**Nematodes on banana**

*Radopholus similis* and *pratylenchus goodeyi*

### Prevention
- Use clean planting materials e.g. tissue cultured bananas.
- Heavy mulch with organic waste e.g. maize Stover can reduce nematodes in the soil.
- Reduce movement of infested soil from one point to another. Use of soil conservation measures should be encouraged including Terracing, contour farming etc.
- Rotate crops with legumes and brassicas for 2yrs.
- Avoid planting spinach, capsicum and egg plants on the affected soil for a period of at least two seasons
- Rotate with paddy rice to control flooding.
- Apply green tithonia or Mexican marigold as green manure. This is antagonistic to nematodes.
- Uproot the infected plants and destroy by burning or burying (1 m deep).
- The field should be weed free.
- Before planting, solarise the soil using polythene paper. The heat from sun kills the nematodes.

### Monitoring
- Monitor for
  1. Uniform yellowing or chlorosis of the lower leaves,  
  2. Root-rotting, plant toppling and wilting of plants even if there is adequate moisture in the soil.  
  3. Presence of small galls on the roots of the plant  
  4. Lesions and tunnels within rhizomes.  
  5. There may be clumping of lateral roots on the plants
- Initiate control measures when 1-2 nematodes are found in a plant root.
- Sample soils and take for soil testing for presence of nematodes

### Direct Control
- Soak suckers in hot water (50-55°C) for 20 minutes after trimming all the roots and cutting 1cm tissue around the corm until you get the white tissue.
- Drench using Azadirachtin (eg Ashook EC, Neem cake, Nimbecidine) at the rate of 600ml/20l. (app. 200ml/stool of the mixture)
- Support infected plants with a wire or hooked post to prevent from toppling and thus preserve harvestable crop.
- Diseased corms should have outer layer peeled, coated with nematicides (Azadirachtin at a rate of 600ml/20Ltrs) in mud or left in the sun for 14 days.
- Fumigate the field by using Metham Sodium

### Restrictions
- Moderately hazardous (WHO II).
- Spray interval of 14 days during wet weather a maximum of 3 sprays.
- Wear protective clothing.
- Follow manufacturer recommendations on pre-harvest interval.

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**Kenya**

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