



Ministry of Industry, Commerce,
Agriculture & Fisheries

Frosty Pod Rot OF COCOA

PREVENTING THE SPREAD

- DO NOT transport cocoa pods from infected areas.
- Wash personal belongings and sanitize equipment when coming from an infected region.
- Disinfect vehicles moving in and out of infected areas.



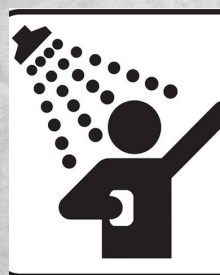
Report any suspicious symptoms to:

Plant Quarantine/Produce Inspection(MICAF): 977-7160
or via WhatsApp: 435-5828

Rural Agricultural Development Authority (toll free):1-888-ASK -RADA (275-7232).

Research and Development (MICAF): 745-2957

Cocoa Industry Board:
923-6413



WHAT IS FROSTY POD ROT?

Frosty pod is a disease that affects cocoa and it is caused by a fungus (*Moniliophthora roreri*). It can cause serious damage to the cocoa industry reducing crop yield up at 80% per year.

WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

The fungus originated in Western Columbia/Ecuador and has since spread throughout South America.

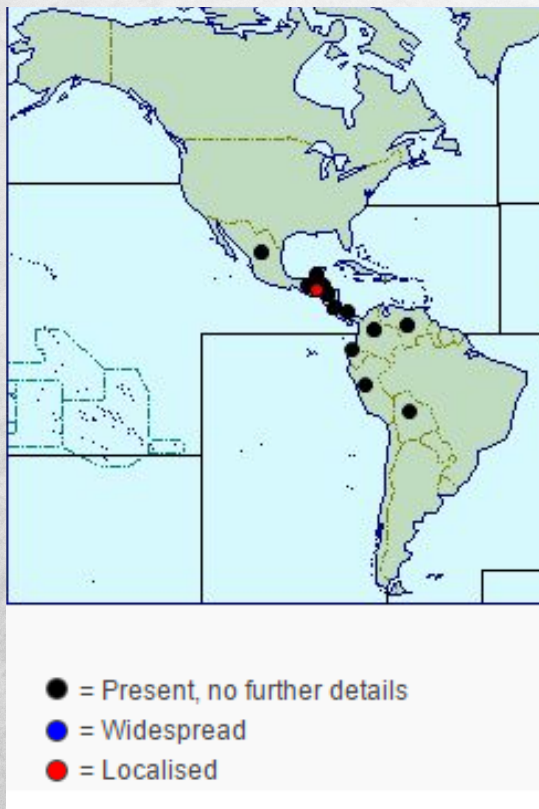


Fig 1: Distribution of Frosty Pod Rot (CABI,2016)

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

Signs and symptoms only appear on the pods. The nature of the symptoms depend on the age of the pods when they are infected.



Pod less than one month old show swellings and distortions.



Pods 1-3 months old show premature ripening and large dark brown spots.



Pods 3 months and older become covered by thick fungal growth that forms a thick dense mat on the pod. Infected pods become heavier than healthy pods and they eventually shrink and dry and become hard mummies.

HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

The fungus produces billions of spores that are spread by the wind, water or by humans. The fungus can remain on clothing and other materials and equipment for up to 9 months.



spores

MANAGEMENT & CONTROL

- Pods should not be transported from infected areas whether they appear healthy or not.
- Remove pods and bag or bury them.
- Prune cocoa and shade trees.
- Apply fungicides at the beginning of fruit set.