

Rainforest Alliance

(30.06.2009)

Sustainable agriculture is at the centre of the Rainforest Alliance's objectives to conserve ecosystems by protecting agricultural soils, rivers and wildlife and by promoting dignified living conditions for farm workers and rural communities. The mission of the sustainable agriculture programme is to integrate productive agriculture, biodiversity conservation and human development. Farmers, companies, cooperatives and land-owners who participate in the programmes are required to meet comprehensive, rigorous social and environmental standards. The area certified by the Rainforest Alliance in Latin America comprises 129.097 hectares. The majority are banana plantations (including all Chiquita plantations) with 46% of the total area, followed by coffee (42%), cacao (7%) and citrus (5%). (Figures from 2005.) In 2009 Chiquita announced that 90 per cent of its pineapple supplies will be certified by the Rainforest Alliance by the end of 2009, with a long-term target of 100 per cent pineapple certification.

The Sustainable Agriculture Standard of the Rainforest Alliance, updated in November 2005, define criteria for prohibiting certain pesticides: chemical products listed by international agreements (Stockholm and Rotterdam Convention) or the «Dirty Dozen» listed by Pesticide Action Network may not be used, including, products banned by the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) or the European Union, and any products whose license for the crop is no longer valid. Paraquat is prohibited for use in all plantations and farms certified by Rainforest Alliance because it is among the «Dirty Dozen» listed by Pesticide Action Network.

[Sustainable Agriculture Standard with Indicators](#)