Characterization of nematode pests of Enset and their management in Ethiopia

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Enset (Ensete vetricosum) is an important starch staple crop for approximately 18 million people in south and south western Ethiopia. Related to the banana family, enset is similarly infected by plant-parasitic nematodes.

Pratylenchus goodeyi appears to be the dominant nematode pest, which is believed to reduce productivity of enset. However, while surveys have demonstrated high P. goodeyi infection levels, there is relatively scant information on how damaging the nematode is to enset production.

Our study will assess the damage potential of nematode pests on enset, with emphasis on P. goodeyi, and in relation to other diseases and how climate and agro-ecology may affect this.