

# Moko disease of banana

The Moko disease of banana is caused by the ***Ralstonia solanacearum* Breed 2** (= *Pseudomonas solanacearum*) bacteria. This pathogen attacks all banana varieties and was first detected in Mexico in the central basin of the State of Chiapas in 1991. In the face of this emergency, the National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA) established phytosanitary actions aimed to reducing the disease and preventing its dissemination.

The risk it represents for Mexico is high since it propagates through, among others, insects, movement of vegetable materials, rain, irrigation and sewer systems, and contact between the roots of diseased and healthy plants, contaminated work tools and the transportation of contaminated soil by people.

The symptoms start in the topmost leaf (flag leaf) and spread towards the older leaves. Infected leaves wither, fold and become adhered to the plant. The disease obstructs the conduits leading to yellowing and withering, which are similar to the effects of a drought.

The campaign against the Moko disease of banana is implemented to assist the states of Chiapas, Nayarit and Tabasco. Currently the disease is present in Chiapas and Tabasco. Thanks to favorable results, 6.4 million Pesos were allocated to address the disease in this year 2016.

