

# BANANAS

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2 May 2007

## Part 1

1. How important is the banana trade?
2. Why are the majority of bananas grown not featured in the international trade figures?
3. What aspect of the banana is of major concern to the lecturer?

## Part 2

4. What does he comment about the status of banana producers?
5. What kind of study has the lecturer been doing at Waitrose over the past few years?
6. What is the difference between organic and non organic grown bananas?

## Part 3

7. What is unusual about the banana, concerning seeds?
8. How can you grow new banana plants from the existing tree without pollen fertilisation?
9. Did the banana originate in South America?
10. Can the Cavendish banana be bred?
11. What is the other type of banana grown and consumed extensively in tropical regions of the world?

## Part 4

12. Why does the lecturer say that the small wild bananas full of seeds may be the future for banana production?
13. In which regions do the banana plantations yield the best crop?
14. What picture does the lecturer show of the Cameroon?
15. What comment does he make about marketing opportunities for bananas?

## Part 5

16. Where can bananas be produced most economically?
17. Describe how plantains are cooked in order to be eaten.
18. What is mulch?
19. What was the Lomey Agreement set up to protect?

## Part 6

20. What is a nematode?
21. How does the *Fear 25* banana deal with the nematodes which attack its roots?
22. What is the purpose of the plastic sleeve?

## Part 7

23. What is the main advantage of the new method of micro-propagation - the technique which the lecturer considers brilliant?
24. What is the Black Sigatoka?
25. What do they do with the banana in Uganda?

# Key

## Part 1

1. It is very important, one of the biggest areas of trade in international fruit, with - about 12 million tons are exported every year.
2. Because they are consumed locally, or exported within a region.
3. The fact that the whole banana trade is based on only one type of banana the Cavendish; if there is a disease the whole species could be wiped out, destroyed completely.

## Part 2

4. He says they are not the poorest of farmers, but have some economic power
5. He has been checking the price of bananas, and notes that this price has not changed much the past few years, even though the cost to the producer has gone up.
6. Pesticides are used in growing non-organic bananas, and they are cheaper.

### Part 3

7. It does not have any seeds, and so is infertile.
8. You cut off side shoots from the plant and grow new banana plants for each crop.
9. No, it is produced frequently there, but was brought by the Europeans in the 16th and 17th centuries.
10. No, it has reached the end of its evolution; it is a triploid and cannot be bred because it does not produce any pollen
11. Plantains, they are grown and eaten in the Caribbean, Latin America, East Africa, India, Thailand, and Vietnam.

### Part 4

12. He thinks that by genetically improving the seeded bananas the problems with relying solely on Cavendish bananas will be resolved.
13. The best yields are from plantations in Central and South America where the growing conditions are ideal for bananas.
14. A picture that shows the diversity of the banana, like red banana fruit and wild bananas, probably with seeds
15. He thinks enough people are selling the Cavendish banana, but there is room for the exportation of other kinds of bananas.

### Part 5

16. In flat areas where the climate is good and where labour is cheap – Columbia, Panama and Costa Rica.
17. Plantains are harvested green, then steamed and mashed and eaten as a staple food rather like rice or potatoes in other cultures.
18. Conditioner for the soil, made from vegetation which is spread around the roots of bananas. In Uganda the waste from coffee is used to create a mulch.
19. It was set up to protect the agricultural exports of countries in the Caribbean Pacific and African.

### Part 6

20. An insect that gets into the root system of bananas; chemicals have to be used to destroy them.
21. It grows a much more vigorous root system which is difficult for the nematodes to destroy
22. It is used to protect the banana from damage when it is being transported – so it will look good for customers.

## Part 7

23. This technique allows bananas to be mass-produced, disease free.
24. A fungus disease which is attacking bananas all over the world and is very destructive of the industry; it can only be controlled by pesticides and fungicides.
25. They use it to make a drink, a strong banana gin called mwenge.