

Banana Xanthomonas wilt

Recognize the problem

Banana Xanthomonas Wilt (BXW) of Banana also called Banana Bacterial Wilt and locally known as "Kirabiranya y'urutoki" causes premature ripening and rotting of the fruits. It is caused by bacteria. Some of the symptoms, such as yellow and wilted leaves, are similar to those of Fusarium wilt, but unlike the Fusarium wilt, Banana bacterial wilt also affects the male bud and the bunch resulting in premature ripening of fruits, and is characterized by yellow ooze in the pseudostem when cut. Fruits from an infected banana have brown to dark brown colour and are rotten inside. These fruits are unsuitable for consumption by humans or animals.

Background

The disease need living material to multiply and cannot survive for extended periods in soil, however, water and dead plant materials such as dry leaves can make the disease survive longer. The disease is mainly spread from one plant to another. Insects mostly bees, and farm tools are the main agents of spreading the disease. Bees spread the disease when drinking fluids from an infected male bud then taking fluids from a healthy male bud. The progress of the disease in a plant and its sister suckers and the mat, will vary according to the point of entry in the plant.

Management

- Remove the male bud soon after formation of the last cluster to stop insects from spreading the disease.
- Disinfect farm tools after use from plant to another to avoid disease spread. This can be done by passing farm tools on fire or dipping them in JIK.
- Avoid animal grazing in your field. They can spread the disease.
- Do not let people enter your field because they may bring in the bacteria on their feet, boots, clothes or their tools.
- If some plants show symptoms of the disease, uproot and bury them to prevent spreading of the disease.
- Do not plant a banana plantation in the infested area before 6 months to break down the cycle of the disease.

Premature ripening and discoloured, rotten pulp of infected fruits caused by Banana Xanthomonas Wilt. (Photo by Alexandre Rutikanga)



Wilted/Yellowing of leaves and yellow ooze in the pseudostem due to Banana Xanthomonas Wilt. (Photo by Alexandre Rutikanga)



Scientific name(s) > *Xanthomonas vasicola* pv. *musacearum* (formerly *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *musacearum*)

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Ghana, Rwanda



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