

Banana & plantain facts

Investment in banana improvement can greatly improve food security

- ✓ Annual global production over 155m tonnes
- ✓ Africa contributes almost one-third of the world's banana and plantain production
- ✓ Feeds over 500 million people in tropical and sub-tropical countries
- ✓ Feeds more people per unit area of production than other staple crops

A major staple food crop

Produces fruits throughout the year

Cooked in various ways

Banana bunchy top virus causes banana bunchy top disease

Can result in 100% yield loss

Infected plants cease producing fruits

Virus infection makes plants bushy and dwarf (bunchy)

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