



**Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations**

**BUILDING RESPONSIBLE  
GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS  
FOR SUSTAINABLE  
TROPICAL FRUITS**

**October 2023**

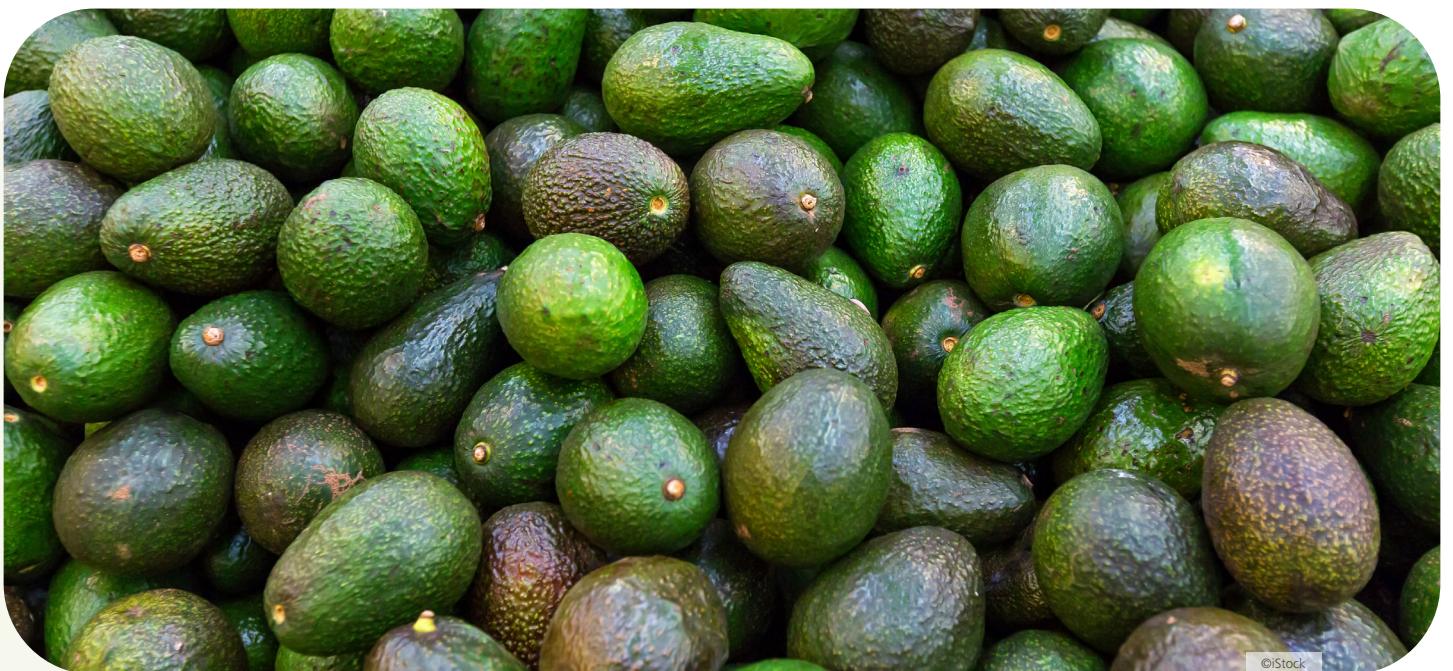
## **ACTION REPORT**

### **WELCOME BACK!**

The Responsible Tropical Fruits Project continues supporting the avocado and pineapple industries to address sustainability and resilience challenges in their global value chains. More than 200 organizations have participated in various activities that focus on topics they have prioritized. The activities include peer learning, working group sessions and technical discussions among businesses, producer organizations and other actors.

Our goal is to improve business performance by helping avocado and pineapple value chains be more sustainable and resilient.

Following is an update on the main activities conducted by the project team since April 2023.



©Stock

## PRIORITY CHALLENGES

### Resilience in avocado and pineapple value chains

The project team continues working in collaboration with industry actors in the avocado and pineapple sectors to support resilience in the operations of the two value chains. The new report [Resilience assessment of avocado and pineapple value chains](#) summarizes the challenges these sectors face, as well as the opportunities and areas for action to strengthen sector resilience. The findings are derived from an extensive literature review and consultations with some of the main actors from the global avocado and pineapple industries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Two technical briefs summarizing the main results of the study, one for [avocado](#) and one for [pineapple](#) are also available.

### Climate change

Working with researchers, technical experts and industry leaders, the project has developed two technical guides on adapting to climate change. The guide for avocado producers and exporters and the guide for pineapple producers and exporters will be published in the coming months. Two briefs summarizing the guides' information on climate risks and adaptation are now available for the [avocado](#) and [pineapple](#) sectors.

The project is also working with experts and the industry in Costa Rica to develop and validate a methodology for measuring carbon and water footprints in the pineapple value chain. More news about this methodology and support to use the tool will come soon.

### Due diligence and voluntary sustainability standards

As announced in our last Action Report, the [Gap analysis to support due diligence in the avocado and pineapple](#) sectors helps companies compare voluntary sustainability standards and policies with the [OECD-FAO Guidance for responsible agricultural supply chains](#). The project organized three introductory training events in May to kickstart the use of this tool.

The project team is available on request to support companies that seek to enhance their due diligence and better understand the role of the voluntary sustainability standards that they currently use by applying the gap analysis tool. Please contact the team for more information.

Training materials on using the [gap analysis tool](#) will be published for public use soon.



## Multistakeholder initiatives to support sustainable and resilient fruit value chains

The avocado and pineapple industries face challenges that are too complex for individual actors to effectively address by themselves. These challenges cover a range of precompetitive issues, from climate change to new pests to changing import regulations. Multistakeholder initiatives, as demonstrated by the [World Banana Forum](#) and others, provide a space for stakeholders to collectively address economic, social and environmental issues with greater effectiveness than when addressed by a single group of actors.

Opportunity exists for a multistakeholder initiative to be organized for the avocado sector and/or the pineapple sector after the Responsible Fruits Project ends. (The project will continue until the middle of 2024.)

The project team organized a [webinar](#) to discuss multistakeholder initiatives and has published a [technical brief](#) on the topic to assist companies interested in this opportunity. Project participants and others who have suggestions regarding a future multistakeholder initiative or other forms of support that FAO might provide after June 2024 are welcome to contact the project team.

## Peer-learning technical webinars

To date, the project has organized 15 events for peer learning and sharing of good practices. Summary reports for all the webinars are available on the [project's publications webpage](#) and the most recent events are linked here:

- [Webinar #13: How can the European Green Deal drive sustainability in the tropical fruit sector?](#)
- [Webinar #14: Opportunities of multistakeholder platforms for global avocado and pineapple value chains](#)



## PROJECT LATEST TECHNICAL BRIEFS

### Avocado industry

- [Resilience gaps and opportunities for the avocado industry](#)
- [Ripe for change: adapting avocado production to a changing climate](#)

### Pineapple industry

- [Resilience gaps and opportunities for the pineapple industry](#)
- [Ripe for change: adapting pineapple production to a changing climate](#)

### Avocado and pineapple value chains

- [Opportunities for multistakeholder initiatives to support sustainability in the tropical fruit sector](#)
- [How avocado and pineapple businesses shape the fate of the Sustainable Development Goals](#)



## WHAT'S COMING NEXT?

The project team is currently organizing technical support and peer-learning sessions to be held in the coming months, including:

- Practical one-on-one sessions with companies to understand and apply the project's products, to identify future areas of support, and to discuss the needs of the industry beyond the end of the project.
- A technical webinar on soil mapping, including industry experience and useful tools on 10 November.
- A peer learning webinar on occupational health and safety in avocado and pineapple production, packing and processing, date to be confirmed.
- Capacity development on due diligence and use of the gap analysis tool.
- A presentation of the project's technical guide on climate change adaptation in the pineapple value chain at the International Symposium on Tropical Fruit, Guangzhou, China, on 21 November.
- A validation workshop for the guide on responsible business conduct in the avocado value chain, online on 22 November.
- A second validation workshop for the guide on responsible business conduct in the pineapple value chain, online on 29 November.

## USEFUL RESOURCES FROM OTHER SOURCES

- OECD-FAO Business Handbook on Deforestation and Due Diligence in Agricultural Supply Chains: <https://www.fao.org/3/cc6648en/cc6648en.pdf>
- FAO has recently published a new online resource with [guidelines to increase the resilience of agricultural supply chains](#).
- A **Voluntary Code of Conduct on the sustainable use of plastics in agriculture** is being developed by FAO to assist policymakers and provide recommendations and good practices to stakeholders along agrifood value chains. Contributions to the development of this work are welcome until 7 November. For more information and to join the discussion, please click [here](#).
- New Series of courses on effective Agricultural Investment and Supply chains for Women and Men:
  - Introduction of the e-learning series “Making agricultural investment and supply chains work for women and men” .  
<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=973>
  - Enabling women producers’ successful engagement in agribusiness.  
<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=894>
  - Fostering decent wage employment for women and men.  
<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=895>
  - Securing women’s land rights in the context of agricultural investment.  
<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=896>
  - Building a gender-responsive policy and legal framework for agricultural investment and supply chains.  
<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=968>

## GET IN TOUCH

Responsible Fruits Project

[Responsible-Fruits@fao.org](mailto:Responsible-Fruits@fao.org)  
<https://bit.ly/responsible-fruits>

Markets and Trade Division - Economic and Social Development Stream  
[www.fao.org/markets-and-trade](http://www.fao.org/markets-and-trade)

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**  
Rome, Italy

Supported by:



Federal Ministry  
of Food  
and Agriculture



Some rights reserved. This work is available  
under a [CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/) licence