



Fyffes Response to the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre regarding Anexco Pineapple Farm in Costa Rica

Fyffes is disappointed by Bananalink's ongoing inaccurate and misleading reporting on its website regarding our Anexco pineapple farm in Costa Rica. Given Fyffes commitment to respecting the rights and welfare of workers across our supply chains, we would like to point out several developments and accomplishments that Bananalink failed to mention, so that we may provide a more accurate assessment of our Costa Rican pineapple operations.

It is important to note that an independent third-party Sedex Members Ethical Trade Social Audit (SMETA) of Anexco was conducted in March 2017, with all non-conformances closed and certification issued in June. SMETA uses the Ethical Training Initiative (ETI) Base Code as the basis for its audits, and full results of Anexco's audit are available on the SEDEX website. SMETA is just one of several external and internal audits conducted at Anexco so far this year, including those based on GRASP (Global GAP Risk Assessment of Social Practice) framework, as well as others that certify Anexco's compliance with various customer standards.

Anexco, was recognized for its initiatives on migrant workers in the 2015 International Labour Organisation (ILO) Best Practices Report on Migrant Workers (full report here: http://www.ilo.org/public/libdoc/ilo/2015/115B09_213_span.pdf). It was also awarded a gold prize by CANAPEP, Costa Rica's National Chamber of Pineapple Producers and Exporters, in June of this year. This award was granted in recognition of Anexco's outstanding 98.5% score in an audit of the industry's socio-economic management systems requirements. Anexco obtained the highest score of any pineapple producer and exporter in Costa Rica, reaffirming its sector leadership in this area.

While Anexco and Fyffes are proud of these achievements, we continue to pursue further improvements through open and constructive dialogue. In recent years, Anexco's farm management has actively participated in tripartite meetings with its labour union and the Ministry of Labour to discuss key issues and seek agreement on appropriate solutions. These meetings, for which attendance records must be signed by all participants, are the appropriate forum for labour-related issues at Anexco to be raised, as all interested stakeholders are duly represented and remain actively engaged.

Furthermore, in an initiative launched last year, a labour rights assessment of Anexco was conducted by accredited independent consultants, in an exercise facilitated by the ETI. As a result, a training program, which uses a "train the trainer" approach, was conducted at the Anexco farm last November. The training has since been rolled out to all workers, with some 850 workers having successfully completed the program to date.

These achievements are the result of only a few of the initiatives implemented by Anexco which have led to third-party verification and acknowledgement of the company's high standards. We are disappointed that Bananalink continues to ignore those facts and persists with its campaign misrepresenting the situation on Anexco.

31 October 2017