

June 16, 2016

### **Joint Statement of the Rainforest Alliance and Oxfam DE**

Taking into account the findings of the recent Oxfam DE report on working and environmental conditions in pineapple plantations in Costa Rica and banana plantations in Ecuador, some of which have been RA certified based on the SAN-standards, the Rainforest Alliance and Oxfam DE met and agreed upon the following:

- There is an urgent need to improve working and living conditions of farm workers in Costa Rica and Ecuador. While independent certification can play an important role in addressing these challenges, not all problems can be solved quickly or by certification programs alone. Issues related to workers' and human rights - including national legislation, local enforcement and governance, true freedom of association and power imbalances in the supply chain including price pressure towards producers – can only be addressed through persistent cooperation among local, national and international actors from civil society, the private sector and government.
- Oxfam DE and the Rainforest Alliance believe in the importance of transforming the world's agriculture production systems and value chains to make them more sustainable, thus benefitting workers, farmers and the environment.
- We believe we must work together, along with local organizations in farming communities, independent trade unions and NGOs, with governments, and with other supply chain partners so that we can make more rapid progress toward solving the challenges of unsustainable production, labor and market practices.
- The two organizations will work together to confirm the status of workers' rights and environmental protection in Rainforest Alliance Certified farms that have been reviewed by Oxfam's research.
- Prior to the end of this month the two organizations will sit together with some of Oxfam's partners involved in the research to discuss the main findings of the Oxfam research and of the Rainforest Alliance's re-audits. Subject to the results of this exchange further steps can be decided on how to improve conditions for smallholder farmers and workers on larger farms and plantations.