



## Factsheet: IKI project "From Farm to Fork": Integrating biodiversity and ecosystem services into banana and pineapple value chains

### Background and objectives

Since 2019, the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), Global Nature Fund and local partners have been working successfully within the framework of the IKI project "From Farm to Fork" to improve biodiversity protection in banana and pineapple cultivation.

In Germany, bananas are one of the most popular types of fruit, second only to apples. Bananas and pineapples are Costa Rica's most important agricultural exports. The production areas together cover almost 90,000 hectares of the country's land area. Intensive cultivation has negative effects on ecosystems and the associated biodiversity, which are to be avoided or at least reduced through practical measures.

In recent years, more than 150 small and large plantations in Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic, among others, have implemented the Biodiversity Check Agrícola and a Biodiversity Action Plan. In the current extension phase, the project is focusing on two areas that are extremely important for the protection of biodiversity: biological plant protection and the restoration of degraded ecosystems.

The intensive use of chemical pesticides in conventional agriculture is leading to a sharp decline in biodiversity worldwide. Pesticides affect not only target organisms, but also beneficial organisms, soil organisms, water bodies and ultimately human health. The restoration of ecosystems is particularly important in intensively farmed areas in order to restore habitats for animals and plants and create biotope corridors to enable animal mobility.

### Context

- **Costa Rica** is considered an international pioneer in biodiversity conservation. The country is currently developing a national strategy for biological plant protection to significantly reduce the use of chemical pesticides.
- In the **Dominican Republic**, biological plant protection is widespread, especially in organic farming. However, small farmers often lack knowledge about effective combinations of beneficial insects and microorganisms to increase yields.
- The **EU's "From Farm to Fork" strategy** calls for a 50 per cent reduction in pesticide use.

German and European food companies often go beyond legal requirements and demand lower residues.

- **Biodiversity-friendly production and pesticide reduction** are increasingly becoming conditions for market access. Companies must address biodiversity risks and demonstrate positive contributions under the **CSR**, **CSDDD** and the **German Supply Chain Due Diligence Act (LkSG)**.

## Project objectives

### Overarching objective

The protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services is permanently integrated into the value chains of bananas and pineapples.

### Specific objectives of the collaboration with the Global Nature Fund and Food for Biodiversity:

- Promotion and integration of **biodiversity-friendly production methods** in banana and pineapple cultivation, in particular biological plant protection
- Identifying and testing **innovative financing mechanisms** (e.g. biodiversity credits, insetting models) to finance ecosystem restoration.
- **Motivating companies** in the food industry to include **biodiversity conservation in their procurement specifications** for bananas and pineapples and to make a financial contribution to ecosystem restoration.
- **Knowledge exchange and networking** between producers, companies, standards organisations and NGOs.

### Target groups

- **Food manufacturers and retailers** in Germany and Europe, including members of Food for Biodiversity.
- **Standard organisations** such as GLOBALG.A.P., Rainforest Alliance, Fairtrade and Naturland.
- **Industry associations and trade media** in the EU.
- **Agricultural** businesses and local NGOs in Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic.

### Indirect target groups

Rural populations that benefit from stable ecosystems, improved water management and lower pesticide pollution.

## Planned activities:

Purchasing practices in the food sector	Organic plant protection products	Renaturation projects
<p>"Biodiversity in tropical fruit cultivation" as a topic in the Food for Biodiversity association</p> <p>Further development of the basic set of biodiversity criteria for the tropics</p> <p>Networking and exchange between German companies and stakeholders in Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic</p>	<p>Knowledge transfer and exchange of experience between stakeholders in the target countries and in Germany</p> <p>Raising awareness among German food companies about the issue and motivating them to take measures to support farmers</p>	<p>Supporting a study to evaluate international financing mechanisms for ecosystem restoration</p> <p>Analysing companies' expectations of these projects and their motivation to get involved.</p> <p>Developing and implementing 3-4 pilot projects in both countries; integrating financing mechanisms</p> <p>Promoting pilot projects in the food industry</p>

## Project coordination: German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ)

### Project partners:

**Global Nature Fund (GNF):** German environmental foundation with many years of experience in integrating biodiversity criteria into standards and supply chains for agricultural raw materials. Since 2010, partner in numerous EU and IKI projects, including *EU LIFE Food & Biodiversity* and *From Farm to Fork*.

**Food for Biodiversity:** Industry association from Germany promoting biodiversity in the food industry. Since 2021, it has been actively involved in developing recommendations for criteria in standards and procurement specifications (basic set of biodiversity criteria), training for managers, monitoring and reporting, incentive programmes for farmers and improved policy frameworks. Partner in international projects, including the EU LIFE project [Fit for Biodiversity](#).

### Project duration:

2018–06/2027

### Partner countries:

Costa Rica, Dominican Republic

### Funding:

International Climate Initiative (IKI) Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Agency, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN)

### Contact: Global Nature Fund (GNF)

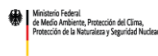
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