



Oversight of strategy development

**Banana and plantain in Africa:
Harnessing international partnerships to
increase research impact**

Fen Beed, Uganda



Why are we here?

Bananas adopted with enthusiasm in Africa

Backbone to many farming systems

Dessert / cooking / juicing / plantain

Prevent erosion, survive floods, drought and civil conflict

Starchy staple, weaning food, snack, export



Why are we here?

Markets for African bananas under exploited

High value product potential

How can a crop, already part of the agricultural and cultural landscape, be transformed into an engine of economic development?

Trade not aid for sustainable development

Comparative advantage?

Who benefits? – community? country? region?

Food security and the natural resource base?



Why are we here?

Key technologies?

Knowledge transfer?

Market information?

Business skills?

Input supplies?

Policy and regulation systems?

- What needs to change?
- How can this be achieved?



How will we do it?

Avoid business as usual

Capture participants' rich expertise and experience

Activist conference – focus on advocacy

Collective wisdom on *What needs to change?*

Harnessed from plenary / breakout / poster sessions:

- Markets and trade
- Production
- Innovation systems



How will we do it?

Role of

- presenters: succinct overview (load presentations)
- chairs: time management (referee cards)
clarification of implications (English & French)
- conveners: record key messages:
presentations, discussions, posters
& cards on boards (English & French)
1 – 3 recommendations
- facilitators: catalyse process
 - chair and convener meetings (10.30 & 8.00)
 - convener and theme coordinator meetings (18.30 & 13.30)

How will we do it?

Posters

Available throughout conference for all participants

Authors available:

Monday –	Markets and Trade (11)
	Production: Post Harvest (33)
	Seed Systems (10)
Tuesday –	Production: Plant Health (76)
	Genetic Improvement (25)
Wednesday –	Innovation Systems (7)
	Production: Agronomy (64)

Conveners for each breakout session to designate team to record key messages and to select outstanding posters

How will we do it?

Strategy day Format (Thursday 9th)

Morning plenary

- Building strategies to mobilise the banana sector in Africa
- Reporting back of What needs to change? by theme coordinators
 - Markets and trade
 - Production
 - Innovation systems

Afternoon participatory sessions:

- East African Highland Banana
- Dessert Banana
- Plantain



How will we do it?

Strategy day Output

To build **specific** strategies to mobilise the banana sector in Africa for local, regional and international markets

- East African Highland Banana
- Dessert Banana
- Plantain

What needs to change?

How can this be achieved?

With whom?

When and where?



What will we achieve?

- A freely available publication in *Scripta Horticulturae*

Based on informed opinion of a range of specialist stakeholders

Specifies strategies that harness international partnerships

Authoritative guidelines to chart the way forward

A tool for decision makers, donors, institutions to prioritise investments to increase the impact of research

To contribute to the transformation of banana into an economic driver for the well being of people in Africa, increased food security and sustainable development



Proverbs for strategy development

A leader who does not take advice is not a leader – Kenya

One head does not contain all the wisdom – Ghana

Teamwork without coordination brings confusion – Zambia

Where two rivers meet the waters are never calm - Uganda

Even a big river is enlarged by its tributaries – Malawi

With a little seed of imagination you can grow a field of hope – Nigeria

Those who accomplish great things pay attention to little ones – Mali

If you think you are too small to make a difference, try going to sleep with a mosquito in the room. Anita Roddick. British Entrepreneur

He who has not reached his destination never gets tired - Kenya



Announcements

Mapping banana and plantain growing areas in Sub Saharan Africa

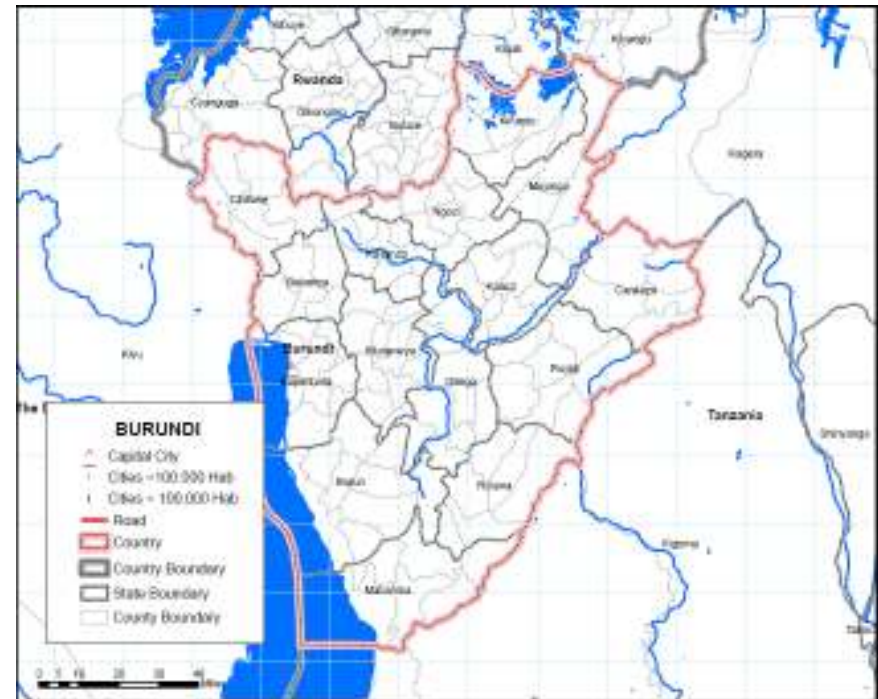
Why?

To supplement national level statistics from FAO or Fruitrop with geographic distribution within country

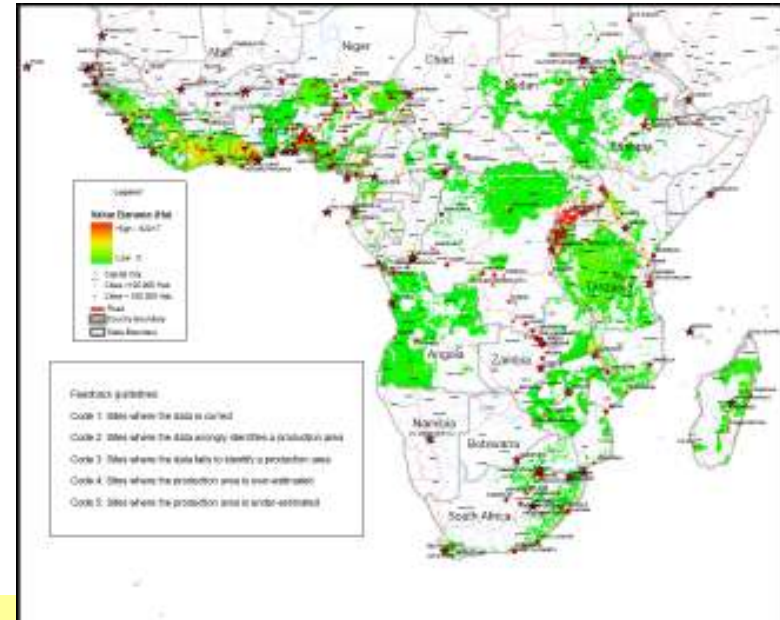
To relate production areas to other GIS bases on population and climate for more targeted strategy development and prioritization

What?

Country level maps of primary production areas by type of *Musa*, agroclimate and production technology



Validation points to feedback to IFPRI crop mapping program for 22 crops based on national statistics and crop climatic requirements



When?

Monday and Tuesday 7-8 October here in Leisure Lodge outside Meister Hall

Who?

Country representatives to BARNESA and MUSACO
Participants from other countries in Sub Saharan Africa

Contact:

Eldad Karamura, Guy Blomme, Charles Staver - Bioversity
Hein Bouwmeester - IITA

Monday late afternoon Special session:
(Change of Venue)
National perspectives on cultivar deployment
and planting material multiplication

Working meeting for:

- Representatives of member countries of BARNESA and MUSACO and their delegations (regional banana networks Africa)
- Participants representing other Sub-Saharan countries

Mandhari Room

17h00 - 19h00

Contact Bioversity: Eldad Karamura, Guy Blomme, Charles Staver

Or your country representative

Activist conference

ISHS – Richard Markham, Bioversity
(Strategy Chair)

Wren Media – Susanna Thorp

