

Dissemination of Bananas in Latin America and the Caribbean and Its Relationship to the Occurrence of *Radophouls similis*

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The Latin American and Caribbean region has made enormous development strides in recent decades, from the consolidation of democratic governments and continued advances in health and education to more recent progress in protecting the environment and reducing inequality. By 2015, the region as a whole will have met the majority of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – a historic achievement. This is crucial for the Latin America and the Caribbean region, a "biodiversity superpower", with one of the greatest endowments of natural capital in the world, according to a UNDP report. Despite some setbacks, the region has experienced its longest period of democratic rule, beginning in the 1980s and, more broadly, in the 1990s.