

# Banana fungus is becoming resistant

**A leaf fungus feared by banana growers is becoming resistant to fungicides, shows a worldwide analysis of fungal variants by Wageningen scientists.**

The leaf fungus causes the disease Black Sigatoka and is found in banana plantations all over the world. The researchers carried out the first large-scale analysis of variants of the fungus to test their sensitivity to three commonly used fungicides in important banana-producing countries such as Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, the Philippines, Martinique and Cameroon. Their research shows that the fungus is rapidly evolving to become unaffected by the

fungicides. That is due to the intensive use of crop protection agents. Research leader Gert Kema, professor of Phytopathology at Wageningen, concludes that banana producers need to break the vicious circle. He had been calling for the development of resistant banana varieties and alternative methods of combating disease for years. The research was published in March in *Pest Management Science*.  
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