

# Tools for the management of the banana bunchy top disease in small holder systems

**Aman B. Omondi**

Soko MM, Chabi M, Nduwimana I, Simbare A, Athindehou F,  
Amoussou R, Dato GK, Niyongere C & Staver C.

[b.a.omondi@cgiar.org](mailto:b.a.omondi@cgiar.org)



# Partners



# Funding



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF QUEENSLAND  
AUSTRALIA



RESEARCH  
PROGRAM ON  
Roots, Tubers  
and Bananas

# Team



Tokannou Isabelle



Dato Geoffroy



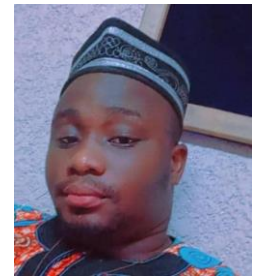
Rolande Amoussou



Doholi Sandrine



Allikponto Christian



Faride Athindehou



Chabi Modeste



Adjalla Christian



# Musa spp : Banana and plantain



**Musa-related species:**  
(PINTEREST, Author unknown)



# Banana Bunchy Top Disease



BBTD vector – Banana aphid

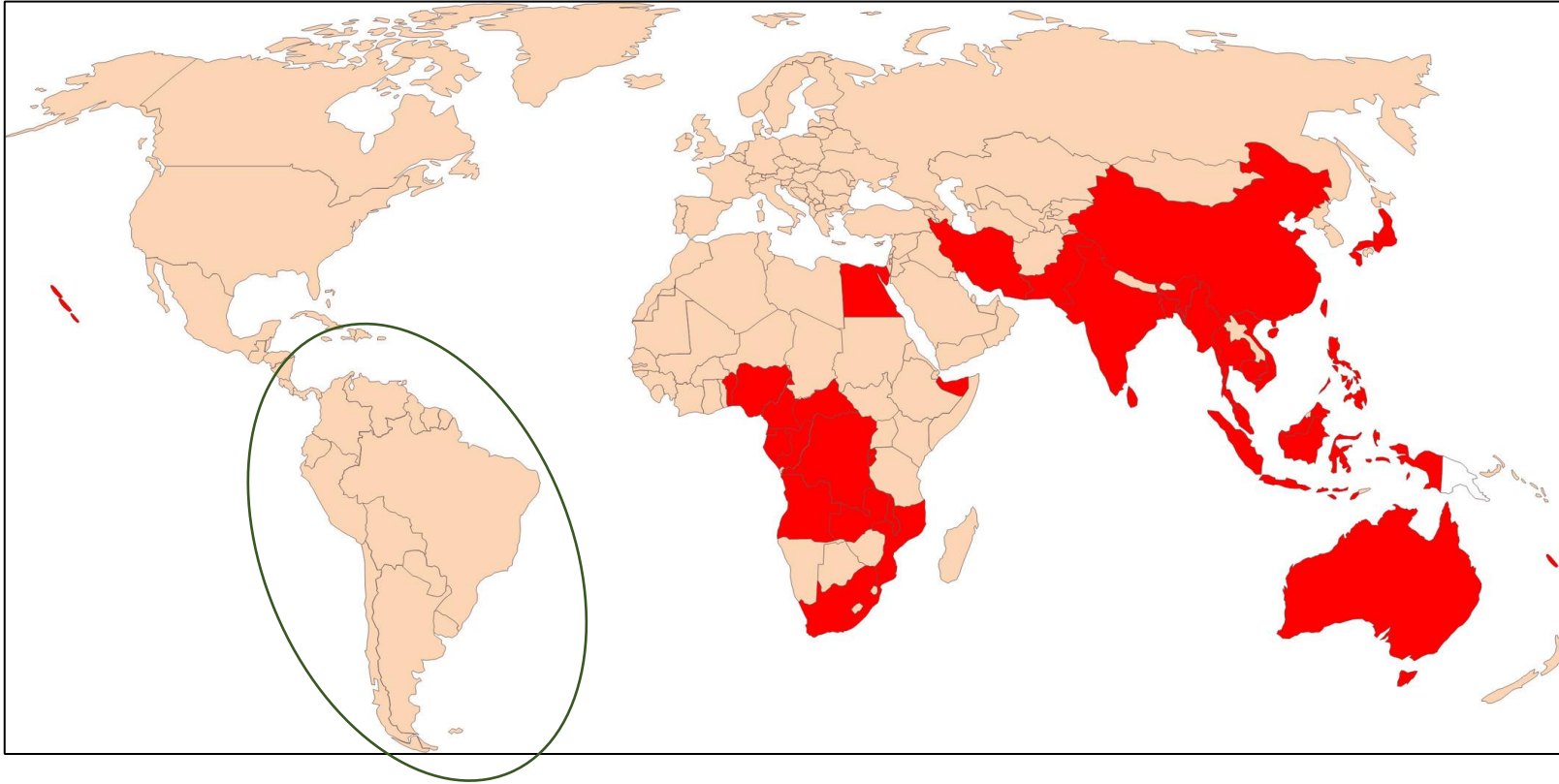


Early symptoms of BBTD



Bunchy-top morphology

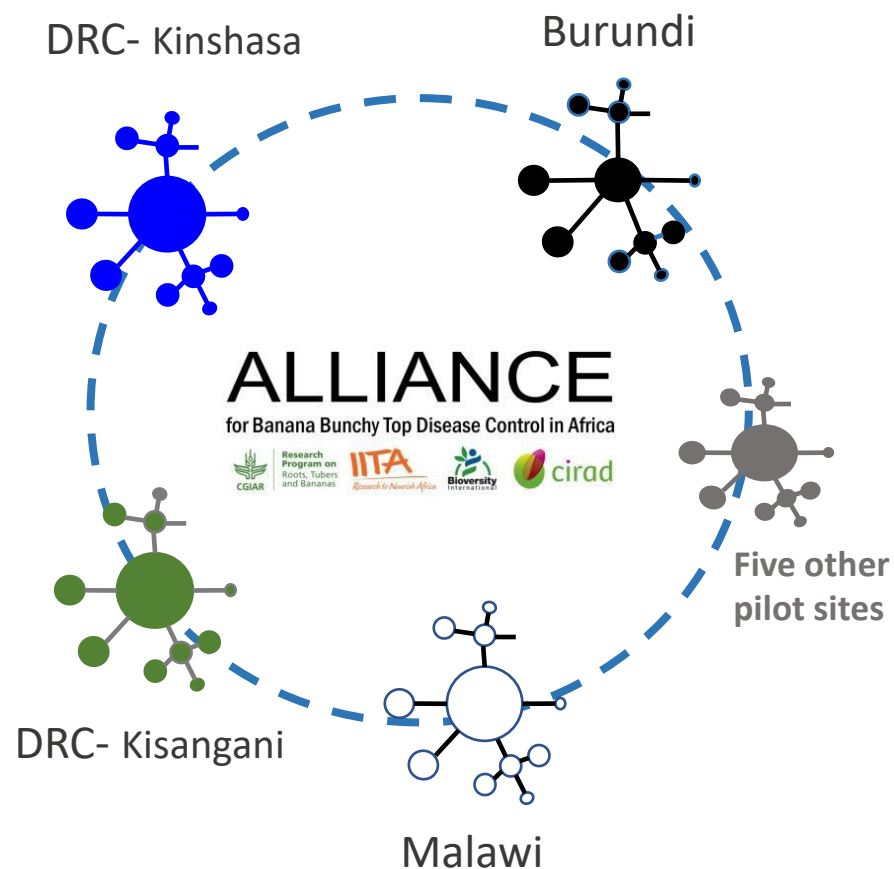
# Bunchy Top Disease in Africa (worldwide)



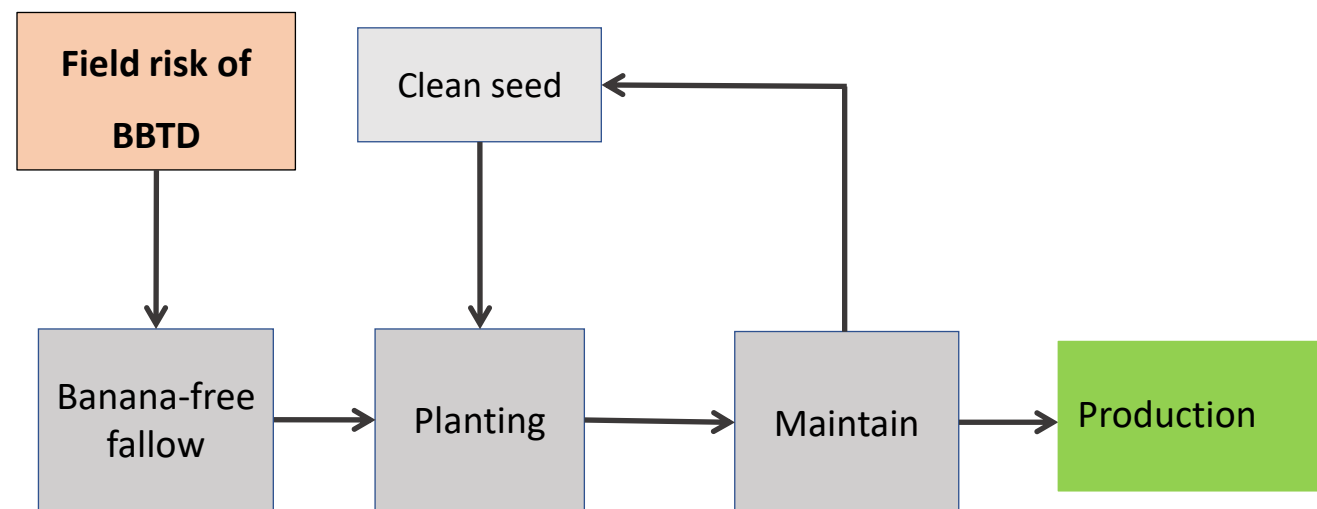
## Rapidly spreading in Africa

- Spreading in banana/plantain area
- Three new country reports in 2020/2021
- Rapid reduction of productivity
- Loss of clean seed in informal sources
- Loss of regional seed business

# The Learning Alliance (2013 – 2021)



## **The learning Alliance for BBTD control**



*The community recovery approaches to recovery*

### Community approaches

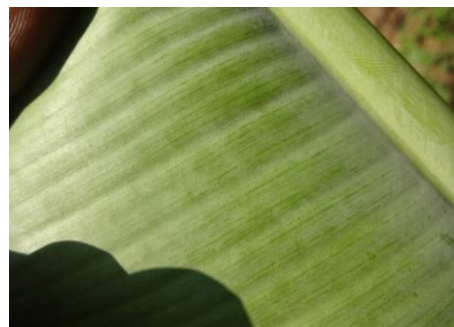
- What is the priority?
- How can control be made more efficient?
- How can control be made more acceptable?
- Group dynamics, gender, inheritance, seed systems?



# BBTD detection - symptoms



Leaf reference and detection of BBTD



'Morse-code' streaks



Healthy Diseased

'J-hooks symptom'

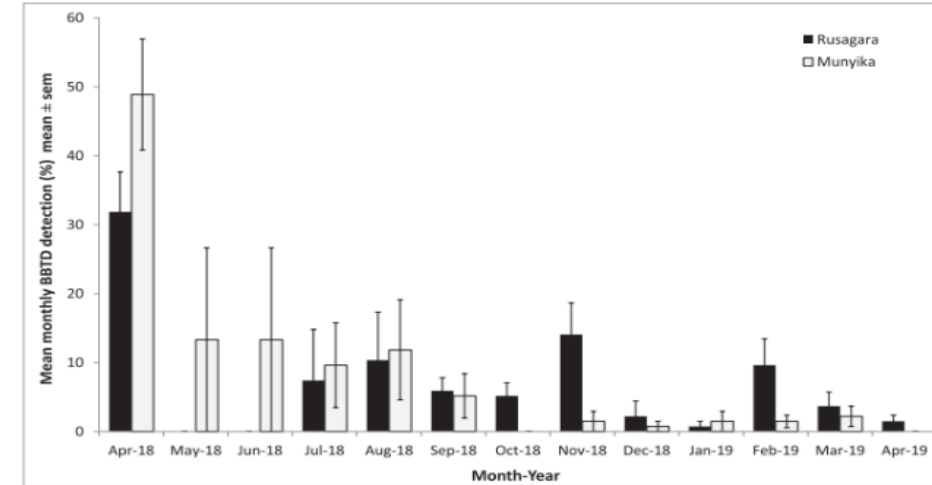
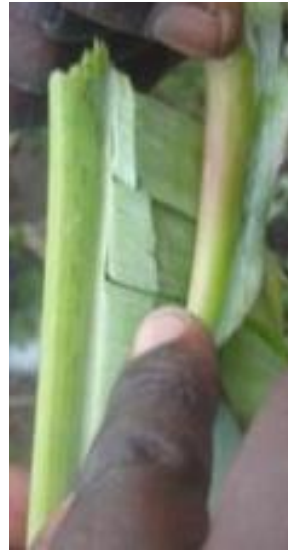


Marginal chlorosis

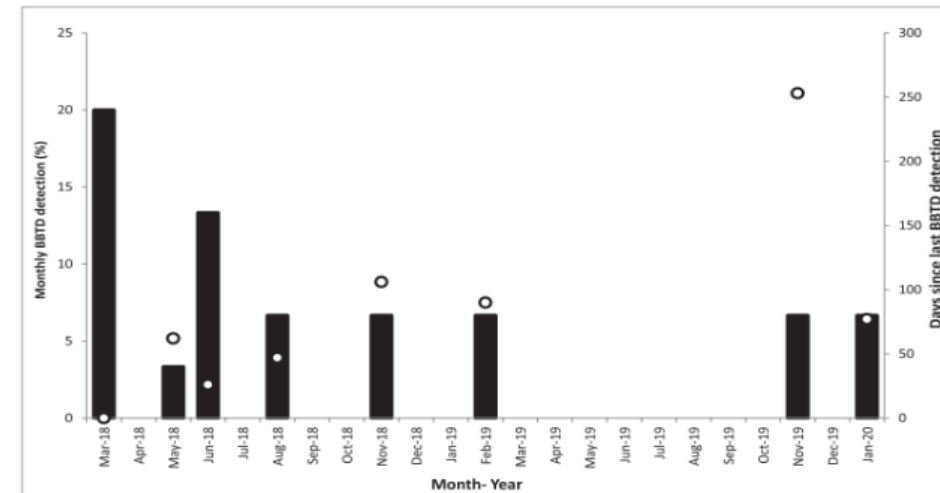
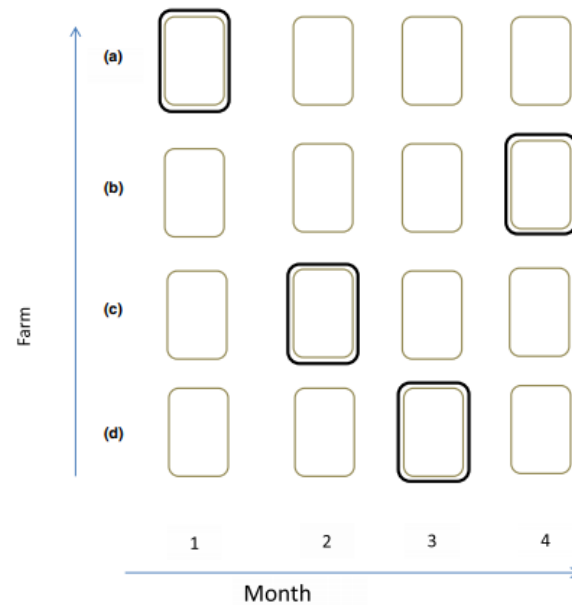


Progressive dwarfing – **bunchy top**

# Detection: Scouting and rogueing



Rapid reduction of disease pressure, need for plant elimination



Declining frequency of new disease detection with time



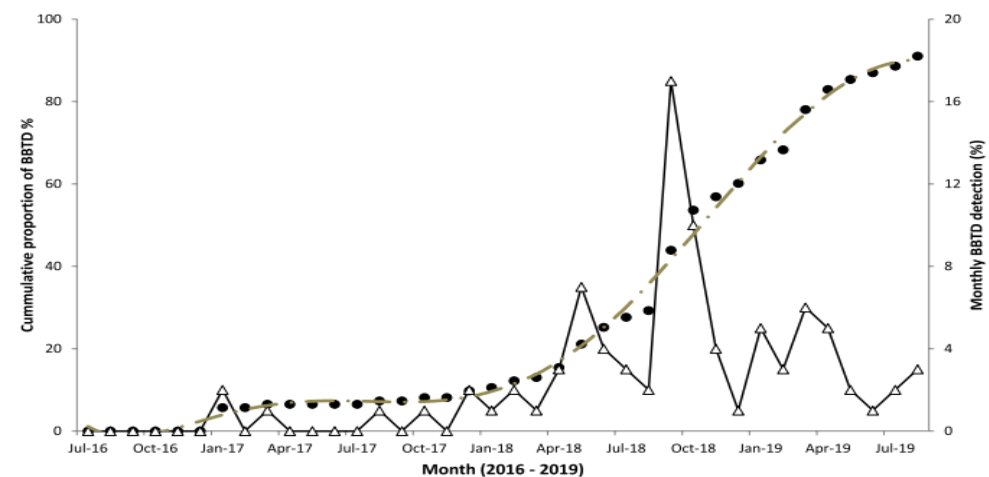
# Rogueing: Fidelity and consistency



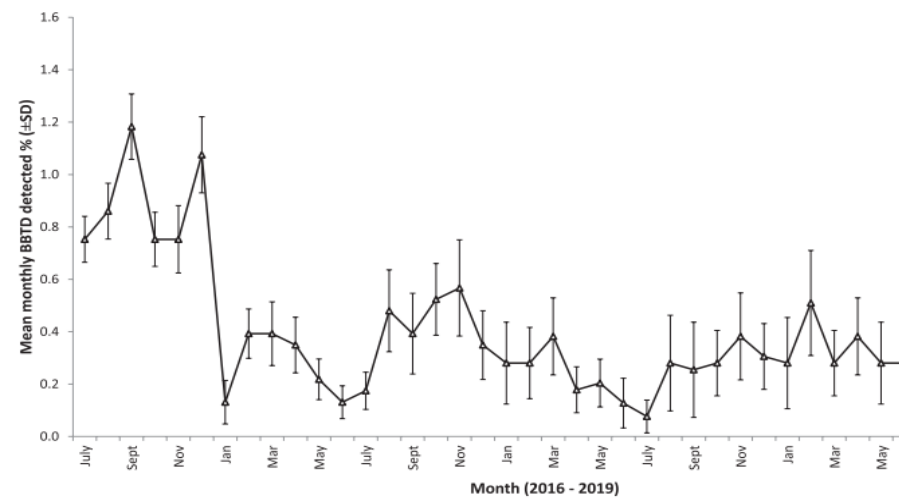
Lower frequency, lowlands, higher disease pressure > 60% BBTD



Highland, high frequency, coordination between gardens



Non managed garden: 50% in Y2, 90% Y3, seasonal trends



Managed gardens: declining BBTD levels, <1%

# Context: Spatial disease risk assessment



## Approach

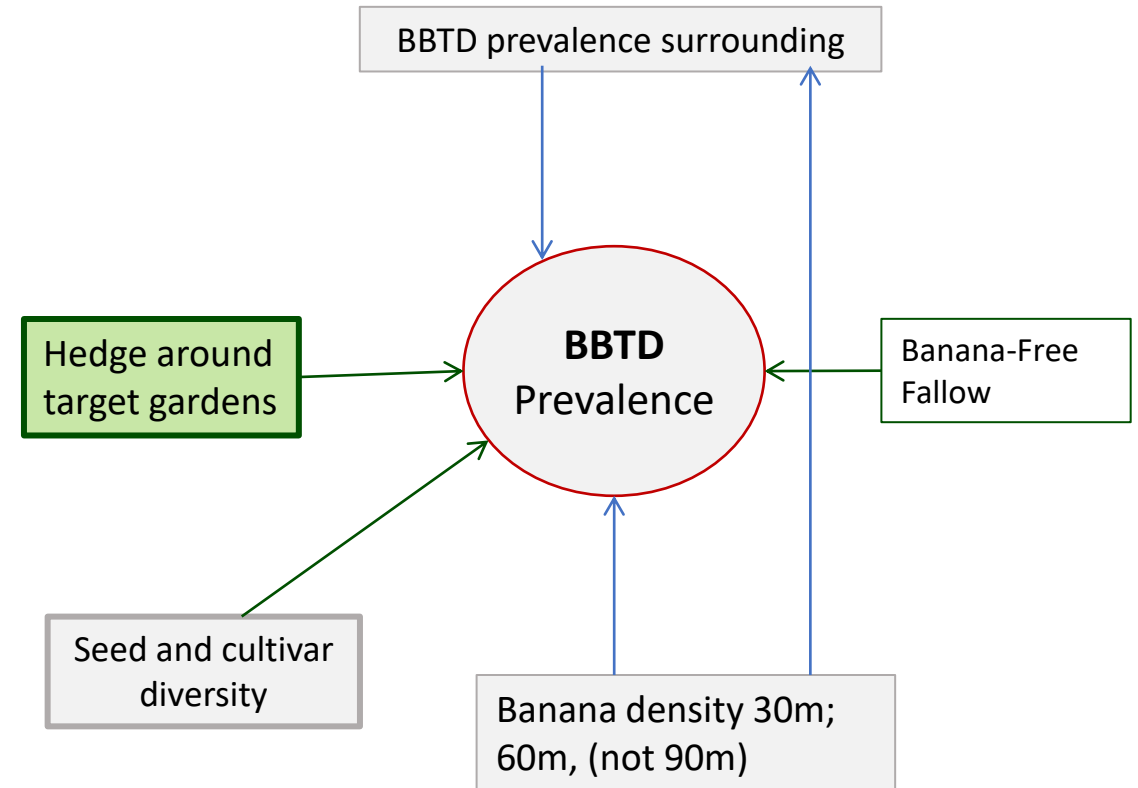
- UAV-based mapping canopy coverage and area
- Ground assessment of canopy and crop management
- Focus: Garden and 100m buffer around
- Association of disease incidence (disease event)



Backyard gardens

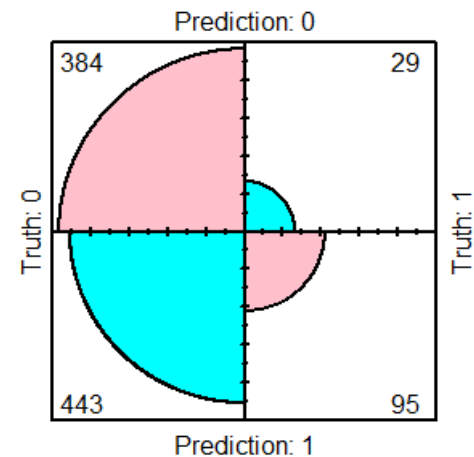


Open field gardens

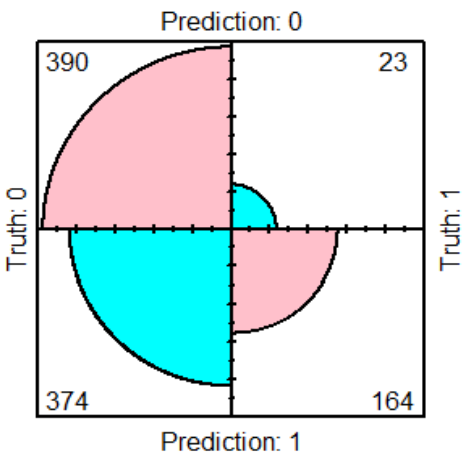


Key correlates to disease prevalence

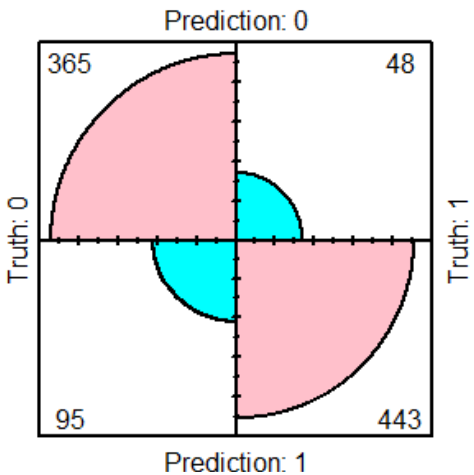
# AI-supported BBTD detection



A: Expert vs novice

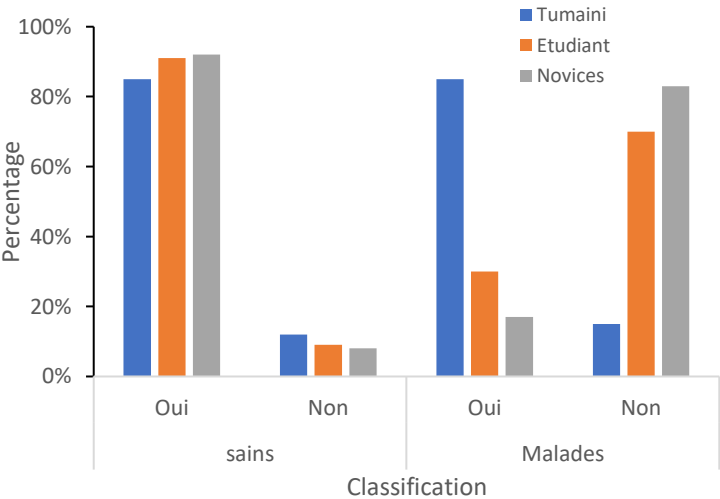


B: Expert vs Student



C: Expert vs TUMAINI tool

## AI tool vs Human detection

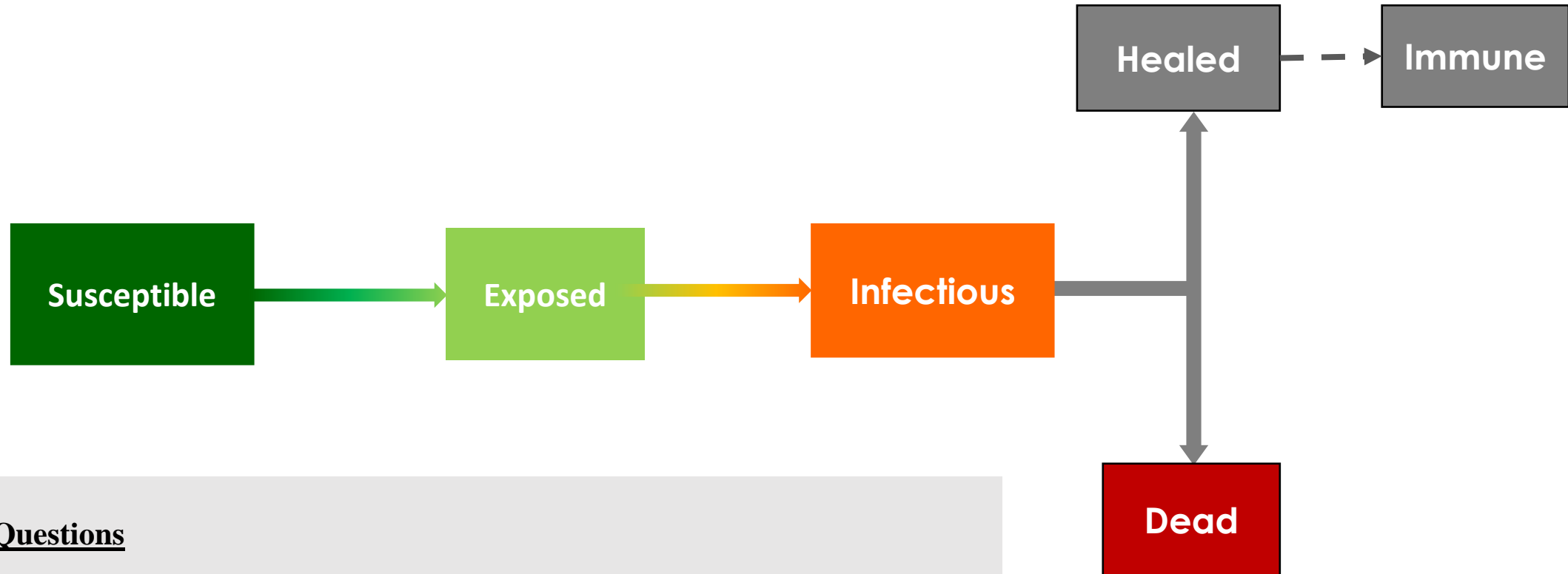


## Consistency of TUMAINI APP

Variable		Probability	Interpretation
Distance		$P \leq 0.476$ (ns)	Ai detection does not vary by distance
	3m, 6m		
Camera		$P \leq 0.001$	Capacity of device significantly influences detection by TUMAINI
	4MP, 16 MP, 48 MP		
Time window	4 MP	$P \leq 0.002$	Light significantly influences the detection at 4MP
	16 MP	$P \leq 0.298$ (ns)	Brightness (time) did not significantly influence detection using 16 MP or 48 MP camera
	48 MP	$P \leq 0.478$ (ns)	



# Disease detection, epidemiology



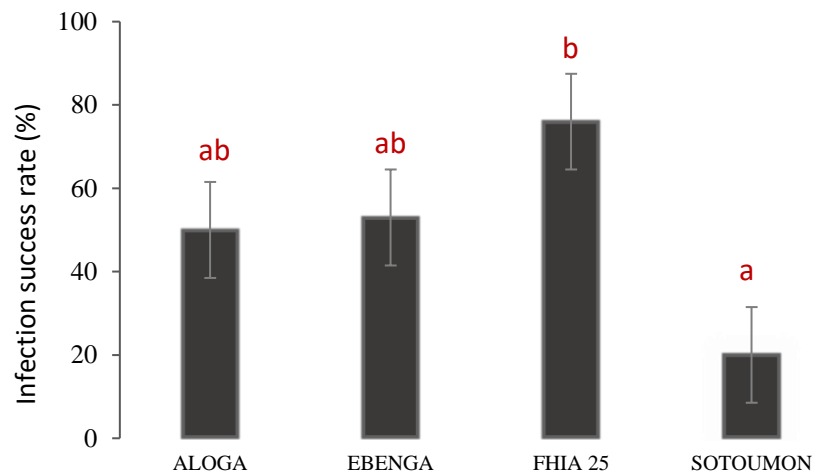
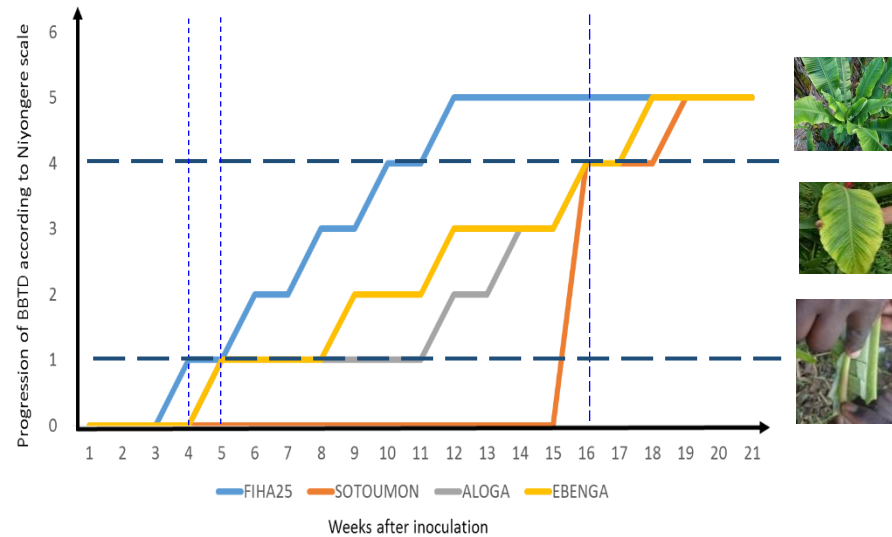
## Questions

Host-virus interaction, variety specific?

How does infectiousness relate with symptom expression?

How would these affect rogueing practice?

# Results: Diversity in expression of BBTD

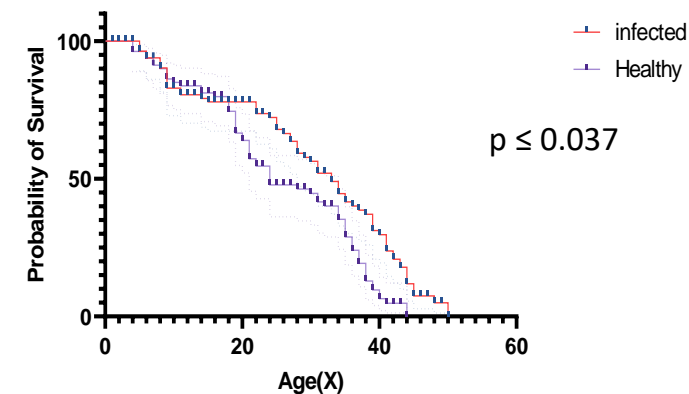
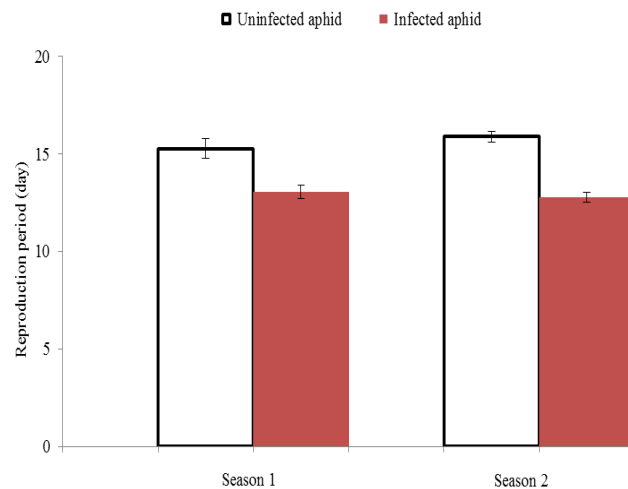
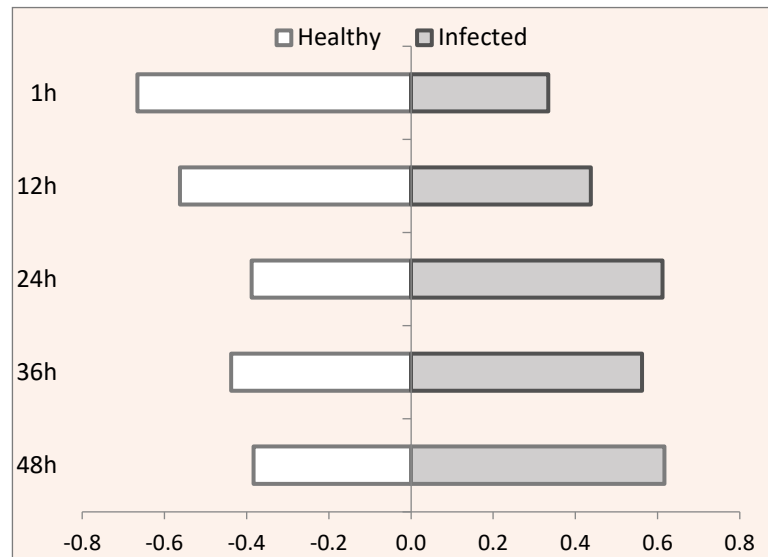


## Observations

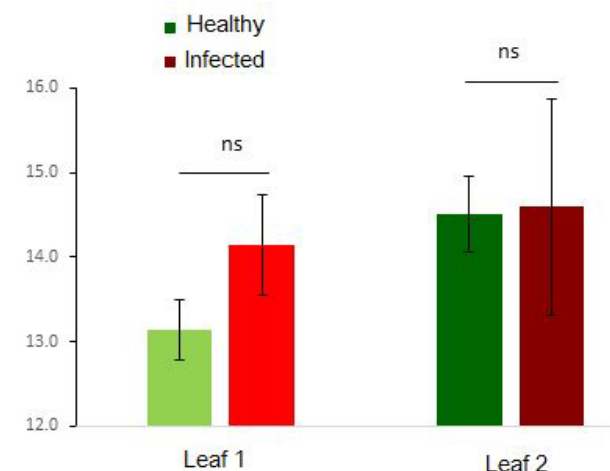
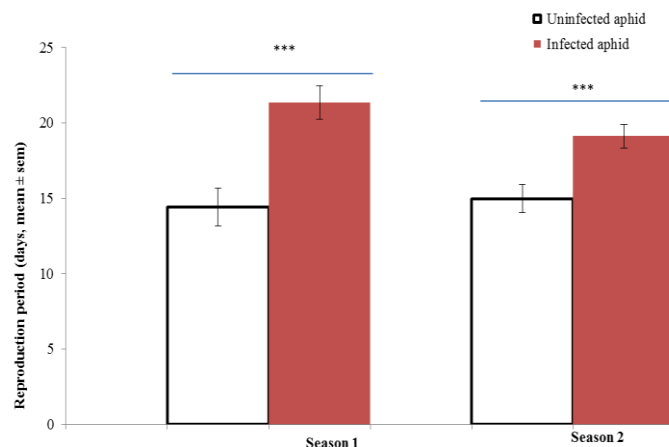
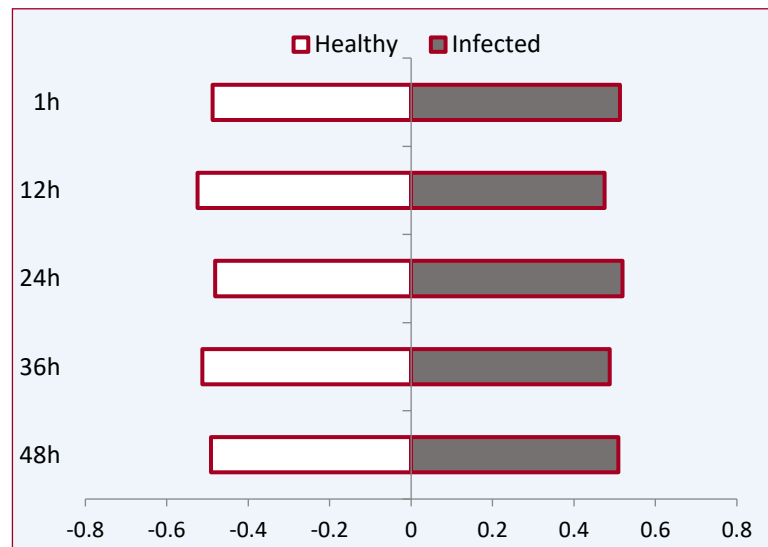
- Variety-specific symptom expression
- Asymptomatic plants were generally PCR –ve
- Varietal specific symptom progression
- Varietal differences in infection success and symptom expression
- *Soutoumon* missed **typical early symptoms**
- Only symptomatic plants were **infectious**

Chabi *et al.*, (in preparation)

# Relaxed roguing: Influence of infected plants



Fitness advantages of vectors reared on infected banana, no nutritional difference detected



Disease and vector preference

Increased vector fecundity on diseased plants

Crude protein, Lipid content  
Not significantly different



# Reflections

- **Modelling** BBTV epidemiology: approaches to effective BBTD management
- **Cropping mixtures** could augment BBTD control approaches to facilitate management.
  - support natural enemies of vectors,
  - reduced dispersal of vectors
- **Seasonal variation** on infection risk and expression
- **Scouting protocols**, detection accuracy and fidelity
- **Delayed roguing/ asymptomatic hosts** could influence the scale of dispersal of disease and aphids: the production of alate generations
- Refining scouting tools to supplement inexperienced human detection.

Alliance



IHC2022, date (19 August 2022)

International symposium on banana: **Celebrating banana organic production**

# Thank you !

Omondi B Aman,

Contact: *[b.a.Omondi@cgiar.org](mailto:b.a.Omondi@cgiar.org)*

