

Agronomic characterization of the plantain hybrid FHIA-21 (*Musa AAAB*) which is resistant to black sigatoka (*Mycosphaerella fijiensis* M.) in Baralt Municipality, Venezuela

A. García² y L. Sosa³

Abstract

The study was carried out in Baralt Municipality, Zulia state from 1995 to 1996, to characterize the agronomic behavior of plantain hybrid FHIA-21. This hybrid has been developed by the Agriculture Research Foundation of Honduras and is reported to be resistant to black sigatoka (*Mycosphaerella fijiensis* M.) which presently causes severe damage to musaceous production in the country. A total of 398 plants were planted at a spacing of 3x2m but only 94 were evaluated for the study. The hybrid required 354.32 ± 17.20 days from planting to harvesting and 7.58 ± 1.21 days for leaf emission. The total leaves produced per plant for the entire cycle were 39.90 ± 1.91 . At flowering time the plants had 13.11 ± 1.15 useful leaves, and at harvesting time they had 7.39 ± 1.3 leaves. These results confirmed the resistance of this hybrid to the disease. The bunch weight averaged 27.80 ± 2.71 kg with 7-8 hands and 101.04 ± 7.99 fingers/bunch. These results indicated a good adaptation of the hybrid to the region thus providing a viable alternative for small and medium sized growers of plantain without resorting to the use of agrochemicals for disease control.

Key words: FHIA-21, plantain, black sigatoka, *Mycosphaerella fijiensis*.

Recibido el 29-2-2000 ● Aceptado el 14-3-2001

1 Trabajo presentado en XIII Reunión de ACORBAT. Ecuador 1998.

2 Fundación Servicio para el Agricultor (FUSAGRI). Maracaibo. Venezuela.

3 La Universidad del Zulia, Facultad de Agronomía, Instituto de Investigaciones Agronómicas. Apto. 15205. Maracaibo. Venezuela.