



THE NATIONAL PLATFORM FOR THE RESPONSIBLE PRODUCTION AND TRADE OF PINEAPPLE

Improve social and environmental practices in the production and trade of Costa Rican pineapples



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



Outcomes

- Multi-stakeholder and inter-institutional dialogue established
- Inter-sectoral communication and inter-ministerial coordination strengthened
- Financial and human resources mobilized to institutionalize the National Platform and implement priority actions
- Action Plan for Strengthening Responsible Production and Trade of Pineapple developed and implemented
- Compliance with targets set in the Action plan ensured through facilitation of national level social audit

In Focus

Costa Rica accounts for 35% of the world's pineapple production, constituting the country's second largest export earner, representing 7% of the country's total exports. The sector has grown from just 3,400 hectares in 1986 to an estimated 42,000 hectares in 2013, primarily in the North and Atlantic regions of the country. There has been rapid conversion of food crop and grazing lands, riparian areas, wetlands and forest cover into pineapple plantations.

Expansion of the crop has had major environmental impacts from deforestation and soil erosion to agrochemical contamination of local rivers and wetlands. There are also sanitary problems due to the propagation of a hematophagous fly that attacks livestock near plantations, resulting in serious economic losses to the cattle ranching sector. Additionally, community protests associated with non-compliance of labour and health regulations, have led to a growing consensus among importers, government and industry that the sector must transform rapidly to a more "responsible" model of production.

Our Approach

The National Platform for the Responsible Production and Trade of Pineapple in Costa Rica was launched in June 2011. The objective was to establish a multi-stakeholder and inter-institutional dialogue that would lead to the development of a joint Action Plan aimed at reducing the negative environmental and social impacts of pineapple production in the country. Between June 2011 and January 2014 the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Environment and UNDP facilitated a National Platform dialogue that brought together over 900 technical staff and representatives of over 50 organizations and institutions. This has led to the development of the Action Plan for Strengthening Responsible Production and Trade of Pineapple. The Action Plan consists of 12 strategic actions and 45 tasks that aim at improving environmental and social performance of pineapple production in Costa Rica over the course of the next five years.

Partners

- Government:**
- Ministry of Agriculture
 - Ministry of Environment
 - Ministry of Labour
 - Ministry of Health
 - Costa Rican Institute of Water and Sewage
 - Netherlands Embassy

Partners:

- Chiquita
- Del Monte
- Dole
- EOSTA
- Fyffes
- Tesco
- Walmart
- IDH
- ICCO



Highlights from the National Platform

In order to address the social and environmental externalities of pineapple production in Costa Rica, the Second Vice-presidency of the Republic, the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment established the National Platform of Responsible Production and Trade of Costa Rican Pineapple with the technical support of UNDP's Green Commodities Programme and financed by ICCO and IDH. Since its establishment, the Platform has facilitated a national level dialogue among all major pineapple supply chain stakeholders, this has included producers and companies involved in the production and export of pineapple from Costa Rica, national and international buyers, civil society organizations, and the Ministries of Agriculture, Environment, Health, Labour and Trade.



Following a two-year multi-stakeholder dialogue related to identifying potential solutions in reducing externalities associated with pineapple production, the National Platform has produced a final version of the Action Plan for Strengthening Responsible Production and Trade of Pineapple 2013-2017. The plan provides guidance on actions to be taken in the next five years by all major pineapple supply chain stakeholders so as to ensure the continued improvement of environmental and social performance of this supply chain. The National Platform has mobilized over USD 2 million dollars to ensure the implementation of actions and tasks included in the action plan.

Partnership in Action

The private sector plays a vital role in tackling sustainability factors related to the production and trade of pineapples. The National Platform is an ideal match for private sector companies seeking to create sustainable supply chains. The Platform provides companies a forum to target the social, environmental and economic issues not addressed by certification.

Why UNDP?

UNDP is the United Nation's lead agency in facilitating democratic dialogue processes. National Platforms apply the expertise of UNDP in this area to improve environmental and social performance of commodity supply chains. Working with its partners, UNDP advocates for constructive and innovative solutions. The National Platform has benefitted from UNDP's extensive resources and expertise in particular related to guidance provided on political, technical and administrative issues.



Learn more

For more information on the National Platform for the Responsible Production and Trade of Pineapple, please visit www.pnp.cr or contact:

Kifah Sasa, Programme Officer,
Environment and Risk Management
Unit
Tel.: +506 (2) 296-1544,
E-mail: kifah.sasa@undp.org

www.pnp.cr
www.greencommodities.org

