

NATIONAL BANANA ROADSHOW SERIES

2026 FNQ Roadshow Agenda

Atherton 5 August - Tully 6 August – Innisfail 7 August

Doors open at 8:30 am for a **9:00 am start!**

Presentation	Presenter
Session 1 (9:00 – 9:40 am)	
Welcome and introduction to the new National Banana Development and Extension Program	Tegan Cavallaro & Ingrid Jenkins Senior Development Horticulturist Department of Primary Industries (DPI)
Update on important industry issues	Leon Collins Chair - Australian Banana Growers' Council (ABGC) or ABGC representative
Panama disease TR4 update	ABGC
Q&A	
Session 2 (9:40 – 10:15 am)	
From Panama disease to agroecology: how overseas banana research is helping protect FNQ growers	Dr Tony Pattison Senior Principal Nematologist - DPI
Exotic banana diseases threatening northern Australia	Dr Lilia Carvalhais Senior Research Fellow - Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation
Practical tips for on-farm biosecurity	Tegan Cavallaro - DPI
Elevator pitches for research displays	
Morning tea break (15 minutes)	
Session 3 (10:30 – 10:55 am)	
Are we there yet? An update on Panama disease race 1 (R1) and tropical race 4 (TR4) resistant banana varieties	Jeff Daniells Senior Principal Horticulturalist - DPI
Developing Cavendish bananas with TR4 resistance	Dr Anthony James – Senior Research Fellow Queensland University of Technology
Session 4 (10:55 – 11:20 am)	
Nutrient rate trial update	Alex Lindsay Senior Research Agronomist - DPI
Water quality monitoring in banana catchments: practical water quality information for the banana industry	Alicia Buckle Project Leader, Waterway Health - Terrain NRM
Session 5 (11:20 – 11:55 am)	
Banana Integrated Pest and Disease Management (IPDM) in FNQ: what we have learned so far	Richard Piper Senior Entomologist - DPI
Sooty blotch and flyspeck (SBFS) complex: Current research findings	Kathy Grice Principal Experimentalist (Plant Pathology) - DPI
Update on yellow Sigatoka (leaf spot) research	David East Senior Plant Pathologist - DPI
Session 6 (12:00 – 1:00 pm)	
'Speed date' the researchers	Small group activity
Lunch (1:00 – 2:00 pm)	
Fundamentals session – optional (2:00 – 3:00 pm) <i>Featuring banana bunch pests, leaf spot and nematodes</i>	Small group activity