

## Unique biofungicide for black sigatoka

AGRAQUEST INC HAS selected distribution partners for the product SONATA fungicide, a novel biofungicide used for control of black sigatoka in bananas. DuWest, headquartered in Guatemala, has signed on as the exclusive distribution partner for Central America and the Caribbean. INTEROC, headquartered in Ecuador, has signed on as the exclusive distribution partner for Colombia and Ecuador.

SONATA, based on the beneficial bacteria *Bacillus pumilus* strain QST 2808, gives banana producers a new tool for contact control of this devastating disease.

"At DuWest, we are focused on new technology and safety for our portfolio. SONATA provides both while offering great disease control in



a spray programme for our customers," said Herbert Villeda, Marketing Manager for DuWest.

The active ingredient in SONATA works by out-competing fungal diseases for the enzymes they need to build cell walls. SONATA is a replacement for mancozeb in season-long treatment programmes.

"SONATA fungicide delivers similar levels of control of black sigatoka, but, as a biofungicide, has a much improved safety

profile," said César Lamonega, AgraQuest's VP of Sales in Asia and the Americas. "This fungicide is certified for organic production, while delivering results for any grower who wants to reduce the chemical pesticides being applied on their plantations without reducing control."