

Colombia strengthens biosecurity measures due to risk of Fusarium Fungus TR 4 in bananas.

Agronegocios, 29 July 2019



The Colombian Institute of Agriculture and Livestock (ICA) announced the enforcement of preventive measures along with specific operations in ports, airports and borders after being alerted of withered bananas cultivated in La Guajira province, in order to inform travelers about the risk of the Fusarium Fungus Tropical

Race 4 (TR4). Also, they have collaborated with the private sector to inform all related parts on these biosecurity measures.

Strengthening of biosecurity measures consists of various requirements and operations. The first requirement that has already been enforced is the limitation of entry point of import of banana propagation materials to only through El Dorado Airport in Bogota, the country's capital. There is also a surveillance for importing materials for banana propagation, quarantine station, and post-entry monitoring of the said materials.

Deyanira Barrero León, general director of the ICA, said that one of the duties of the institute is to protect Colombia from epidemics. The Institute has therefore notified the producers, travelers and the general public to comply with the requirements and strengthen the biosecurity measures while traveling, visiting the planting area, and buying fruits and vegetables.

In addition, they have already established the fumigation protocol for trucks used to transport through the Rumichaca checkpoint on the border between Ecuador and Colombia, sanitizing measures and container cleaning protocol in the ports of Buenaventura, Urabá, Cartagena, Barranquilla, Santa Marta, and La Guajira to strengthen the mitigation measures.

The ICA has also conducted trainings for officers and all sectors involved in mitigating risks on, such as, the purchase and installation of hygiene carpets, purchase of disinfectant pump sprayers, hiring experts and technicians, including actions to control the monitoring dog squads.

Source: www.agronegocios.co/agricultura/refuerzan-medidas-de-bioseguridad-en-puertos-aeropuertos-y-pasos-fronterizos-por-riesgo-del-hongo-fusarium-raza-4-2890455

Thailand Office of Agricultural Affairs, Los Angeles

August 2019