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Climate Change Affecting Banana Cultivation

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According to a recent study published in **Nature Climate Change**, 10 leading banana producer countries including **India- the largest producer & consumer** of banana could see a significant decline in crop yields due to climate change.

- The study also revealed that the 27 countries that account for 86% of the world's banana production, have seen an **increased** crop yield since 1961 due to the changing climate resulting in more favourable growing conditions.
- But climate change is eventually causing a negative impact in India.
- Being a **tropical crop** banana grows well under the following conditions:
 - **Temperature:** 15°C – 35°C
 - **Rainfall:** an average rainfall of 650-750 mm
 - **Regional variation:** Humid tropics to dry mild subtropics
 - **Soil:** Deep, rich loamy soil is most preferred for banana cultivation.
- Researchers across the globe are concerned about the impact of diseases like **Fusarium Wilt** on bananas, but the **impacts of climate change on crop production** have been largely ignored. It is imperative that we invest in **preparing tropical agriculture** for future climate change.
- Practical solutions to this problem are scattered across banana producing countries. This knowledge exchange needs to start now to counteract predicted **yield losses due to climate change.**

Source: IE