



The World Banana Forum (WBF)

Working together for sustainable banana production and trade

Report of the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the WBF Steering Committee (SC24)

Attended by the Steering Committee (SC) members and Working Group (WG) coordinators

6 – 7 June 2023

Hybrid Sessions – Philippines Room – FAO/Online

Tuesday, 6 June 2023

1. Welcome by the WBF Secretariat

Mr Pascal Liu, FAO Team Leader, Responsible Global Value Chains, welcomed both in-person and virtual participants to the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the WBF Steering Committee (SC24) and began the session by providing an overview of the current state of the banana industry, emphasizing that challenges exist not only within the industry but also in the agricultural sector as a whole. These challenges are primarily due to the high costs of energy and inputs, in particular fertilizers, which continue to exert pressure on production margins for small and medium-sized producers. Although banana prices in leading import markets have been on the rise in the first months of 2023, mainly driven by high inflation, producer prices have tended to remain stagnant.

Regulatory developments, such as the lowering of Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) and the upcoming Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) in key importing countries, have the power to create both challenges to producers and opportunities for adopting more sustainable practices in banana production and trade. To achieve this transition, collective support to producers and collaboration of various stakeholders is needed, including governments, regulatory authorities, development agencies, supply chain operators, and United Nations (UN) agencies. Mr Liu then concluded by emphasizing the critical importance of close collaboration among all stakeholders within the banana industry and the availability of the WBF to facilitate this collaboration.

2. Welcome, objectives and expected outcomes of the SC24 meeting by the Steering Committee/Advisory Board Co-Chairperson

Mr Andrew Biles (Chiquita) stated that only 15 percent of the bananas produced in the world are exported, with only 6 percent allocated to the European market, highlighting the importance of focusing the discussions and actions on the whole banana sector, rather than solely focusing on export-driven markets. For example, the expansion of cultivated areas of different banana varieties for domestic consumption could help to address the challenges associated with monoculture and its inherent problems in producing countries.

Mr Biles then continued by presenting the objectives, expected outcomes and agenda of the SC24, and by inviting participants to actively engage in the discussions and prioritize efforts that bring benefits to the entire industry.

3. Overview of recent activities of the WBF's Working Groups and outcomes of the Thematic Sessions

Working Group 01 (WG01) on Sustainable Production Systems and Environmental Impact

Mr Matheus Lima (FAO) provided an overview of the recent activities carried out under the WG01, first informing about the in-person training sessions in the use of the Carbon and Water Footprint Tool (CWF) conducted in Colombia and presenting the key features of the Blockchain Proof of Concept (PoC), which enables the measurement of carbon and water footprints across various stages of the banana industry, from farm to retail. Activities conducted under the Subgroup on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Biodiversity Conservation and updates on the discussions carried out with the Global Soil Partnership and the FAO Team on Agricultural plastics – including a joint proposal to address the use of single plastics in the banana industry were also presented. In relation to the TR4 Global Network (TR4GN), Secretariat members informed on a series of

meetings conducted to facilitate coordinated efforts against *Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. cubense* tropical race 4 (TR4), the recent activities carried out in coordination with FAO Mesoamerica and a series of new resources added to the TR4GN database (for more information on the previous topics, refer to sections 4 and 12).

Working Group 02 (WG02) on Distribution of Value

Mr Victor Prada (FAO) mentioned the activities conducted under the WG02, related to the Observatory on Costs of Sustainable Production and the continuous work on shared responsibility and living wages, and highlighted the need to facilitate tripartite dialogue on these topics through the WBF Regional and National Commissions (refer to Section 19).

Working Group 03 (WG03) on Labour Rights and Other Workplace Issues

Ms Camila Reinhardt Hurtado (FAO) shared an overview of the activities conducted under the WG03, first informing on the national consultations held in Ecuador in May on three thematic areas under a decent work program proposal, namely: occupational health and safety (OHS); child labour prevention and promotion of decent youth employment; and women's empowerment and female leadership (refer to Section 7). She then shared updates on the ongoing discussions on how to enable collective action within the WBF on the topics of freedom of association and collective bargaining – following requests from members during the SC23 – which have resulted in proposals prepared and presented by the Coordinadora Latinoamericana de Sindicatos Bananeros y Agroindustriales (COLSIBA) and Banana Link (refer to Section 8). She further discussed activities carried out by the Task Force on Gender Equity (GE-TF) to strengthen gender equality efforts (refer to Section 13) and concluded by informing participants about OHS-related activities in Africa and Latin America (refer to Section 14).

Regional and National Commissions of the WBF

Mr Prada presented information on the establishment of the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Commission (LACRC), the African Regional Commission (ARC), the National Commission for Ecuador and the National Commission for Colombia. Priority topics for the LACRC and ARC were discussed; the issues faced in facilitating French interpretation for all meetings of the ARC; the decent work activities carried out under the framework of the National Commission for Ecuador; and the focus on environmental aspects for the National Commission for Colombia (refer to Section 19).

4. Addressing current global threats to the environmental sustainability of banana production

Updates on the TR4 situation in Latin America and current actions

Mr Lima commented that in January 2023, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela confirmed the presence of TR4 in three regions and declared a National Phytosanitary Emergency. Ms Yamila Rodríguez (National Institute of Integral Agricultural Health of Venezuela, INSAI) provided an overview of the banana sector in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and presented the steps taken by INSAI prior to the confirmation of TR4 in the country, as well as the actions implemented following its identification. A map was displayed to show the areas where TR4 was confirmed, which covers 137 hectares in eight production areas. Following its identification, INSAI quarantined the affected areas and participated in numerous coordination meetings to discuss additional quarantine measures. INSAI also participated in a bilateral technical assembly for the prevention and control of TR4, which was held to strengthen collaborative efforts with Colombia. Workshops were organized with the participation of organizations such as the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), International Regional Organisation for Plant and Animal Health (Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria, OIRSA), FAO, and others. Platforms of mass communication have been effective to inform the population on the risks posed by TR4 and several initiatives to support the management and prevention of the disease are being currently carried out in the country.

Mr Biles emphasized that the TR4 outbreak in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela serves as a compelling illustration of the comprehensive approach that should be adopted towards tackling the disease and that all producing countries, beyond only exporting countries, should be involved in WBF discussions and global initiatives.

Mr Mariano Jiménez (Corporación Bananera Nacional, CORBANA) then inquired about the possible source of the outbreak. Ms Rodríguez responded that TR4 samples obtained in the country have been sent for genome sequencing and, once the results are obtained, it would be possible to inquire as to the potential genetic origin of the outbreak.

Mr Prada expressed his concern about the potential spread of TR4 through temporary workers in banana plantations migrating from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the Colombian border. In response, Ms

Rodriguez clarified that this particular movement is not a significant factor in the spread of TR4, as individuals in TR4-affected regions of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela do not typically relocate towards the Colombian border. To address the overall issue, efforts are underway to implement preventive measures and conduct awareness-raising activities with banana industry workers.

Mr Alfonso Alberto Rosero (Colombian Agricultural Institute, ICA) presented updates on the status of TR4 in Colombia via a pre-recorded video presentation. TR4 is currently found in approximately 0.57 percent of the total banana planted area, with 11 foci in La Guajira and 6 foci in Magdalena covering a total area of 3 176.54 hectares. All the infected plants were found in Cavendish plantations, while plantains in the country remain unaffected by TR4. The presentation emphasized the actions taken in terms of internal coordination, risk communication and the establishment of multiple control posts to diligently monitor and effectively curb the spread of the disease. Additionally, the series of activities carried out since the declaration of the phytosanitary emergency were presented, highlighting the importance of coordinated actions when implementing biosecurity measures, surveillance, sampling and communication strategies for the successful management of the outbreak.

Decisions:

- Continue to engage with producer countries on TR4-related activities, irrespective of their export status.

Update – Work of FAO and the WBF on TR4

Mr Lima provided a brief review of the actions undertaken by FAO in response to the incursion of Fusarium TR4 in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. These actions included the development of a Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) titled "*Emergency technical assistance for the management, coordination and containment of Fusarium wilt of Bananas in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela*" in addition to the two additional TCPs currently being implemented in the region. FAO has also supported the realization of the Regional Simulation of Prevention of Musaceae Wilt TR4 exercise conducted in Nicaragua in April 2023, by the Institute of Agricultural Protection and Health (Instituto de Protección y Sanidad Agropecuaria, IPSA) and the National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation, and Response (Sistema Nacional para la Prevención, Mitigación y Atención de Desastres, SINAPRED), which involved the participation of INSAI.

In addition, a project proposal titled "*Phytosanitary facilitation of agricultural trade with emphasis on Musaceae, in the face of the threat of Foc R4T in the SICA Region*" was submitted by OIRSA and the FAO Subregional Office for Mesoamerica (SLM) to the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) and is currently under review.


Furthermore, a series of TR4-related events conducted in Latin America in the last months counted with the support of FAO. These events include a Regional Workshop on Fusarium TR4 conducted on 18 April 2023, in Cali, Colombia; a [Virtual Simulation of Actuation to Prevent the Entry of Foc TR4 in Ecuador](#) on 11 May 2023; and a [Symposium on Key Factors for Early Detection, Management, and Control of FoC TR4](#) which took place on 12 May 2023.

Regarding activities in Africa, FAO's Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP) has recently conducted a [Workshop on "Strengthening Plant Health Emergency Management Capacities of the SADC Countries"](#) in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 5 – 9 June 2023, which counted on the participation of sixteen countries to discuss the status of Fusarium wilt and Banana Bunchy Top Virus disease and support the development of national contingency and action plans.

Measuring and reducing carbon and water footprints: overview of the CWF project

Mr Prada began his intervention by informing participants that on 1 June 2023, the European Parliament approved the amendments adopted of the CSDDD, which would require retailers and producers to report on their activities related to climate change. During his address, he emphasized the pivotal role of the WBF in assisting producers in measuring their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Additionally, he underscored the importance of the CWF tool in facilitating corporate reporting on climate change, due diligence and water usage. Several important features of the CWF tool were highlighted, including its commodity-specific nature, user-friendly interface and adherence to the international standards established for carbon and water footprint measurement. The various stages of the third phase of the CWF project were also presented, namely: the integration of new features into the CWF tool; the organization of training sessions held in Latin America; and the provision of specialized technical assistance to selected companies for measuring and reducing emissions and water impact.

Mr Lima then briefly presented the internal structure on which the CWF tool was developed and the different levels of users – namely 1) General Administrator (FAO); 2) Country Administrator (FAO); 3) Company Administrator and 4) Farm Administrator – and underscored the confidentiality status of the information added



by producers which can only be accessed by FAO in an aggregated manner. The CWF tool produces results automatically, offering the convenience of various filtering options. These include filtering by farm or group of farms, time frame (yearly or monthly), emitted gases (such as CO₂, CH₄, N₂O, and CO_{2eq}) and the relationship between greenhouse gases and CO_{2eq} per kilogram of bananas produced. The generated results can be visually represented through a diverse range of graphics and tables, providing valuable insights and facilitating data analysis. Regarding the traceability of emissions, every register has the possibility to be backed up by its correspondent invoice.

In response to the Colombian stakeholders' previously expressed interest in continuing CWF-related activities within the country following the third phase of the CWF Project, Mr Lima informed the audience that the WBF Secretariat, in collaboration with the Asociación de Bananeros de Colombia (Augura) and the Asociación de Bananeros del Magdalena, La Guajira y el Cesar (ASBAMA), conducted in-person training sessions on the utilization of the CWF tool. These sessions took place in the regions of Urabá and Magdalena, benefitting over 95 technicians and producers.

Mr Jeroen Kroezen (Solidaridad) raised a question regarding whether the increased adoption of the CWF tool in the banana sector could potentially lead to the development of a common framework for methodology and carbon and water footprint measurement system, and what could be done to promote the tool massively.

In response, Mr Prada affirmed that the ultimate goal is to establish a standardized tool that caters to all industry actors and stakeholders, taking into consideration the CSDDD and its reporting requirements. Consequently, he emphasized the importance of expanding the tool's usage and ensuring its alignment with recent legislations and standards. By prioritizing these efforts, the tool can effectively support emissions measurement and contribute to the promotion of a common framework within the industry.

He then invited SC members to brainstorm on how to expand the use of the tool while also considering the financial implications involved in ensuring its functions and proper use (e.g. software updates, technical support, hosting, infrastructure, training and documentation). The three proposed financing options were: 1) enabling access to the tool exclusively to WBF members to incentivize membership; 2) ensuring that companies interested in the use of the tool and trainings finance all training expenses (e.g. travel of trainer, venue, etc.); or, 3) establishing licence fees for companies using the tool.

Ms Caoimhe Buckley (Fyffes) asked if the CWF tool will be available only for bananas, and what competencies a user needs to correctly use the tool. Ms María Hernández Lagana (FAO) informed that the FAO Team on Responsible Tropical Fruits is working on developing a similar tool for the pineapple industry, which is planned to be completed by the end of 2023. Mr Lima then commented that some technical knowledge is needed to understand the sources of emissions and emphasized that smallholders, cooperatives, producer associations and large-sized plantations are currently using the CWF tool.

Decisions:

- Continue providing access to the CWF tool and technical support for interested stakeholders of the banana industry.
- Continue updating the CWF tool in line with new regulations and due diligence requirements of the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) on climate change and measurement of emissions.


Blockchain Initiative

Mr Lima and Mr Prada provided an overview on the Proof of Concept (PoC) of the Blockchain traceability system. This innovative system is designed to measure emissions and water impacts across the entire banana value chain and encompasses producers, logistic providers (both terrestrial and maritime), traders and retailers. The primary objective of the system is enhancing transparency and supporting compliance with upcoming European Union legislations.

Ms Morag Webb (Committee Linking Entrepreneurship – Agriculture – Development, COLEAD) commented that GHG emissions reporting is not currently required under the CSDDD, but a risk management plan for climate change is needed.

Mr Prada and Mr Lima mentioned that the [first set of draft European Sustainability Reporting Standards \(ESRS\)](#) developed by the European Financial Reporting Advisory Group (EFRAG) has a [chapter on Climate Change](#) which specifically highlights the necessity of disclosing scopes one, two, and three emissions, emphasizing the importance of comprehensive reporting in addressing climate change concerns.

Disseminating good practices for the banana sector: envisioned activities and work plan for the Subgroup on Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation and Biodiversity Conservation



Ms Andrea Bruestle (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, GIZ), launched and provided an overview of the *Handbook on Sustainable Agriculture – Climate Change and Biodiversity*, which was produced under GIZ's [Del Campo al Plato](#) project. The Handbook, available only in Spanish at this stage, contains good practices for climate change adaptation, mitigation and biodiversity conservation in banana and pineapple production and is based on experiences from four Latin American countries.

5. Breakout Session – WG01 Related Matters

Mr Prada continued the discussion held previously on the need to identify appropriate mechanisms to finance the CWF tool and opened the floor for discussion. Mr Edgar Monge (Tesco) asked about the average estimated cost per year to maintain the operational functioning of the tool. The estimated costs to maintain the tool functioning depend on a myriad of aspects, which makes providing an accurate value at this stage complex. Mr José Antonio Hidalgo (Asociación de Exportadores de Bananero del Ecuador, AEBE) shared insights about the experience of AEBE's Banana Statistical Observatory, highlighting that, in order to sustain the observatory and ensure its accessibility to smallholders, licence fees were introduced. Drawing from this experience, he proposed exploring a similar approach for financing the CWF tool.

Ms Buckley supported the suggestions to provide access to smallholders for free and mentioned that the verification and validation of data inserted in the tool must also be considered, due to the possibility of errors made by the users while inserting data which can lead to inaccurate results and therefore reduced trust in the tool. It was highlighted that this is in fact a challenge, especially because the CWF tool and blockchain rely on confidentiality of data, which therefore means they cannot be audited.

Ms Buckley inquired if there is a way to generate a report to be reviewed by a third-party assurance organization. Mr Lima responded that every report together with back-up information can be sent for auditing to a third party or, if the user desires, they can provide their credentials and allow access to third parties.

Mr Liu emphasized that the primary aim of the CWF tool was to assist producers in comprehending and mitigating their carbon and water footprints. It should be noted that the tool was not initially conceived with the purpose of offering certification. However, there is potential for the tool to evolve into a certification tool, which would necessitate collaboration and additional efforts with other stakeholders.

In terms of costs, there are two primary considerations to take into account. First, there is the maintenance of the tool, and second, the associated annual costs – which are currently covered by FAO due to the limited amount of data stored on the server. He then continued by mentioning that as the utilization of the tool in the banana sector expands, both the volume of stored data and the costs will increase. To address this, the possible establishment of a system of licences could help manage the growing expenses. Additionally, there is an urgent need to raise funds to facilitate capacity-building sessions for producers, as the WBF Secretariat has received numerous requests for such support.

Mr Kroezen mentioned that there are currently other tools in the market. The use of the CWF tool therefore depends on whether there is enough interest from member companies of the WBF to use it and standardize the marketplace. If organizations such as Dole and Chiquita establish collaborations in this regard, a large part of the international banana market could be using the tool. Contrarily, if the main banana companies do not want to use the tool, it would be limited to the use of smallholders.

Mr Biles commented that the true objective of the CWF tool is to support small producers to reduce their costs, waste, and environmental impact and that there needs to be a tool for both the larger and smaller groups to take control of their costs and emissions. Mr Xavier Roussel (Dole) mentioned that the use of the tool within a common framework should capture the entirety of the supply chain of Dole. Ms Buckley commented that Fyffes is looking to change the tool used in their organization, but it needs to capture the footprint of all fresh produce in such a way that comparisons can be made. In addition, as the CWF tool has a confidentiality component, it would not seem feasible to have third-party assurance companies verify the data and ensure that a report that will be taken as truthful is developed. Mr Liu commented that FAO is developing new tools to measure emissions and environmental impact of pineapples and avocados.

Decisions:

- Continue discussions surrounding the funding of the CWF Tool, analysing the various options presented during the SC24.

6. Can global precompetitive collaboration enable a fair distribution of value along global banana supply chains?

Opportunities and challenges posed by new regulations on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence (CSDD)

Mr Prada summarized the timeline of the CSDDD, since the presentation of the first draft in March 2021 to the approval of the latest draft by the European Parliament on 1 June, and described each phase of the CSDDD. He presented the main areas of debate between the European Union's Commission, Committee on Legal Affairs and Parliament from the scope of due diligence obligations to liability. He then mentioned that due diligence criteria includes the introduction of good governance and that climate transition plans might be adopted and implemented in line with the Paris Agreement.

Mr Alistair Smith (Banana Link) commented that on 1 June, the European Commission adopted [new guidelines for horizontal cooperation agreements](#) that mean that collective activities supporting economic, social and environmental development (human and labour rights, living wages/income) are exempt from the requirements of competition law, which may alleviate many anti-trust concerns. Mr Prada commented that this is a good measure as it facilitates work between organizations for the benefit of workers and that the CSRD serves as the primary reporting vehicle of sustainability activities by companies. The EFRAG – as the European Union's technical advisor to CSRD – presented the final version of the draft European Union's CSRD Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS) to the European Commission on 23 November 2022. He mentioned that strong interest in environmental aspects is included in the proposal submitted by EFRAG to the European Union.

Establishing National and Regional Commissions to foster shared responsibility in global banana value chains

Mr Prada commented that after the approval of the draft CSDDD, there will be a need to understand national regulations in banana-producing countries and how the European Union legislations will be enforced. The WBF has a role to play within the context of such forthcoming regulations by supporting producers and other stakeholders on priority issues. In this regard, living wages are of importance, and some constituents in the WBF believe that decisions are taken in Europe without the inclusiveness that is required to address such an issue. The WBF Secretariat has received numerous requests from producers to be involved in discussions surrounding the methodology on living wages and the use of the Salary Matrix.

Mr Hidalgo commented that the role of the WBF is to ensure that there is a shared responsibility along the banana supply chain. He then discussed the Anker Research Institute Living Wage Benchmarks and the subsequent methodologies that have arisen, which in turn have set mandatory regulations for many producers. The WBF should be the entity that brings together all these discussions around living wages to avoid the multiplicity of events and international efforts. Ms Bruestle then stated that platforms such as the German retailers working group have established dialogue structures with producers and other stakeholders, while many retailers are not taking part in discussions at WBF level. Mr Prada responded that many German and UK retailers are already members of the WBF, but that efforts should be made to ensure their engagement within these discussions.


Mr Mariano Jiménez (CORBANA) highlighted that producers are bearing the burden of due diligence requirements and usually undertake most of the actions to mitigate risks in the banana industry. He further noted that the European Union market is not the only one available to many producers, and that other international markets do not enforce the same requirements as the European Union. Long-term contracts between supermarkets and committed actors in the value chain are needed. Ms Webb then commented that the latest draft of the CSDDD is not fixed and is therefore subject to change. Mr Roussel mentioned that the core of the CSDDD and the requirements it will bring will most likely not change drastically. Ms Buckley highlighted the importance of facilitating the involvement of producers (especially smallholders) in any projects, initiatives, studies, etc., from the beginning, to ensure their active participation and to give visibility to their needs.

Decisions:

- Continue discussions on distribution of value, costs of sustainable production, living wages and the Salary Matrix under the framework of the WBF as a neutral platform, as per the requests of producers associations and approval of the SC.
- Facilitate the discussion on shared responsibility under the National Commission for Ecuador.
- Continue addressing national priority topics under the National Commission for Colombia.

7. Special session on promoting decent work in the banana industry - Ecuador

Ms Reinhardt Hurtado provided an overview of the national consultation process facilitated by the WBF Secretariat in Ecuador in early May, which was conducted under the framework of a forthcoming program on decent work in the Ecuadorian banana industry. The consultation process counted on three separate sessions, covering the topics of occupational health and safety (OHS); child labour prevention and promotion of decent



youth employment; and women's empowerment and female leadership. The sessions counted on a successful and effective tripartite dialogue with the active participation from the public sector, private sector, small producers, and worker representatives/trade unions. Constituent groups were first given a space to present their experiences, challenges, views and then divided into multi-stakeholder breakout groups to discuss and brainstorm on priority issues and next steps for each thematic area.

During the first session on OHS, proposals were made to revise the current two-part OHS manual into one part – adapted to the context of different producers present in the industry – but with a focus on technical OHS aspects, as well as develop standalone audio-visual training materials specifically aimed at smallholders and workers. During the session on child labour prevention and promotion of decent youth employment, participants expressed strong interest in developing a guide on the prevention of child labour in the banana industry, with a chapter on decent youth employment, and developing clear terminology related to protected adolescent work in the banana industry. During the final session on women's empowerment and female leadership, stakeholders discussed and agreed on the need to facilitate access to resources, trainings, and better employment opportunities for women workers and producers and further highlighted the need to develop effective mechanisms to address and follow-up on cases of violence and harassment against women in the workplace. Throughout the consultation process, the transversal issue of accessibility to information was highlighted and a decision was taken to facilitate access to information through different means, such as manuals, radio programs, videos, images, infographics and others.

Ms Stella Davis (Fyffes) then discussed Fyffes' Gender Equality Program which aligns strongly with the outcomes of the last consultation in Ecuador. She commented positively on the possibility of collaborative efforts on gender equality activities between Fyffes and the WBF. Mr Smith then inquired if the sessions counted on discussions surrounding the role of joint health and safety committees, to which a positive response was provided.

Participants of the national consultation process then expressed their feedback and experience with the sessions. Mr Angel Rivero (Federación Nacional de Trabajadores Agroindustriales, Campesinos e Indígenas Libres del Ecuador, FENACLE) highlighted the role of Forum in making visible the challenges faced by workers in the banana industry. He highlighted potential synergies between the organizations and briefly presented some of the key advances made in the country. He concluded by stressing the importance of addressing the topic of OHS in the post-pandemic world.

Ms Maria Cecilia Peña (Ministry of Labour of Ecuador) highlighted the importance of the collaborative dialogue held during the sessions and noted the importance of revising and updating the national manual on health and safety for the banana industry, identifying better ways to socialize the manual with producers and facilitating access to information through various audio-visual means, particularly for workers and small producers. Ms Maria Daniela Peralta (Ministry of Labour of Ecuador) then highlighted the need to create public policies to support the improvement of conditions for workers; strengthen actions for the prevention of child labour; and support women's empowerment and female leadership. She commented positively on the spaces provided by the WBF to discuss priority topics for the industry and expressed her interest in continuing collaborative efforts to strengthen dialogue and replicate good practices across the different thematic areas.

Mr Hidalgo stressed his support of the sessions and the discussions held, praising the WBF's efforts in facilitating dialogue between all the relevant stakeholders and actors of the national banana industry. He then highlighted AEBE's collaborative efforts with the Ministry of Labour and other entities to address the various social issues found within the industry, highlighting the actions undertaken to develop a national certification for living wages, facilitating access to education for children, and providing support to women workers and producers. He concluded by emphasizing that global stakeholders must respect the legal frameworks of each country.

Ms Paola Cabrera (JASAFRUT) also commented positively on the sessions, stressing that multi-stakeholder dialogue is essential to developing collaborative and effective solutions. She then provided an overview of the activities carried out by JASAFRUT to promote OHS in their plantations, prevent child labour and provide better employment opportunities for women. She highlighted several priorities discussed in the session, which include the importance of understanding national cultural contexts and the need to facilitate access to relevant information.

The session concluded with a description of next steps under the decent work program, which will include further discussions and collective action amongst national stakeholders to implement the recommendations and suggestions, through the National Commission for Ecuador.

Decisions:

- Continue discussions with national stakeholders to identify effective ways to implement the recommendations made and next steps agreed during the consultations in Ecuador – on the priority issues of OHS, child labour prevention, and women’s empowerment and female leadership – under the framework of the National Commission for Ecuador.
- Proceed with the implementation of activities agreed – once funding is available – including the:
 - Revision and updating of the national manual on health and safety in the banana industry;
 - Production of a guide on child labour prevention in the banana industry;
 - Training sessions on gender equality, female leadership, and violence and harassment;
 - Production and dissemination of various types of audio-visual training materials on OHS, child labour prevention and gender equality in the banana industry.

8. Strengthening labour relations in the global banana industry

Facilitating collective action within the WBF on the promotion of freedom of association and collective bargaining

Ms Reinhardt Hurtado highlighted the importance of the topics of freedom of association and collective bargaining within the WBF and informed participants that the Secretariat has received numerous and ongoing requests from WBF members to ensure collective action on the matter. She stressed that any concrete proposals and recommendations regarding collective action on priority issues need to come from WBF members so that the Secretariat can support in moving forward with effective actions.

Ms Adela Torres (COLSIBA) then presented a proposal on priority social issues for COLSIBA and the WBF, as well as various recommendations to address these issues. Mr Hidalgo highlighted that a universal model of good conduct cannot be effectively implemented in every country, given the different national legislative frameworks and local contexts. He further stressed the importance of formalisation of stakeholders in the banana industry, stating that activities must be conducted within the WBF with legally established organizations. Ms Leonie Haakshorst (Rainforest Alliance) noted the important issue of subcontracting and third-party contracts, and other participants highlighted the need for more collective collaboration between actors of the banana industry. It was then noted by Mr Rivero that trainings and capacity-building are some of the most effective ways to support workers and producers in the industry on a variety of priority areas.

Mr Smith then briefly presented a proposal to update the WBF document, *Labour Relations – Successful Cases Within the Banana Industry* (2014), which contains a series of case studies on collective bargaining agreements across the banana industry. The objective would be to present these new case studies through a short series of webinars and during the World Banana Forum’s 4th Global Conference (WBF4C). It was proposed to fund these activities through the WBF Project Trust Fund, which led to discussions on the due diligence processes within FAO that would be required to fund activities to be conducted by non-state actors. SC members did not provide concrete expressions of interest to proceed with the proposal.

Decisions:

- Continue discussions with WBF members to materialize concrete recommendations for enabling collective action on freedom of association and collective bargaining.

9. Conclusions of Day 1 and overview of next steps

Mr Prada summarized the presentations and discussions held during the first day, thanked participants for their presentations and interventions, and encouraged participants to actively participate in the second day.

Wednesday, 7 June 2023

10. Welcome by WBF Secretariat

Mr Liu gave the welcome on behalf of the WBF Secretariat and presented the updated agenda for the second day of the SC24.

11. Welcome, objectives and expected outcomes of the SC24 meeting by the Steering Committee/Advisory Board Co-Chairperson

The objectives and expected outcomes were provided by Ms Christelle Owona (Compagnie Fruitière) who then presented the agenda for the second day of the SC24. Ms Owona commented positively on the efforts carried out by the WBF to include French interpretation during the sessions to enable further participation of French-speaking stakeholders.

12. Special session on reducing the climate impact of banana production and trade

Project on Carbon and Water Footprint (CWF) in the banana industry

Mr Miguel Vallejo (Gestarse) provided an overview of the third phase of the Carbon and Water Footprint (CWF) project, informing on the upgrades integrated in the new version of the CWF tool, the activities carried out under the third phase of the project as well as its results and lessons learnt. As part of the project, a series of virtual capacity-building sessions were conducted, engaging more than 50 banana-producing organizations. These sessions aimed to enhance participants' understanding and proficiency in using the CWF tool. Additionally, tailored technical accompaniment and implementation sessions were provided to selected companies. A total of 62 participants from 17 organizations actively participated in these specialized sessions. The successful implementation of the CWF tool was achieved across 47 farms, spanning a production area of 5 335 hectares. Mr Vallejo further discussed valuable insights gained during the third phase of the CWF project and concluded his presentation by outlining various mitigation strategies and actions identified during the project's implementation.

Mr Roussel then inquired if the CWF tool follows the GHG protocol and other relevant carbon accounting guidance. Mr Vallejo and Mr Lima clarified that the tool follows the WBF's [Methodological Guide to Measure Carbon and Water Footprints in Banana Plantations](#), which is based on relevant ISO standards and is therefore aligned with GHG protocol regulations at the international level. Mr Vallejo also mentioned that members of the technical team behind the creation of the tool are GHG verifiers and understand international guides and regulations surrounding GHG measurement. Ms Bruestle then highlighted the opportunity for synergies between the CWF project and the GIZ handbook previously presented, as many mitigation practices/strategies are addressed within it. Mr Hidalgo then stressed the need to make use of meteorological stations, which was seconded by Mr Lima who stated that they are vital for the calculation of water footprints and for optimizing irrigation strategies.

Strengthening the capacity of Colombian producers in measuring Carbon and Water Footprint

Ms Isabel Cristina Yoshioka (Augura) provided an overview of the Colombian export-oriented banana industry and presented a timeline of developments of the legal framework for carbon and water footprint in the country. She then stated that there is a lack of legal frameworks for water footprint assessment in the country, and as a consequence, different approaches are being used. She then presented an overview of the progress achieved by members of Augura and the results of the initiatives focused on supporting companies in measuring carbon and water footprints of their operations. Ms Yoshioka discussed the active participation of Colombian producers in the CWF initiative and shared the results of the carbon footprint assessment conducted in the experimental field of Augura, emphasizing that the assessment of carbon and water footprints is crucial for developing effective mitigation strategies and improving the sustainability of the industry.


Mr Andrea Bolini (Plantaciones del Norte) asked if there are differences in the carbon and water footprint results obtained from organic and conventional farms in Colombia. Ms Yoshioka clarified that the results presented were related to conventional banana production plantations. Mr Roussel then noted the importance of water management, not only in the banana industry but for the agricultural sector as whole and highlighted the importance and necessity for more collaboration on the topic. He then suggested to add an agenda point on water management and water-related issues in the next SC.

Decisions:

- Expand the number of countries to be trained on the use of the carbon and water footprint tool, ensuring broader coverage and engagement.

Next Steps

Mr Prada discussed the next steps regarding the CWF tool, highlighting the need to expand its scope and continue discussions surrounding the monetization of the tool, for which the Secretariat will contact members bilaterally. He expressed his optimistic outlook, envisioning the CWF tool as the industry's standardized solution. He emphasized that this tool could serve as a unified platform for all stakeholders in the banana industry, offering a cohesive channel of information. Additionally, the potential of the tool to enable retailers to present their environmental due diligence reports to national governments in a consistent and standardized manner was highlighted. He concluded by stressing the role of FAO/WBF as the neutral entity through which the sectorial information collected by the tool could be used to inform governments and policy makers.



Following Mr Prada's intervention, participants raised the issue of fruit cosmetic standards imposed by importers and consumers. It was highlighted that these standards place additional obligations on producers and contribute to the excessive use of pesticides and energy in the industry.

Mr Hidalgo then highlighted the usefulness of awareness-raising campaigns to sensitize customers on the costs of producing a "perfect" banana. Mr Prada seconded the idea and suggested that the WBF, together with the European Union, could organize and carry out awareness-raising campaigns for European Union consumers.

Decisions:

- Facilitate a debate between the European Union and producer constituents with respect to restrictions placed by the Farm to Fork strategy.
- Explore fundraising opportunities to organize more training sessions for producers.
- Conduct awareness-raising activities within the European Union with respect to the cosmetic standards for imported bananas, in light of the restrictions placed by the European Union on global producers.

13. Efforts of the Task Force on Gender Equity to foster gender equality in the global banana industry

Ms Reinhardt Hurtado briefed participants on the three main activities currently being conducted by the GE-TF. First, the GE-TF has been discussing how it can support the recommendations that came out of the Anker Research Institute's Gender Pay Gap Study carried out in Colombia in 2022, with a particular focus on one recommendation: **train women on field activities; carry out activities to transform gender stereotypes and norms; and develop women's ability to participate in workers' organizations and committees.** In order to support this recommendation, the GE-TF has proposed the following steps: the organization of a webinar to present good practices for the hiring of women on banana plantations, beyond just the packhouse; the creation of a 'Fact Sheet' to showcase these case studies; supporting academic research to better understand the potential health and safety implications of field activities for women; and ultimately developing a manual for companies that can support them in efforts to hire more women for a wider range of tasks on banana plantations. She then encouraged participants to share good practices and successful cases for the webinar.

Ms Davis highlighted the need to understand the cultural context of each country and address the root causes of gender inequalities. Ms Moodley mentioned that while this is important, there should be more of a focus on implementing concrete actions and supporting women to take up leadership roles to demonstrate their capabilities. Ms Moodley then informed and gave a brief presentation on Tesco's Gender Toolkit, which aims to support Tesco suppliers in reaching a representation of 30 percent of women in managerial and supervisory positions by 2025. The toolkit focuses on three main areas: recruitment of women; retention of women once hired and progression of women into leadership roles. The toolkit offers practical steps to suppliers on how they can support women within their businesses, identifies obstacles faced within the three main areas and ultimately presents practical solutions to address them. It also identifies case studies where other suppliers have had similar challenges and have successfully addressed them.

Ms Reinhardt Hurtado then recapped the two additional activities being supported by the GE-TF, including a new revision of the Banana Occupational Health and Safety Initiative (BOHESI) [Guidelines for the healthy and safe employment of women workers in Latin America](#) (Gender Guidelines) and the finalization of the Gender Stocktaking (GST) Questionnaire that will be piloted in Costa Rica. With regards to the former, a summary of the comments and feedback received by members was presented, which was also shared previously during the SC23. This feedback has been taken into consideration and the Secretariat is currently carrying out a further consultation process to revise the text with the aim to present a revised version of the document for approval during the SC25. Ms Reinhardt Hurtado then concluded by stating that the GST Questionnaire, an activity being led by the FAO Gender Team with the support of the GE-TF, has been updated to reflect the local context and encourage as much participation from companies as possible. The aim will be to begin the dissemination the online Questionnaire starting in July.

Decisions:

- Proceed with the organization of a GE-TF webinar in September on good practices to support women's employment opportunities in the banana industry.
- Continue the revision of the BOHESI Gender Guidelines to present the new version for approval during the SC25.
- Finalize the GST Questionnaire with the aim to start dissemination activities in July.

14. Improving Occupational Health and Safety Risk Assessment and Risk Management through the WBF Banana Occupational Health and Safety Initiative (BOHESI)

- **Ghana**

Mr George Kporye (Banana Producers Association, BPA) informed on the forthcoming health and safety workplace risk assessment and risk management trainings to be carried out in Ghana from 20 - 23 June. The four-day training program in 2023 will count on 25 participants, including management, health and safety committees, and local union committee members. The trainings will be facilitated by ex-ILO health and safety expert, Peter Hurst, with the support of FAO and the WBF Secretariat. Mr Kporye concluded by highlighting the potential for future collaboration between BPA and the WBF, especially on the sharing of best practices on OHS between WBF members.

- **Cameroon**

Ms Reinhardt Hurtado informed participants on the meeting held with the Alternate Permanent Representative of Cameroon to FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Cameroon (MINADER) in April of this year to discuss initiating activities for a virtual multi-stakeholder consultation process for the revised BOHESI Cameroon manual. The initial response from the Government of the Republic of Cameroon has been positive and the WBF Secretariat is currently working to formalize this interest. She then presented a proposed timeline for activities, together with the provisional budget needed (e.g. for the translation of the manual and interpretations services), with the objective of beginning the consultations in October. Mr Medi MOUNGUI (Permanent Representation of Cameroon to FAO) then informed the Secretariat that the official letter sent to the Government of the Republic of Cameroon has been received, and further informally confirmed the approval for the process.

- **Ecuador**

Ms Reinhardt Hurtado presented a detailed overview of the outcomes of the health and safety / BOHESI consultation process carried out in Ecuador in May and mentioned the main suggestions for the revision of the health and safety manual.

- **Colombia**

Ms Reinhardt Hurtado provided an update regarding the proposal presented during the SC23 to replicate BOHESI in Colombia. Despite initial interest from numerous WBF members and other stakeholders in the proposal, this did not materialize into concrete commitments and the full project therefore cannot be fully implemented at this time. However, there has been concrete interest and commitment expressed from one WBF member to pilot activities in the country, which will entail nationally-adapted health and safety trainings for selected producers. These trainings will be carried out in October and November of this year.

Following the information and updates presented by the WBF Secretariat, Ms Davis expressed Fyffes' interest in supporting BOHESI replication and training activities in Costa Rica.


Decisions:

- Participate in and support the OHS trainings being organized by BPA in Ghana.
- Facilitate fundraising and coordination activities related to the virtual multi-stakeholder consultation process in Cameroon to review the revised health and safety manual, once the government's interest has been formalized.
- Proceed with the revision and updating of the OHS manual in Ecuador.
- Proceed with the coordination of OHS trainings in Colombia.

15. Breakout Session – WG03-related matters

Ms Reinhardt Hurtado summarized the various activities and project proposals under the WG03 and GE-TF of the WBF (e.g. the continuation/replication of BOHESI; the continuation of the decent work program in Ecuador; activities for the promotion of gender equity) and highlighted the need for funding to fully implement the proposed activities.

She informed members that the Secretariat has conducted continuous resource mobilization efforts – both with big donors and WBF members – to support WG03 and WBF activities, which has unfortunately been met with little success. She presented the recent case of a USD 550 000 proposal prepared by the Secretariat to support decent work activities in the banana industry, which reached the final clearance stage but was ultimately not materialized due to significant bottlenecks in contractual processes with the donor. She therefore welcomed and called on the support of WBF members in future WBF fundraising activities.



Mr Monge suggested that larger WBF project proposals could be divided into individual modules that could be funded and carried out independently but could also feed into a wider project. This would encourage organizations to support more projects that are within their financial means. Mr Liu commented positively on this but highlighted that efforts must also continue to receive funding from larger donors.

Decisions:

- Explore the possibility to divide larger WG03 and WBF project proposals into smaller modules with lower budgets, to present to WBF members and other potential donors.
- Continue resource mobilisation efforts with donors and WBF members to implement projects under the WG03 and WBF.

16. Fourth Global Conference of the WBF (WBF4C)

Mr Liu briefly presented background information regarding the last Global Conference of the WBF in 2017 and the challenges surrounding the organization of a subsequent conference in the following years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He then informed participants that, following communications that were sent out to WBF members in preparation for the SC24, the results of the poll showed that Rome, Italy, is the preferred venue for the WBF4C. Two date options were presented to participants in light of the conference rooms available at FAO next year, one in March and another in June 2024. Participants were strongly in favour of holding the WBF4C in March 2024. Mr Liu then indicated that the WBF Secretariat will ask FAO's meetings unit to provide final confirmation of the allocation of a large conference room for the WBF4C on Tuesday, 12 March and Wednesday, 13 March 2024, and for the WBF International Meeting of Women Workers of the Banana Industry on Monday, 11 March.

Mr Prada then discussed the various WBF topics to be presented during the WBF4C. Mr Biles highlighted that a presentation of the WBF's activities and achievements should not be the focus of the conference, but rather that there should be a focus on presenting the objectives of the WBF and its vision of the future of the banana industry through dynamic panels. Other participants agreed and highlighted that the WBF4C should focus on enabling a space to showcase the importance of the industry.

Decisions:

- Proceed with the organization of the Fourth Global Conference of the WBF, to be held in Rome, Italy, at FAO Headquarters on 12 and 13 March 2024, and the WBF International Meeting on Gender Equity in the Banana Industry on 11 March.
 - Develop a brief for the WBF4C, with clear objectives, expected outcomes and topics.
 - Develop a program for the WBF4C and an estimated budget.
- Establish an Organizing Committee for the WBF4C.

17. Next meetings of the WBF

Next Steering Committee meeting

Mr Liu proposed to hold the Twenty-Fifth meeting of the Steering Committee (SC25) in November 2023 in a virtual format, with the following SC26 to be held in-person just before the WBF4C. The participants gave their agreement to these proposals. He then informed participants that, as is customary, a Doodle poll will be sent out shortly alongside a communication to SC and working group members with several date options.


Decisions:

- Proceed with the organization of a virtual Twenty-Fifth meeting of the Steering Committee (SC25) in November.
 - Send out a Doodle to SC and working group members with several date options, including the weeks beginning on 13 and 20 November.

Participation in Fruit Attraction (October 2023, Madrid)

Mr Prada introduced the participation of the WBF in the event Fruit Attraction, which will take place in October 2023 in Madrid. He then presented the three main topics that will be discussed at the event, namely: Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence, Shared Responsibility, and Climate Change. He then opened the floor to participants for inputs and discussion.

Mr Biles and Mr Roussel highlighted the controversial topic of discussing prices for sustainable banana production and the legal ambiguity surrounding it, while other participants stated that there is no need to directly discuss prices for banana boxes and it can instead be done by discussing the already established Fairtrade Minimum Price methodology. Members of the WBF, including the French Agricultural Research Centre for



International Development (CIRAD) and CORBANA, stated that prices were not discussed under the WBF framework, not even while developing the WBF's Observatory on Costs of Sustainable Production. Numerous participants then stated that efforts should not be duplicated on topics such as living wages and prices but should instead be discussed and addressed under one platform, being the WBF. Ms Bruestle then informed participants that GIZ is planning a stakeholder event at Fruit Attraction, together with the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH) to discuss Living Wages and Incomes, and this could be a point of collaboration with the WBF.

Decisions:

- Organize a series of inclusive meetings of stakeholders on the day before Fruit Attraction.
 - Send out a Save the Date email, organize a venue, and draft an agenda for the meeting and for Fruit Attraction.

18. Administrative and financial matters

Status of contributions from members – Fee collection campaign 2023

Mr Giuseppe Bonavita (FAO) informed members on the current status of the fee collection campaign for the year 2023. He informed participants that the current payment amount received from members totals USD 156 750; that the current VCAs signed but not yet paid amounts to a total value of USD 54 080; that the VCAs still to be signed amounts to a total value of USD 94 540 and that the Secretariat has received around 51.2 percent of total member contributions. He commented positively that the number of WBF members has increased.

Decisions:

- Continue with the 2023 WBF Fee Collection Campaign.

19. Regional and National Commissions of the WBF

Latin American and African Regional Commissions

Mr Hidalgo briefly discussed the importance of the Regional Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (LACRC), citing its ability to bring together priority issues such as shared responsibility and due diligence into a broader regional discussion, thereby facilitating collective actions and solutions to address these issues. Mr Jimenez agreed with Mr Hidalgo, citing its importance as a regional coordinating body where priority issues can be discussed with a multitude of actors to jointly develop strategic solutions for the region as a whole. Mr Gustavo Gandini (Bananos Ecológicos de la Línea Noroeste, BANELINO) then highlighted the unique ability of the Forum in bringing together the different entities of the global banana industry to discuss collectively the priority issues facing many stakeholders. He commented positively on the LACRC urging members to participate and actively discuss and develop solutions. Mr Prada re-iterated the previous comments made and urged participation from members in the region in the discussions of the LACRC to take advantage of this multi-stakeholder dialogue and ensure inclusivity in the WBF.

National Commissions

Ecuador

Mr Hidalgo commented positively on the National Commission for Ecuador, citing the benefit of having a national platform of assembly in which to unify the dynamic and diverse dialogues that occur within the Ecuadorian banana industry and address important issues directly. He highlighted the advantages of having both the LACRC and the National Commission for Ecuador as platforms to discuss priority issues before coming together under the framework of the Steering Committee and thereby advancing the sustainability agenda of the industry at all levels (national, regional and global).

Colombia

Ms Yoshioka commented similarly on the benefit of having a national platform to facilitate the unification of individual discussions and varying priority issues within the Colombian banana industry. Furthermore, the National Commission for Colombia allows multi-stakeholder dialogue to take place and therefore facilitates broader collaboration within the national industry. Mr Gandini then informed the WBF Secretariat that, in 2022, the National Council of Organic Agriculture in the Dominican Republic was revived, and more recently as well the National Banana Commission. He highlighted the importance of organic banana production for the Dominican Republic and the usefulness of the National Banana Commission, citing the opportunities for collaboration with the WBF.

Decisions:

- Continue stakeholder engagement and discussions under the commissions to address priority thematic areas of the banana industry, with a special focus on shared responsibility.

20. Breakout Session – AOB

Renewal of SC and AB members during the WBF4C

Mr Prada informed that members of the SC and AB will be renewed during the WBF4C now that we have a concrete date and venue for the conference, as is customary.

Inter-Governmental Group on Bananas

Mr Mougui inquired briefly on the status of the Inter-Governmental Group (IGG) on Bananas and Tropical Fruits. Mr Liu responded that the IGG has been dormant for some years, as no government has offered to host its session since the last one in 2011. However, if there is interest of some IGG members in renewing its activities, this can be explored. Mr Gandini then expressed interest in discussing this topic further with the WBF Secretariat, offering his support to identify points of contact in the Dominican Republic for the continuation of the IGG's activities.

Participation of African stakeholders

Mr Mougui then inquired about the low participation of African countries in the WBF. Mr Prada affirmed the efforts of the Secretariat to involve African stakeholders, also citing the challenge of facilitating continuous simultaneous French interpretation in meetings of the WBF. Mr Liu then stated that the Central Organisation of Pineapple and Banana Growers (Organisation Centrale des Producteurs Exportateurs Ananas-Bananes, OCAB) from Cote D'Ivoire and the Cameroon Banana Association (L'association Bananière du Cameroun, ASSOACAM) were once active members of the WBF, but due to unknown reasons had withdrawn. Mr Mougui offered to contact the executive director of ASSOACAM and inquire about their return to the WBF. Ms Owona then informed the SC that Afruibana, now a member of the WBF, has under its umbrella members of the national producer associations in Africa, which include ASSOACAM and OCAB. Mr Liu encouraged further participation of African producer associations in the SC and cited the SC25 as the place to discuss this topic further.

Decisions:

- Renew the membership of the SC and AB during the WBF4GC in March 2024.
- Discuss approaches to increase the participation of African producer associations in the SC25.

21. Breakout Session – Strengthening global cooperation for sustainable smallholder production

Mr Prada reminded participants of the newly established WBF Smallholders Commission, which was approved during the SC23 following two rounds of consultations that counted on a total of 20 interviews with different smallholders and smallholder associations. The commission will provide support focussed on environmental, economic and social priorities and needs of smallholders in the global banana industry.

A series of priority topics under the three pillars of sustainability were presented. Mr Hidalgo then stressed the need to specify the terminology used to address these topics and other participants suggested the inclusion of sub-topics within these key priority areas or the broadening of topics. Mr Prada noted the suggestions and informed members that these topics were specifically highlighted by smallholders and smallholders associations in the numerous consultations carried out, and were therefore not a product of the WBF Secretariat but of smallholders themselves.

Decisions:

- Continue enabling an inclusive platform for smallholders to address their priority issues.
- Proceed with the organization of meetings of the Smallholders Commission.

22. Conclusions of Day 1 and Day 2

Mr Liu concluded the SC24 by thanking all participants for their presence, interventions, presentations, suggestions, comments and inputs to all the important topics discussed during the two days of the SC24. He also thanked all the colleagues who made the meeting successful including the interpreters, technicians, WBF Secretariat staff and other involved FAO colleagues.

Annex 1. List of participants

Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the WBF Steering Committee (SC24)

6-7 June 2023

List of participants and observers of SC24

#	Organization / Organización / Organisation	Name / Nombre / Nom	Surname/Apellido/Nom	Participation/ Participación / Participation
1	AEBE	José Antonio	Hidalgo	SC member
2	Afruibana	Albertine	Yange	Observer
3	AgroAmérica	Susana	Pérez	Observer
4	Agrocalidad	Fanny	Tenorio	Observer
5	Agrocalidad	Giovanna	Fonseca	Observer
6	Agrocalidad	Johanna Maribel	Jiménez Mideros	Observer
7	Agrocalidad	Marcela	Morán	Observer
8	Agrocalidad	Santiago	Reyes	Observer
9	AgroFair	Luud	Clercx	SC member
10	ALDI Nord Group	Molla Meher	Nawroz	Observer
11	ALDI South Group	Felix	Strauss	SC member
12	Alternativas SAS	Carlos	Berben	Observer
13	APIB	Julio	Merida	Observer
14	APIB	Mariel	De Leon	Observer
15	ASBAMA	Andrea	Vásquez	Observer
16	ASDA	Carrie	Worsley	Observer
17	Augura	Emerson	Aguirre Medina	Observer
18	Augura	Isabel Cristina	Yoshioka Tamayo	Observer
19	Augura	Sebastian	Zapata	Observer
20	BAMA	Trude	Solvang	Observer
21	Banaexport	David	Molina	Observer
22	BANELINO	Gustavo	Gandini	SC member
23	BFDI	Felix	Hübner	Observer
24	Biodynamic Federation Demeter International	Clara	Behr	Observer
25	Biodynamic Federation Demeter International	Louise	Flamant	Observer
26	Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences	Xue	Zhang	Observer
27	Chiquita	Peter	Stedman	Observer
28	Chiquita	Andrew	Biles	SC member
29	CIRAD	Carolina	Dawson	SC member
30	CLAC Comercio Justo	Willy	Paredes	Observer
31	COLEACP	Morag	Webb	SC member
32	Colibribananas	Carl	Austin	Observer

33	Colombian Embassy in Italy	Juan Camilo	Saretzki Forero	Observer
34	COLSIBA	Adela	Torres	SC member
35	COLSIBA	Cesar	Guerra	Observer
36	Compagnie Fruitière	Christelle	Owona Lasme	SC member
37	Compagnie Fruitière	Paul	Bouzon	Observer
38	Corbana	Mariano	Jiménez Zeledón	SC member
39	Corbana	Omar	Sánchez	SC member
40	Dole	Xavier	Roussel	SC member
41	Ecuadorian Embassy in Italy	Juan	Tinoco	Observer
42	Ecuadorian Embassy in Italy	Patricio	Troya	Observer
43	Ecuadorian Embassy in Italy	Verónica	Gómez	Observer
44	Equapak	Jorge Alex	Serrano	Observer
45	Equifruit, Inc.	Jennie	Coleman	Observer
46	EUROBAN	Alistair	Smith	SC member
47	Fairtrade International	Silvia	Campos	SC member
48	FENACLE	Ángel Armando	Rivero Doguer	Observer
49	Fenasytrabacam	Emmanuel Désire	Ngweha	Observer
50	FLO	Wilbert	Flinterman	SC member
51	Fyffes	Eimear	Lynch	SC member
52	Fyffes	Fredy	Salguero	SC member
53	Fyffes	Hugo	Hays	SC member
54	Fyffes	Stella	Davis	SC member
55	Fyffes	Caoimhe	Buckley	SC member
56	GESTARSE	Miguel	Vallejo	Observer
57	GIZ	Andrea	Bruestle	SC member
58	GIZ Colombia	Vivian	Rangel	Observer
59	Golden Exotics Limited	George	Kporye	Observer
60	Golden Exotics Limited	Lilian Yvonne	Karikari	Observer
61	Grupo Acon	Ronney	Yen	Observer
62	Hague Corporate Affairs	Federico	Narducci	Observer
63	Hague Corporate Affairs	Silvia	Alunni	Observer
64	Honduran Foundation for Agricultural Research	Marcel	Barbier	Observer
65	Honduran Foundation for Agricultural Research	Marlon	Lopez	Observer
66	Industrial and Commercial Workers' Union - Ghana	Esinam	Poku	Observer
67	INSAI Venezuela	Yamila Coromoto	Rodríguez Martínez	Observer
68	Inter-American Institute for	Gabriel	Rodríguez	Observer

	Cooperation in Agriculture			
69	IPL LTD	Peet	Coetzee	SC member
70	IPL LTD	Tim	Brammer	SC member
71	Jasafrut S.A.	Brenda	Solorzano	Observer
72	Jasafrut S.A.	Guillermo	Maura	Observer
73	Jasafrut S.A.	Paola	Cabrera	Observer
74	Lidl Stiftung	Patricia	Lauko	Observer
75	Ministère de l'agriculture et de la Souveraineté Alimentaire	Nathalie	Arrojo	Observer
76	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador	Arturo	Ramírez	Observer
77	Ministry of Labour of Ecuador	Daniela	Peralta	Observer
78	Ministry of Labour of Ecuador	María Cecilia	Peña Paz	Observer
79	PBGEA	Yvette	Asunto	Observer
80	Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to FAO	Joseline	Pujol	Observer
81	Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to FAO	Patricia	Rodríguez	SC member
82	Permanent Representation of the Republic of Cameroon to FAO	Medi	Moungui	Observer
83	Plantaciones del Norte	Andrea	Bolini	Observer
84	Plátano de Canarias	Sergio	Cáceres Pérez	Observer
85	Plátano de Canarias	Domingo Antonio	Martín Ortega	Observer
86	REWE group	Florian	Schäfer	SC member
87	Reybanpac	Paulo	Mello	SC member
88	Smallholders' Association El Guabo	Lianne	Zoetewej	Observer
89	Solidaridad	Diego	Balarezo	SC member
90	Solidaridad	Mauro	Jeldres	SC member
91	Solidaridad	Jeroen	Kroezen	SC member
92	Tesco	Edgar	Monge	SC member
93	The Rainforest Alliance	Leonie	Haakshorst	SC member
94	UNCTAD	Leonela	Santana	Observer
95	WeWorld	Margherita	Romanelli	SC member
96	FAO/CSG	Assia	Rosati	FAO
97	FAO/LEGN	Buba	Bojang	FAO
98	FAO/EST	Camila	Reinhardt	FAO
99	FAO	Chloé	Berthelon	FAO
100	FAO/EST	David Ricardo	Montealegre Morales	FAO
101	FAO/EST	Eric Jesper	Karlsson	FAO

102	FAOPE	Gonzalo	Tejada	FAO
103	FAO/EST	Helen	Conesa Bernat	FAO
104	FAO/EST	Helena	Ventura	FAO
105	FAO/EST	Laura	Del Castillo Buelga	FAO
106	FAO/EST	Maria	Hernández Lagana	FAO
107	FAO/OCB	Marta	Gomez San Juan	FAO
108	FAO/EST	Matheus	Lima	FAO
109	FAO/EST	Mattia	Serrano Ferraro	FAO
110	FAO/EST	Michael	Riggs	FAO
111	FAO/ESP	Nozomi	Ide	FAO
112	FAO/EST	Pascal	Liu	FAO
113	FAO/EST	Sabine	Altendorf	FAO
114	FAO/EST	Valentina	Pérez Mardones	FAO
115	FAO/EST	Victor	Prada	FAO
116	FAO/OCB	Giulia	Carcasci	FAO
117	FAO/IAEA	Cintha	Zorrilla	FAO/IAEA