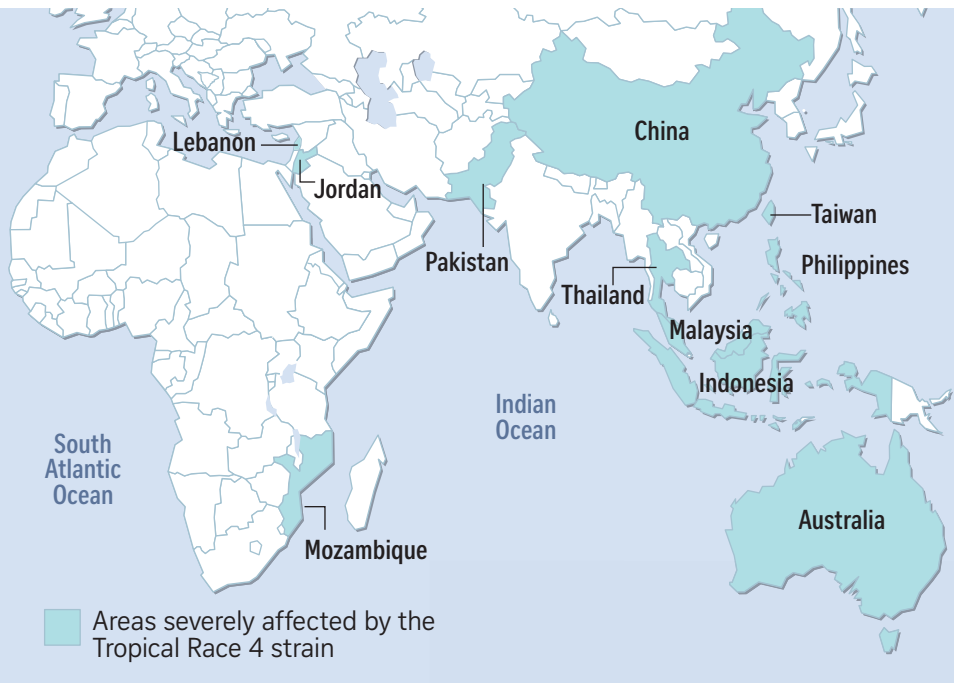


# Under threat

A strain of the Panama disease is rapidly devastating banana plantations across Asia and infecting farms in Africa, the Middle East and Australia, prompting the United Nations to request US\$50m (\$67.7m) to fight the epidemic.



## PANAMA DISEASE

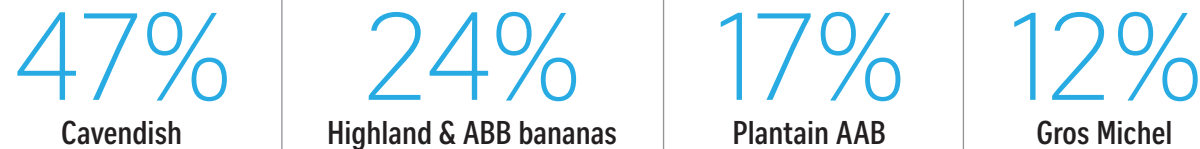
- Caused by the Fusarium wilt fungus
- Infects the root system before spreading to the entire plant
- Produces spores that can survive in the soil for decades
- **TROPICAL RACE 1:** First strain nearly wiped out the Gros Michel banana in the 1950s
- **TROPICAL RACE 4:** New strain, discovered in 1992, kills the Cavendish banana

## GLOBAL EXPORTS (2011-2013 average)

Efforts are under way to stop the disease before it reaches Latin America, the primary source of bananas exported globally.



## WORLD BANANA PLANTATION (by type)



## INTERESTING FACTS

**MORE THAN 100 BILLION**

Number of bananas consumed annually in the world, making it the fourth-most important food crop after wheat, rice and corn.

**85%**

**11.9kg**

The percentage of the world's banana production used for local consumption, and only 15 per cent is exported (mainly to the US and Europe).

Average consumption of bananas per year by Americans, more than apples and oranges combined.