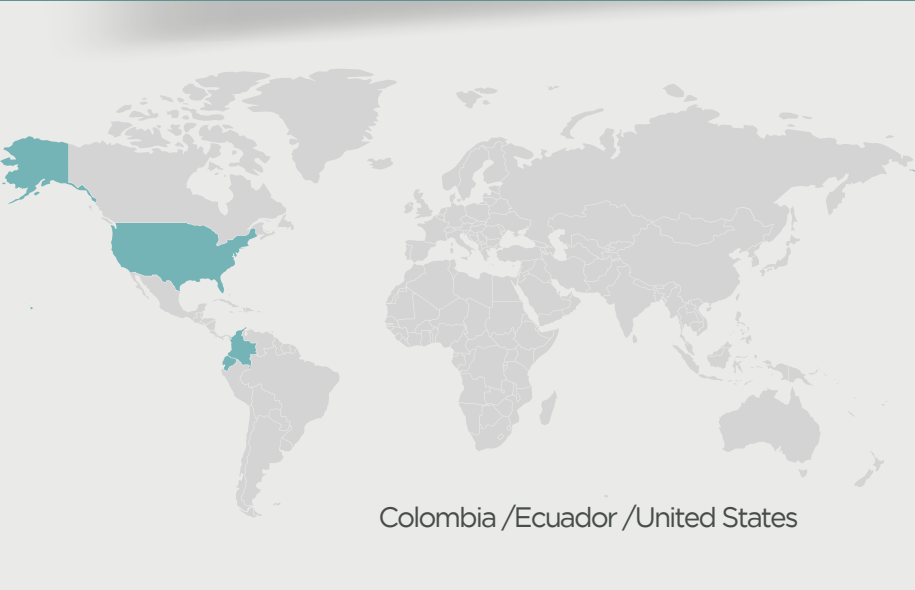


Foc R4T reached the continent: eleven countries agree what to research

In November 2019, three months after Colombia confirmed the presence of Foc R4T, 85 specialists from eleven countries met in Bogotá to agree what the region needed to research in the face of the threat.



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85
Participants in the regional workshop
- 

11
Latin American and Caribbean countries represented
- 

5
Research pillars prioritised
- 

1
Workshop proceedings



Research institutes, plant health authorities and the private sector in one room Initiative

The seed fund convened a two-day workshop in Bogotá with a narrow objective: to identify the priorities of a regional research agenda for the exclusion, prevention and management of Foc R4T outbreaks. Research institutes and national and regional plant protection organisations from eleven countries took part,

alongside Bioversity, CIRAD, CIAT and the University of Florida. Five panels covered the history and epidemiology of the disease, diagnostic and alert systems, contingency plans, research initiatives under way, and private sector action. Three working groups, one per type of actor, discussed and prioritised the research demands.

Five common pillars to buy time while resistant material is sought Tech solution

The workshop produced not a technology but an ordering of priorities. The eleven national delegations converged on five pillars: exclusion and eradication, resting on biosecurity measures in every country; diagnosis, with unified, certified protocols at regional scale to allow timely detection; evaluation and development of resistant material, covering both the alternatives already

available worldwide and countries' own breeding programmes, including traditional plantains; epidemiology, to determine the predisposing factors that shape prevention strategies; and integrated crop management, centred on soil health and quality. Each pillar was broken down into components with timeframes of one to two years, two to five, and more than five.

MORE INFO



Impacts and Results

The workshop proceedings bring together each country's presentations, the reports of the three working groups, and the prioritisation of activities by pillar with their timeframes, amounting to a stocktake of the capacities and strengths available in the region. A proposed regional strategy for capacity building and research on

Foc R4T in Colombia and Ecuador also emerged from it. The underlying agreement is that all eleven delegations, plant health authorities and research institutes alike, converge on the same pillars and needs, which makes common fronts of work possible in place of eleven separate national agendas.

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