

El control de la Sigatoka Negra : ¿ que mundo después del Mancozeb ?

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Abstract

BLSD is the main challenge in the banana industry since the control of this fungal disease is crucial for banana exportation. In most tropical countries, BLSD control relies on weekly applications of fungicides from which mancozeb represents the most important part. However, regulatory limitations of the use of dithiocarbamates in the EU might block the use of this fungicide at a very short term. Here we report which are the alternatives for the control of this important disease. First, the forecasting strategy developed in Cirad relies on the weekly monitoring of biological parameters and synthetic expertise of this information that has been implemented on a numeric tool named Sigatocare. This strategy also relies on the use of systemic fungicides in mineral oil and enables to reduce significantly chemical use, especially where there is no fungicide resistance. By another hand, many work has been conducted, especially in Dominican Republic, showing that most biofungicides approved are not efficient for BLSD control. Here, we also present some work conducted in Dominican Republic and Martinique that highlight the importance of good agronomic practices and weekly elimination of necrotic parts on banana plants (even after flowering) in order to mitigate the effect of BLSD on fruit quality (greenlife reduction). Such results highlight that the general requirement of many exporters in terms of number of leaves remaining at harvest might be revised. Indeed, taking better into account the relationship between disease injuries and damages (crop losses) is probably a good way to reduce chemical control.

Key words: *Pseudocercospora fijiensis*, mancozeb, alternative control methods.