form with the Foc TR4 biosecurity practices implemented.

For more information, contact the Standards and Assurance team certification@ra.org.

¹ To the publication of this document: Colombia - Taiwan - Malaysia - Indonesia - Philippines - China - Australia - Mozambique - Oman - Jordan - Pakistan - Lebanon - Laos - Vietnam - Myanmar - Israel - India - Thailand - Turkey - United Kingdom.

² The term farm refers to whole area and activities within the farm's limits, infrastructure owned or leased outside the farm limits but which is directly related to activities and communities who are or may be directly affected by the farm's activities.