

1 **Inducing Banana Fusarium Wilt Disease Suppression through Soil**  
2 **Microbiome Reshaping by Pineapple-Banana Rotation Combined**  
3 **with Biofertilizer Application**

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5 Beibei Wang<sup>1</sup>, Mingze Sun<sup>1</sup>, Jinming Yang<sup>1</sup>, Zongzhuan Shen<sup>2</sup>, Yannan Ou<sup>2</sup>, Lin Fu<sup>3</sup>,  
6 Yan Zhao<sup>1</sup>, Rong Li<sup>2\*</sup>, Yunze Ruan<sup>1</sup>, Qirong Shen<sup>2</sup>

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8 <sup>1</sup>Hainan key Laboratory for Sustainable Utilization of Tropical Bio-resources, College  
9 of tropical crops, Hainan University, 570228 Haikou, China

10 <sup>2</sup>Jiangsu Provincial Key Lab for Solid Organic Waste Utilization, National  
11 Engineering Research Center for Organic-based Fertilizers, Jiangsu Collaborative  
12 Innovation Center for Solid Organic Waste Resource Utilization, Nanjing Agricultural  
13 University, Nanjing, 210095, P.R. China

14 <sup>3</sup>School of Life Science, Liaoning Universities, 110036, Shenyang, China

15

16 \**Corresponding author*: Rong Li (lirong@njau.edu.cn)

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24 **Abstract**

25 Crop rotation and **biofertilizer** application have historically been employed as efficient  
26 management strategies for soil-borne disease suppression through soil microbiome  
27 manipulation. However, how this occurs and to what extent the combination of  
28 methods affects **the** microbiota reconstruction **of** diseased soil is unknown. In this  
29 study, pineapple-banana rotation combined with biofertilizer application was used to  
30 suppress banana Fusarium wilt disease, and the effects on both bacterial and fungal  
31 communities were investigated using the MiSeq Illumine sequencing platform. Our  
32 results showed that pineapple-banana rotation significantly reduced Fusarium wilt  
33 disease incidence and the application of biofertilizer caused additional suppression.  
34 Bacterial and fungal communities thrived using rotation **combined with** biofertilizer  
35 application: taxonomic and phylogenetic  $\alpha$ -diversity **of** both bacteria and fungi  
36 increased along with disease suppression. Between the two strategies, biofertilizer  
37 application **predominantly affected** both bacterial and fungal community composition  
38 **compared to rotation. *Burkholderia* genus may have been attributed to the general wilt**  
39 **suppression for its change in network structure and high relative importance in linear**  
40 **models.** Our results indicated that pineapple-banana rotation combined with  
41 biofertilizer application has strong potential for the sustainable management of banana  
42 Fusarium wilt disease.

43

44 **Keywords:** Banana Fusarium wilt; Pineapple-banana rotation; Biofertilizer; Disease  
45 suppression; Microbiome structure

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## 49 **1 Introduction**

50 Banana Fusarium wilt disease caused by *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* (FOC)  
51 race 4 forms a major constraint on the yield and quality of banana production (Ploetz,  
52 2015; Butler, 2013). Multiple studies have revealed that individual measures, such as  
53 fumigation (Duniway, 2003; Liu et al., 2016), chemical fungicides (Nel et al., 2007),  
54 crop rotation (Zhang et al., 2013b), and bio-control (Wang et al., 2013) have  
55 particular effects on reducing the incidence of soil-borne **diseases** by disrupting soil  
56 microbial community membership and structure. Traditionally, fumigation, chemical  
57 fungicides, or crop rotation is used in fields with high incidence rates, and bio-control  
58 is used in low- or new-incidence fields because of its apparent mild effect (Shen et al.,  
59 2018). However, single measures often have limited effectiveness, and a few studies  
60 regarding soil-borne disease suppression **focused** on using multiple strategies to  
61 improve control efficiency. **Like** Shen et al. (2018) reported that biofertilizer  
62 application after fumigation with lime and ammonium bicarbonate was an effective  
63 strategy **to control banana Fusarium wilt disease**. Thus, **while** many measures can  
64 individually slow down the spread of Fusarium wilt disease (Pda et al., 2017), control  
65 effects can be accelerated and amplified by using more than one agricultural practice.

66 **Among the management strategies**, chemical pesticides are optimally effective  
67 against soil-borne plant pathogens, **but this strategy is environmentally hazardous, and**  
68 **not only causes soil and water pollution but also induces** the emergence of drug-  
69 resistant strains (Le et al., 2016). Biological control using beneficial soil  
70 microorganisms such as *Bacillus* and *Trichoderma* against soil-borne pathogens is  
71 considered **as** a sustainable alternative to chemical pesticides (Alabouvette et al., 2009;  
72 Fravel et al., 2003; Qiu et al., 2012). Biofertilizers combine the **advantages** of  
73 introducing beneficial microbes **with organic material** that **not only** occupy niches **but**  
74 **also** create additional niches for beneficial indigenous microbes (Cai et al., 2017;

75 Zhang et al., 2013). In our previous study, we developed a biofertilizer containing the  
76 *Bacillus* strain isolated from the rhizosphere of a continuously cropped banana that  
77 promoted plant growth and suppressed the banana *Fusarium* wilt (Shen et al., 2015;  
78 Fu et al., 2016; Fu et al., 2017). Therefore, biofertilizer application is a practicable  
79 and worthy measure for banana *Fusarium* wilt suppression.

80 In addition, crop rotation is also considered a highly efficient and  
81 environmentally friendly alternative method in soil-borne disease control (Krupinsky  
82 et al., 2002). Crop rotation breaks the microflora and chemical characteristics of  
83 continuously mono-cropped soil leading to the control of soil-borne diseases (Christen  
84 and Sieling, 2010; Yin et al., 2010). The mechanisms of soil-borne disease  
85 suppression induced by crop rotation include inhibition of pathogen reproduction  
86 through allelochemical secretion, stimulation of antagonistic microbes against  
87 pathogens, and improvement of rhizosphere microbial community structure by  
88 introducing different carbon compounds into the soil through root exudates or  
89 residues (Robert et al., 2014). In our previous study, besides biofertilizer application,  
90 our work also showed that the banana-pineapple rotation efficiently suppressed the  
91 banana *Fusarium* wilt disease (Wang et al., 2015). However, the combined control  
92 efficiency of the two measures (pineapple-banana rotation plus biofertilizer  
93 application) remains unknown. Thus, there is a great need to explore efficient disease  
94 suppressing-combined approaches for the banana *Fusarium* wilt control and to  
95 progress towards maintaining sustainable worldwide industrial banana development.

96 The occurrence of soil-borne disease is mainly due to the imbalance of soil  
97 microbial communities caused by soil-borne pathogen blooms (Mendes et al., 2014).  
98 Effective soil-borne disease suppression management strategies must demonstrate  
99 significant changes in the soil microbial community in addition to pathogen  
100 minimization (Cha et al., 2016; Chaparro et al., 2012; Gerbore et al., 2014; Mazzola

101 and Freilich, 2017). Our previous reports proved the effectiveness of microbial agents  
102 for biocontrol by changing the structure of soil microbial communities (Fu et al., 2017;  
103 Shen et al., 2015). We also investigated the influences of quarterly rotation (pineapple)  
104 on *Fusarium* population density and soil microbial community structure while  
105 attempting to explore the mechanisms of pineapple-banana rotation on soil borne-  
106 disease suppression (Wang et al., 2015). Our results suggested that fungal community  
107 structure and several genera introduced in the rotation season may have been the most  
108 critical factors in decreasing soil *Fusarium* population.

109 Unlike intercropping, controlling *Fusarium* pathogen accumulation through  
110 effective crop rotation should be maintained for at least two seasons, including  
111 rotation and a subsequent season (Bullock, 1992; Lupwayi et al., 1998). The  
112 pineapple and banana growth cycles in our rotation pattern require long durations  
113 (almost 15 and 10 months, respectively, in Hainan Province, China). Thus, the soil  
114 microbial community structure of the original season is very important in evaluating  
115 rotation validity. Furthermore, how the soil microbial community structure changes  
116 using the combined control efficiencies of the two measures (pineapple-banana  
117 rotation and biofertilizer application) remains unknown.

118 We hypothesized that *Fusarium* wilt can be effectively controlled in high-  
119 disease incidence fields by pineapple-banana rotation and that the control efficiency  
120 can be improved by adding biocontrol to the rotation. In addition, this scheme will  
121 concurrently change the soil microbial community membership and structure.  
122 Therefore, based on our previous research, we conducted field experiments to  
123 investigate the effects of pineapple-banana rotation combined with biofertilizer on  
124 next season banana *Fusarium* wilt disease suppression and soil microbial communities.  
125 Our objectives were to 1) determine the direct effects of pineapple-banana rotation  
126 alone and pineapple-banana rotation combined with biofertilizer application to control

127 banana Fusarium wilt disease; 2) explore the characteristics of the soil microbial  
128 communities prompted by crop rotation and biocontrol strategies after banana harvest  
129 using the MiSeq platform, and 3) evaluate the probable disease suppression  
130 mechanisms caused by rotation and biocontrol strategy.

## 131 **2 Materials and Methods**

### 132 **2.1 Field experimental design**

133 The field experiment **was set up at the site of** Hainan Wanzhong Industrial Co., Ltd.,  
134 China, a company that specialized in banana planting during December 2011 to June  
135 2014. The field soil had a chemical background of pH 5.12, soil organic matter (SOM)  
136  $5.57 \text{ g kg}^{-1}$ ,  $\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$   $7.39 \text{ mg kg}^{-1}$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-\text{-N}$   $6.68 \text{ mg kg}^{-1}$ , available P  $56.9 \text{ mg kg}^{-1}$  and  
137 available K  $176.4 \text{ mg kg}^{-1}$ . The organic fertilizer (OF) **used in our study** was supplied  
138 by Lianye Biofertilizer Engineering Center, Ltd., Jiangsu, China, **which was the first**  
139 **fermentation of amino acid fertilizer and pig manure with a 2:3 weight ratio,**  
140 **respectively.** The biofertilizer (BIO) was a **secondary fermentation** based on OF  
141 according to the solid fermentation method (Wang et al., 2013). The research was  
142 carried out in a field in which a serious Fusarium wilt disease incidence ( $> 50\%$ ) was  
143 observed after continuous banana cropping for 6 years. Nine replicates **were set up** in  
144 each treatment with a randomized complete block design, and the area of each block  
145 was  $300 \text{ m}^2$ . Banana cultivar *Musa acuminata AAA Cavendish cv. Brazil* and the  
146 pineapple cultivar Golden pineapple were used in the field experiment. Three  
147 treatments were assigned: (1) banana continuously cropped for two years with  
148 common organic fertilizer **application** (BOF); (2) banana planted after an eighteen-  
149 month pineapple rotation with common organic fertilizer **application** in the banana  
150 season (POF); and (3) banana planted after an eighteen-month pineapple rotation  
151 treatment with biofertilizer **application** (PBIO). In the rotation system, pineapple and

152 banana were planted at **the** densities of 45000 and 2,400 seedlings ha<sup>-1</sup>, respectively.  
153 All organic fertilizer was applied to the soil at once as base fertilizer before banana  
154 planting. **Other** measures were consistent with common banana production.

## 155 **2.2 Banana Fusarium wilt disease incidence statistics**

156 Old leaves yellowing, stem crack and new leaves diminishing were the three typical  
157 wilt symptoms of banana Fusarium wilt disease. Disease incidence was calculated  
158 based on the appearance of all three symptoms weekly since **the** first sick banana  
159 **plant** appeared. Finally, banana wilt disease incidence was determined **at** the harvest  
160 time. The percentage of sick plants among the total banana plants was calculated as  
161 the Fusarium wilt disease incidence.

## 162 **2.3 Soil sample collection and DNA extraction**

163 During the harvest time of last banana **planting** season, **five** healthy plants were  
164 randomly picked in each biological replicate plot for **soil sampling**. Soil samples were  
165 collected from four random sites **around the banana plant at 10 cm distance, and a soil**  
166 **column was picked out at the** depth of 20 cm using a soil borer **at** each sampling site.  
167 All **five** soil columns from each biological replicate **plot** were mixed for DNA  
168 extraction. All mixed samples were placed in cold storage and transported to the  
169 laboratory. After **passing soil through** a 2-mm sieve, total soil DNA was extracted  
170 using Clean Soil DNA Isolation Kits (MoBio Laboratories Inc., Carlsbad, USA) from  
171 fine-grained soil. After **the** determination of DNA concentration and quality using  
172 NanoDrop 2000 (Thermo Scientific, USA), soil DNA **was** diluted to a concentration  
173 of 20 ng µl<sup>-1</sup> for PCR amplification.

## 174 **2.4 Polymerase chain reaction amplification and Illumina Miseq sequencing**

175 Primers F520 (5'-AYTGGGYDTAAAGNG-3') and R802 (5'-  
176 TACNVGGGTATCTAATCC-3') were chosen to amplify the V4 regions of 16 S

177 rRNA gene (Claesson et al., 2009). Primers ITS (5'-GGA AGT AAA AGT CGT  
178 AAC AAG G-3') and ITS (5'-TCC TCC GCT TAT TGA TAT GC-3') were chosen  
179 for amplification of the fungal ITS region (Schoch et al., 2012).

180 PCR reactions for each sample were performed according to the established  
181 protocols of Xiong et al. (2016). A total of 27 cycles were performed to amplify the  
182 templates. After purification, PCR products were diluted to a concentration of 10 ng  
183  $\mu\text{l}^{-1}$ . Fungal and bacterial PCR products sequencing were performed on the Illumina  
184 MiSeq platform of Personal Biological Co., Ltd (Shanghai, China).

## 185 **2.5 Bioinformatic analysis**

186 Raw sequences were separated based on the unique 6-bp barcode and sheared of the  
187 adaptor and primer using QIIME (Caporaso et al., 2010). Forward and reverse  
188 sequences were merged after the removal of low-quality sequences. Then, the merged  
189 sequences were processed to build the operational taxonomic unit (OTU) at an  
190 identity level of 97% according to the UPARSE pipeline. Next, representative  
191 sequences of each OTU were classified in the RDP and UNITE databases for bacteria  
192 and fungi, respectively (Edgar, 2013; Wang et al., 2007). All raw sequences were  
193 deposited in NCBI under the accession number SRP234066.

194 To compare the relative levels of OTU diversity across all samples, a rarefaction  
195 curve was formed using Mothur software (Schloss et al., 2009). The fungal and  
196 bacterial diversity was estimated using phylogenetic diversity (PD) indices and Chao1  
197 richness, which were also calculated based on neighbor-joining phylogenetic trees  
198 generated using Mothur pipeline (Faith, 1992).

199 To compare bacterial and fungal community structures among all soil samples,  
200 principal coordinate analysis (PCoA) was set up based on the unweighted UniFrac  
201 metric matrix (Lozupone et al., 2005). Multiple regression tree (MRT), based on



202 Bray-Curtis distance metric, was carried out to evaluate the effects of rotation and  
203 fertilizer type on the whole soil bacterial and fungal community by using vegan and  
204 MVPART wrap package in R (version 3.2.0). In addition, to exclude the influence of  
205 low abundance species, only the OTUs with the average relative abundance of equal  
206 or greater than 0.1% in each sample were retained (defined as retained OTUs).

## 207 **2.6 Network analyses**

208 Based on retained OTUs, interaction networks between OTUs were constructed using  
209 the phylogenetic Molecular Ecological Network (pMEN) method according to Zhou  
210 et al. (2011) and Deng et al. (2012). All analyses were performed using the Molecular  
211 Ecological Network Analyses Pipeline (MENA). Cytoscape 2.8.2 software was used  
212 to visualize the network.

## 213 **2.7 Statistical analysis**

214 Statistical difference analysis among three treatments was carried out using SPSS  
215 20.0 and R software. Pearson correlations among disease incidence, different Phylum  
216 and *Fusarium*-relative abundance were analyzed in R. Linear models analysis was  
217 performed using R after stepwise model selection considering Akaike information  
218 criteria.

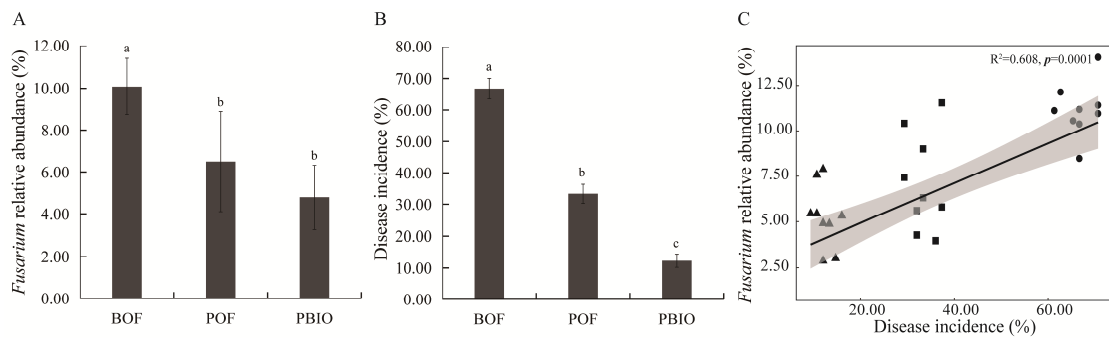
## 219 **3 Results**

### 220 **3.1 Disease incidence and relative abundance of *Fusarium***

221 Pineapple rotation and biofertilizer application effectively reduced the *Fusarium* wilt  
222 disease incidence and the relative abundance of *Fusarium* in the next season's banana  
223 plantation (Fig. 1A and B). The incidence of banana *Fusarium* wilt in the POF and  
224 PBIO treatments was 33.3% and 12.3%, respectively, which was significantly lower  
225 than that in the BOF treatment (66.8%). PBIO treatment of rotation and biofertilizer

226 application showed the lowest disease incidence with a 63.1% decrease compared to  
 227 POF (Fig. 1B and Table S1). The relative abundance of *Fusarium* showed the same  
 228 tendency with disease incidence, so the relative abundance of *Fusarium* and disease  
 229 incidence were significantly correlated as revealed by MiSeq sequencing data (Fig.  
 230 1C).

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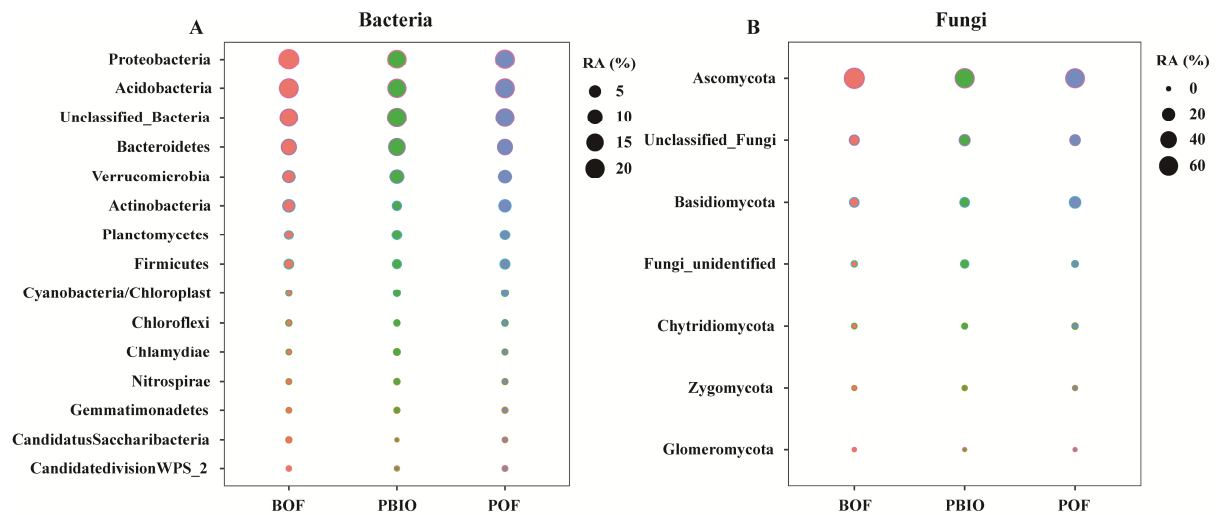
233 **Figure 1. Relative abundance of *Fusarium* (A), Fusarium wilt disease incidence (B) and**  
 234 **Pearson correlations between Fusarium wilt disease incidence and *Fusarium* relative**  
 235 **abundance (C).** BOF = banana continuously cropped with OF application; POF = banana-  
 236 pineapple rotation with OF application in the banana season; and PBIO = banana-pineapple  
 237 rotation with BIO application in the banana season. Bars above the histogram represent  
 238 standard errors and different letters indicate significant differences ( $p < 0.05$ ) according to  
 239 multivariate variance analysis and multiple comparison results.

### 240 3.2 General analyses of the high-throughput sequencing data

241 After quality control, 908,506 *16S rRNA* and 1,950,262 ITS sequences were retained  
 242 and based on 97% similarity, a total of 8,346 *16S* and 5,647 ITS operational  
 243 taxonomic units (OTUs) were obtained. For bacteria, Acidobacteria, Actinobacteria,  
 244 Bacteroidetes, Firmicutes, Proteobacteria and Verrucomicrobia were the most  
 245 abundant phyla with >1% relative abundances. For fungi, Ascomycota, followed by  
 246 Basidiomycota, Chytridiomycota, Zycomycota, and Glomeromycota were the  
 247 abundant phyla (Fig. 2). ANOVA showed that Chlamydiae, Cyanbacteria/chloroplast,

248 Gemmatimonadetes, Nitrospirae, Planctomycetes, and Verrucomicrobia abundances  
 249 were significantly higher in the PBIO and POF treatment samples than those in the  
 250 BOF treatment, and the relative abundance of Ascomycota was lower in the PBIO  
 251 treatment (Duncan test,  $p < 0.05$ ).

252



253

254 **Figure 2. Bubble chart of bacterial (A) and fungal (B) phyla in BOF, POF and PBIO**  
 255 **treatments.** BOF = banana continuously cropped with OF application; POF = banana-  
 256 pineapple rotation with OF application in the banana season; and PBIO = banana-pineapple  
 257 rotation with BIO application in the banana season; Values represent the average abundance  
 258 across the nine replicate libraries for soil samples collected from each treatment.

259

### 260 3.3 Effect of pineapple rotation and biofertilizer application on soil microbial 261 diversity and community structure

262 Rarefaction analyses, Chao1 and Faith's PD were performed to characterize  $\alpha$ -  
 263 diversity. Rarefaction analyses showed that the number of OTUs tended to smooth at  
 264 14,900 selected bacterial sequences and 34,943 fungal sequences. Compared to BOF  
 265 treatment, more OTUs were observed in POF and PBIO treatments, both for bacteria  
 266 and fungi, and the PBIO treatment exhibited the highest value of all treatments (Table

267 **1, Fig. S1).** Compared to BOF treatment, the pineapple-banana rotation treatments,  
 268 POF and PBIO, increased both taxonomic and phylogenetic  $\alpha$ -diversity of both  
 269 bacteria and fungi. In addition, PBIO treatment showed the highest Chao1 richness  
 270 and Faith's PD values (**Table 1**).

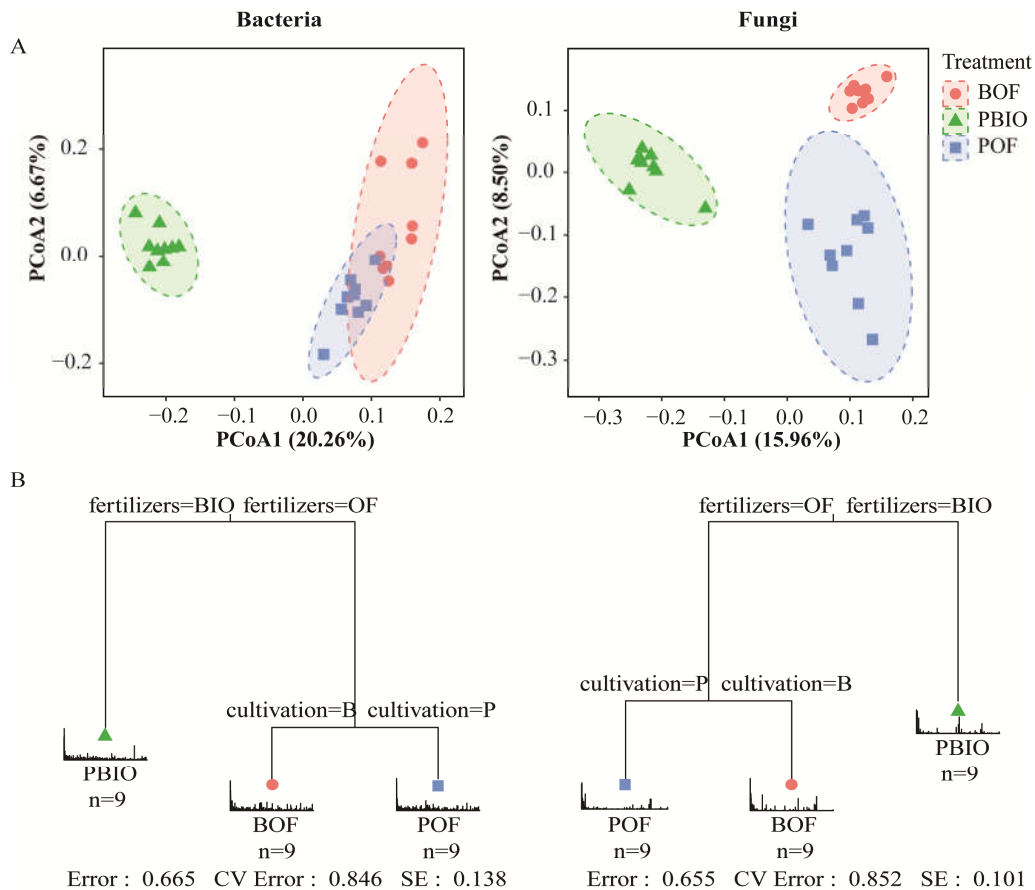
271 **Table 1.** Bacterial and fungal  $\alpha$ -diversity indexes of the three treatments. BOF = banana  
 272 continuously cropped with OF application; POF = banana-pineapple rotation with OF  
 273 application in the banana season; PBIO = banana-pineapple rotation with BIO application in  
 274 the banana season; Values represent the average index of nine replicates. Means followed by  
 275 different letters for a given factor are significantly different ( $p < 0.05$ ; Duncan test).

	Treatment	Numbers of Otus	Chao1	Faith's PD
Bacteria	BOF	2606 ± 71b	3906.81 ± 275.21 b	48.47 ± 1.51 b
	POF	2963 ± 613 a	4444.28 ± 189.98 a	51.61 ± 0.87 a
	PBIO	3210 ± 108 a	4751.95 ± 149.49 a	52.10 ± 1.11 a
Fungi	BOF	1163 ± 64 b	1751.71 ± 74.85 a	114.88 ± 4.78 b
	POF	1277 ± 708 ab	1705.78 ± 126.73 a	120.24 ± 2.12 b
	PBIO	1496 ± 980 a	2096.32 ± 323.60 a	127.31 ± 7.91 a

276

277 We evaluated microbial community structure by using PCoA based on a UniFrac  
 278 unweighted distance matrix to analyze differences in community composition of three  
 279 treatments. Fungal PCoA showed three distinct groups representing samples taken  
 280 from three treatments; however, bacterial PCoA showed only two groups.  
 281 Unweighted UniFrac distances showed that PBIO treatment was separate from BOF  
 282 and POF treatments along the first component (PCoA1) both in bacteria and fungi.  
 283 POF treatment was separated from BOF treatment along the second component in  
 284 fungi, whereas in bacteria, POF and BOF treatments were not separate along the  
 285 second component (**Fig. 3A**).

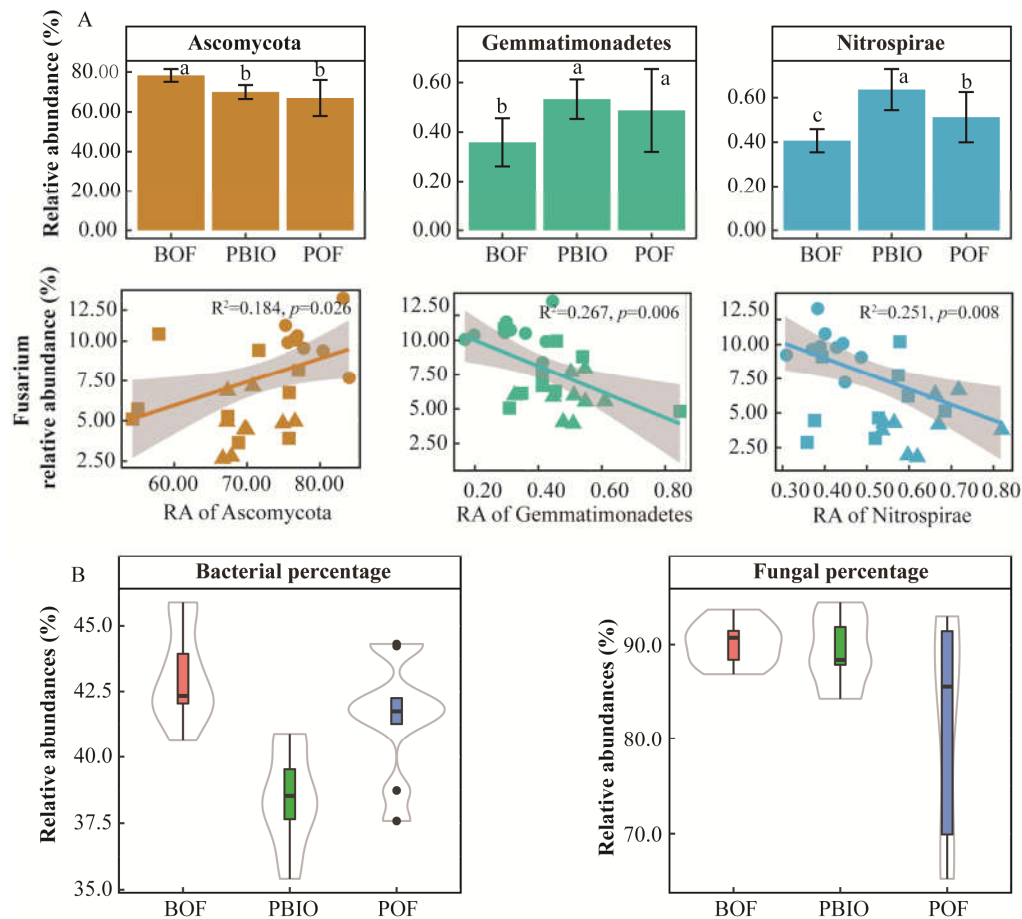
286 Furthermore, MRT results indicated that biofertilizer application had the largest  
 287 deterministic influence on the composition of both bacterial and fungal communities,  
 288 and cultivation was secondarily important. Driven by fertilization, PBIO treatment  
 289 was separated from BOF and POF treatments, and then BOF and POF treatments  
 290 were driven by cultivation (**Fig. 3B**).



291 **Figure 3. (A) UniFrac-unweighted principal coordinate analysis of fungal and bacterial**  
 292 **community structures in different treatments. (B) Multiple regression tree (MRT)**  
 293 **analysis for the bacterial and fungal communities showed the variables of fertilization**  
 294 **and cultivation in each branch. BOF = banana continuously cropped with OF application;**  
 295 **POF = banana-pineapple rotation with OF application in the banana season; PBIO = banana-**  
 296 **pineapple rotation with BIO application in the banana season.**

298 **3.4 Effect of pineapple rotation and biofertilizer application on soil fungal and**  
 299 **bacterial community composition**

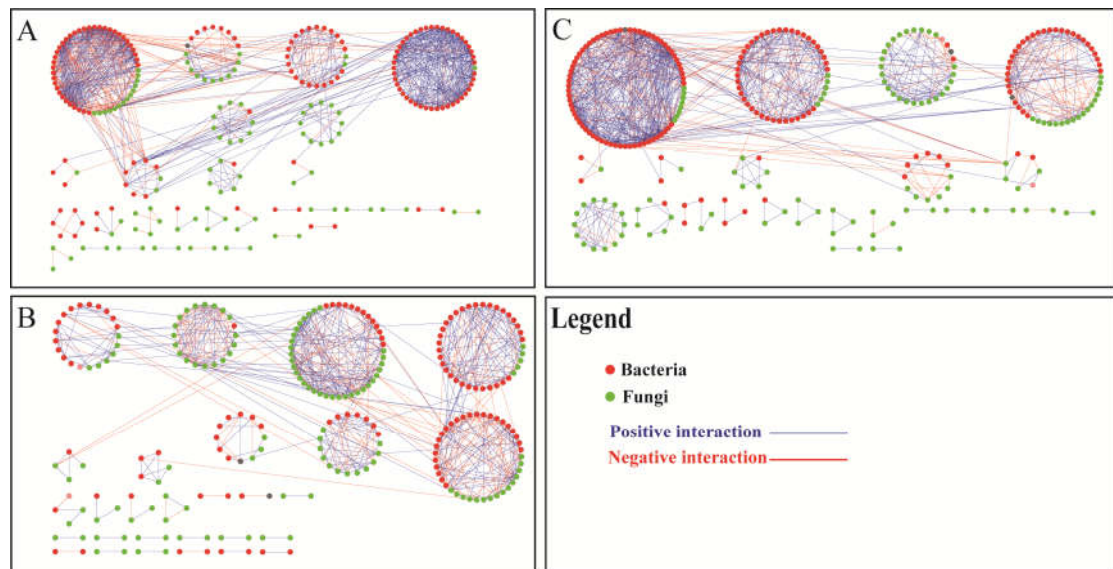
300 The results of the phyla correlation with *Fusarium* abundance showed that seven  
 301 bacterial phyla and three fungal phyla were significantly correlated with pathogen  
 302 abundance (Tables S3 and S4). Moreover, the correlation of fungi was significantly  
 303 higher with *Fusarium* abundance compared to bacteria based on the percentage of  
 304 *Fusarium*-related phyla (Fig. 4B).



305  
 306 **Figure 4. Relative abundance of key phyla and linear regression relationship between**  
 307 **key phyla and disease incidence (A). Percentage of *Fusarium* related bacterial and**  
 308 **fungal phyla in all treatments (B). BOF = banana continuously cropped with OF application;**  
 309 **POF = banana-pineapple rotation with OF application in the banana season; PBIO = banana-**  
 310 **pineapple rotation with BIO application in the banana season. Different letters above the bars**  
 311 **indicate a significant difference at the 0.05 probability level according to the Duncan test.**

### 312 3.5 Key topological properties of the networks

313 We built networks to show interactions among genera in **different treatments using**  
 314 **OTUs with a relative abundance greater than 0.1%**. A total of 301 OTUs were  
 315 selected from the BOF treatment (122 bacterial and 179 fungal), 323 OTUs were  
 316 selected from the PBIO treatment (152 bacterial and 171 fungal), and 324 OTUs were  
 317 selected from the POF treatment (140 bacterial and 184 fungal). Random matrix  
 318 theory was used to build the networks. As shown in **Fig. 5**, each node represents an  
 319 OTU, each link shows a significant correlation between two OTUs, red and green  
 320 represent bacterial and fungal OTUs, respectively, and blue and red represent positive  
 321 and negative correlations, respectively.



322  
 323 **Figure 5. Network plots of bacterial and fungal communities in soil BOF (A), PBIO (B)**  
 324 **and POF(C).** BOF = banana continuously cropped with OF **application**; POF = banana-  
 325 pineapple rotation with OF **application** in the banana season; PBIO = banana-pineapple  
 326 rotation with BIO **application** in the banana season; Red nodes indicate bacteria; Green nodes  
 327 indicate fungi; red lines between nodes (links) indicate negative interaction; and blue lines  
 328 indicate positive interaction.

329

330 Networks with 286 (143 bacterial and 98 fungal), 245 (122 bacterial and 123  
 331 fungal), and 241 (163 bacterial and 123 fungal) nodes were selected from the BOF,

332 PBIO, and POF treatments, respectively. The F/B ratios that represent the ratio of  
 333 fungal to bacterial nodes were 0.69, 1.01, and 0.75 in the BOF, PBIO, and POF  
 334 treatments, respectively. These results suggest more active fungal OTUs in the PBIO  
 335 treatment followed by the POF and BOF treatments.

336 The structure index network from different treatments showed 24, 28, and 30  
 337 modules in the BOF, PBIO, and POF treatments, respectively (**Table 2**).

338 **Table 2.** Topological properties of the empirical and associated random pMENs of microbial  
 339 communities under BOF, POF and PBIO. BOF = banana continuously cropped with OF  
 340 application; POF = banana-pineapple rotation with OF application in the banana season;  
 341 PBIO = banana-pineapple rotation with BIO application in the banana season; Avg K =  
 342 average connectivity; Avg CC = average clustering coefficient; and GD = average path  
 343 distance.

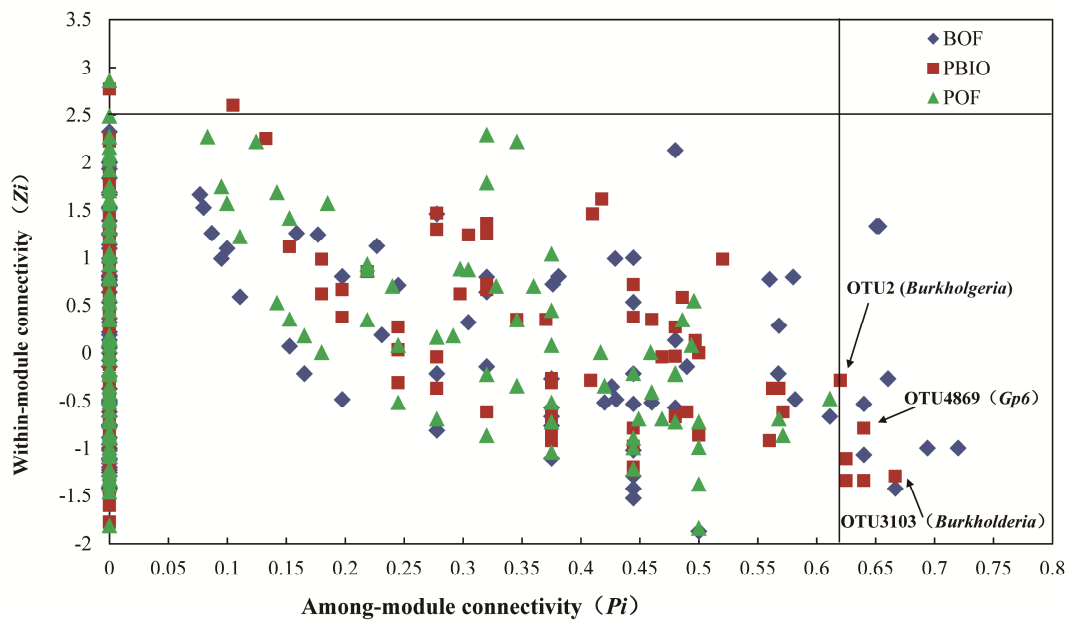
Treatment	Network size	R <sup>2</sup>	Empirical networks				Random networks		
			AvgK	AvgCC	GD	Modularity	AvgCC	GD	Modularity
BOF	241	0.793	6.71	0.366	2.921	0.62 (30)	0.073	2.96	0.322
POF	286	0.796	5.64	0.412	3.739	0.64 (24)	0.041	3.34	0.385
PBIO	245	0.739	5.16	0.397	3.642	0.72 (28)	0.033	3.28	0.407

344

345 The threshold value  $Z_i$  measures the connected degree between two nodes in the  
 346 same module, and  $P_i$  measures the connected degree between two nodes from  
 347 different modules. According to the  $Z_i$  and  $P_i$  values found in our study, all nodes  
 348 were divided into four categories (**Fig. 6**). Three nodes, two from the PBIO network  
 349 and one from the POF network, were categorized as generalists (module hubs) with  
 350 intense connectivity to many nodes in the same modules. However, there was no  
 351 module hub found in the BOF network. Fourteen nodes were categorized as  
 352 connectors (generalists) with high connectivity to several modules, eight from the



353 BOF network and six from the PBIO network. Interestingly, module hubs (generalists)  
 354 were only found in the pineapple-banana treatments (PBIO and POF), and connectors  
 355 (generalists) and module hubs (generalists) were found at the same time only in the  
 356 pineapple-banana with the biofertilizer applied treatment (PBIO). Annotation  
 357 information from all generalists showed that bacterial OTU2 and OTU3013 belonging  
 358 to *Burkholderia* were generalists in the PBIO network but were absent in the POF and  
 359 BOF networks. Additionally, another generalist OTU4869, from the PBIO network  
 360 was identified as *Gp6* in Acidobacteria.



361  
 362 **Figure 6.  $Z_i$ - $P_i$  plot showing the distribution of OTUs based on their topological roles.**  
 363 Each symbol represents an OTU in different treatment. BOF = banana continuously cropped  
 364 with OF application; POF = banana-pineapple rotation with OF application in the banana  
 365 season; PBIO = banana-pineapple rotation with BIO application in the banana season; The  
 366 threshold values of  $Z_i$  and  $P_i$  for categorizing OTUs were 2.5 and 0.62, respectively, as  
 367 proposed by Guimera and Amaral (2005) and simplified by Olesen et al. (2007).

368 **3.6 Relationship between microbial indicators and incidence of banana Fusarium**  
 369 **wilt disease**

370 Bacterial and fungal structure (unweighted PCoA1), richness (Chao1), and Faith's PD;  
 371 Ascomycota, Gemmatimonadetes, and Nitrospirae phyla relative abundances; and  
 372 *Fusarium*, *Burkholderia*, and *Bacillus* genus relative abundances were selected in the  
 373 linear model and explored for the best contribution factor of disease incidence (**Table**  
 374 **3**).

375 **Table 3** Linear models (LM) for the relationships of microbial indicators with disease  
 376 incidence and the relative importance of each indicator. *p* was the result from ANOVAs. The  
 377 bold values represent *p* values lower than 0.05 from the ANOVA results.

	df	<i>F</i>	<i>p</i>	Relative Importance
Bac-PCoA1	<b>1</b>	<b>304.09</b>	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>	<b>19.32%</b>
Fun-PCoA1	1	1.11	0.31	16.32%
Bac-Chao1	1	4.10	0.062	9.60%
Fun-Chao1	1	1.11	0.309	4.19%
Bac-Faith's PD	1	1.59	0.227	6.80%
Fun-Faith's PD	1	1.64	0.221	6.05%
Ascomycota	1	2.11	0.168	1.93%
<i>Fusarium</i> Relative abundance	1	1.01	0.332	8.23%
Nitrospirae	1	0.88	0.363	7.29%
Gemmatimonadetes	1	0.04	0.852	2.61%
<i>Burkholderia</i>	1	0.76	0.399	10.17%
<i>Bacillus</i>	1	0.33	0.574	3.29%
Residuals	14			

**Model summary:  $R^2=0.9417$ , AIC =123.26,  $p < 0.0001$**   
*Proportion of variance explained by model: 95.79%*

378

379 Importantly, bacterial structure ( $F = 304.09$ ,  $p < 0.0001$ , relative importance =  
 380 19.32%), fungal structure ( $F = 1.11$ ,  $p < 0.31$ , relative importance = 16.32%), and  
 381 *Burkholderia* relative abundance ( $F = 0.76$ ,  $p < 0.399$ , relative importance = 10.17%)  
 382 **contributed most in constraining** disease incidence (with a relative importance greater  
 383 than 10%).

384 In addition, based on linear regression analyses between disease incidence and  
385 selected microbial indicators, we found that bacterial structure ( $F = 304.09$ ,  $p <$   
386  $0.0001$ , relative importance = 19.32%) had a significant relationship with disease  
387 incidence.

#### 388 **4 Discussion**

389 In our previous research, the effectiveness of pineapple-banana rotation and  
390 biofertilizer application was proven in the control of banana Fusarium wilt disease  
391 (Wang et al., 2015; Fu et al., 2017). Soil microbial community change is an important  
392 indicator of exploring the mechanisms behind these two control measures. In this  
393 study, disease incidence and soil microbial community characteristics during the  
394 banana-growing season were measured to evaluate the control effect and potential  
395 impact of combined use of rotation and biofertilizer application.

396 Our previous results indicated that the pineapple-banana rotation treatments  
397 significantly reduced the Fusarium wilt disease incidence when compared with  
398 banana monoculture. Moreover, the application of biofertilizer enhances this  
399 suppression ability. Similar to our results, Shen et al. (2018) reported that bio-  
400 fertilizer application after fumigation with lime and ammonium bicarbonate revealed  
401 higher effectiveness in controlling banana Fusarium wilt disease compared to bio-  
402 fertilizer application or fumigation only. Although many control measures can slow  
403 down the spread of Fusarium wilt disease, more effective control can be achieved by  
404 the combined use of more than one measure (Pda et al., 2017). It was consistent with  
405 this paper.

406 In this study, Chao1 and Faith's PD were significantly higher in the combined  
407 rotation and biofertilizer treatment (PBIO) compared to the other two treatments  
408 (BOF and POF). Previous studies have shown a positive correlation between disease

409 **suppression and bacterial but not fungal diversity** (Bonanomi et al., 2010; Fu et al.,  
410 2017). Inconsistent with these results, pineapple-banana rotation and biofertilizer  
411 treatment (PBIO) harbored a significantly higher fungal richness and diversity than  
412 the other two treatments (BOF and POF). **This agrees with some other previous**  
413 **studies that observed** the importance of fungal diversity in the suppressive capacity of  
414 vanilla soils and potato cropping systems (Lu et al., 2013; Xiong et al., 2017). **We**  
415 **also observed that soil pH was increased in the rotation and biofertilizer treatment**  
416 **(Table S2)**. Many previous studies have shown that **microbial diversity has been seen**  
417 **to increase with higher soil pH values** (Liu et al., 2014; Shen et al., 2013). Therefore,  
418 **the high bacterial and fungal diversity observed in PBIO treatment may be attributed**  
419 **to the high soil pH.**

420 Both PCoA ordinations and MRT results revealed significant differences in  
421 microbial community structure after rotation and biofertilizer applications. This is  
422 supported by previous studies stating that rotation (Helena et al., 2016; Hartmann et  
423 al., 2015) and biofertilizer application (Sun et al., 2015) altered the soil microbial  
424 community composition. MRT analysis also revealed fertilization effects on microbial  
425 community composition. **These results are similar to previous results where**  
426 **biofertilizer application was the dominant factor in determining microbial community**  
427 **composition rather than temporal variability** (Fu et al., 2017), suggesting a powerful  
428 **illustration of the necessity of biofertilizer application in pineapple-banana rotation**  
429 **system.**

430 Phylum-level results show that rotation and biofertilizer application decreased  
431 the relative abundance of Ascomycota, and increased the relative abundance of  
432 Chlamydiae, Gemmatimonnetes, Nitrospira, Planctomycetes, and Verrucomicrobia,  
433 which were all **reported to be** associated with disease suppression in previous reports  
434 (Trivedi et al., 2017; Shen et al., 2018).

435 It is worth noting that our BIO was secondary fermentation with *Bacillus* added,  
436 while the *Bacillus* genus was not enriched in the BIO treatment soil. Moreover, the  
437 microbial structure appeared to be the most constrained factor in disease incidence in  
438 linear models between microbial indicators and the incidence of banana *Fusarium* wilt  
439 disease. Xiong et al (2017) suggested that microbial species introduced by  
440 biofertilizer application induced wilt suppression by microbiome manipulation rather  
441 than pathogen suppression directly. Thus, alteration of the soil microbiome may cause  
442 a greater response than the added *Bacillus* in the PBIO treatment in our case.

443 Compared with bacteria, a higher percentage of *Fusarium*-related fungi genera  
444 were observed in all treatments. Even though more kinds of bacteria are related to  
445 *Fusarium*, a higher percentage of fungi showed relevance compared to bacteria. These  
446 results agree with the findings of Mona et al. (2014) and Cai et al. (2017), who  
447 reported that fungal communities have a more crucial response to soil factor changes  
448 than bacterial communities. It is worth noting that fungal communities were more  
449 dissimilar between the pineapple-banana rotation and maize-banana rotation  
450 treatments than bacteria in our previous study (Wang et al., 2015). Thus, the higher  
451 *Fusarium*-relevance observed in the fungal community in both the pineapple and  
452 banana seasons further reinforced the importance of fungal community changes in our  
453 case.

454 Several researchers have used microbial molecular ecological networks to study  
455 complex microbial ecological systems in suppressed soils, including corn-potato  
456 rotations (Lu et al., 2013) and vanilla (Xiong et al., 2017). In our study, the microbial  
457 molecular ecological networks revealed distinct differences between the microbial  
458 communities associated with the three treatments. More fungal OTUs were selected in  
459 the PBIO treatment samples, followed by the POF and BOF treatments, based on the  
460 F/B ratio. Although the OTUs selected to build the network were only a part of the

461 entire system, there is no doubt that these OTUs were very important for soil function  
462 (Coyte et al., 2015). Therefore, we conclude that a large number of fungal OTUs  
463 present in the system may have led to changes in soil function. PBIO, POF, and BOF  
464 soils harbored modules with modularity values of 0.718, 0.642, and 0.616,  
465 respectively, in this study. Modularity represents how well the network was organized  
466 (Zhou et al., 2011). Thus, the PBIO network, which possessed high modularity, had  
467 more connections between nodes in the same modules, followed by the POF and BOF  
468 networks. The altered networks compared to POF and BOF networks may have  
469 partially contributed latent attributes to higher disease suppression in PBIO treatment.  
470 Furthermore, no module hubs (generalists) were present in the BOF network, whereas  
471 all three module hubs were found in the pineapple-banana rotation network, as  
472 indicated by the *Zi-Pi* relationship. In all three networks, connectors (generalists) and  
473 module hubs (generalists) were found at the same time only in the PBIO treatment.  
474 Generalists typically only occupy a small fraction of a community; however, the  
475 presence of those generalists is very important (Zhou et al., 2011; Jens et al., 2011).  
476 These nodes could have enhanced connectors within or among modules. If the  
477 network is poorly connected or not connected at all, the community is predicted to be  
478 disordered, and fluxes of energy, material, and information would not be efficient (Lu  
479 et al., 2013). Therefore, in our case, these generalists found in the PBIO treatment  
480 suggest that the microbial community structure of PBIO treatment was more orderly  
481 and powerful than the other two treatments.

482 Annotation information from all generalists found in our study shows that  
483 bacterial OTU2 and OTU3013 belong to *Burkholderia*, which were generalists in the  
484 PBIO but not in POF and BOF networks. The linear model analysis also shows that  
485 *Burkholderia* relative abundance constrained disease incidence with a higher relative  
486 importance factor of 10.17%. Correspondingly, a high abundance of *Burkholderia* and

487 a high percentage of antagonistic *Burkholderia* were found during the pineapple  
488 season in our previous report (Wang et al., 2015). *Burkholderia* is a versatile  
489 organism due to its powerful ability to occupy ecological niches and a variety of  
490 functions, including biological control and plant growth promotion in agriculture  
491 (Coenye and Vandamme, 2003). Thus, even though the relative abundance of  
492 *Burkholderia* in the P BIO treatment was not that high, its change in network structure  
493 may have been attributed to the general wilt suppression activity, which is the special  
494 function of *Burkholderia*. Additionally, one generalist in the P BIO treatment sample  
495 was identified as *Gp6* in Acidobacteria. Although no Acidobacteria antimicrobial  
496 activities have previously been recorded, several studies have demonstrated that  
497 Acidobacteria is greatly affected by soil pH and that the *Gp6* is positively correlated  
498 with soil pH (Bartram et al., 2014; Jones et al., 2009).

## 499 **5 Conclusions**

500 This study was an expansion of our previous work. The results revealed that  
501 pineapple-banana rotation combined with biofertilizer application during the banana  
502 season effectively reduced the *Fusarium* spp. abundance and banana Fusarium wilt.  
503 Both bacterial and fungal taxonomic and phylogenetic  $\alpha$ -diversity was increased by  
504 rotation and biofertilizer application. Between the two strategies, biofertilizer  
505 application affected both bacterial and fungal community composition more  
506 predominantly compared to rotation. A higher percentage of *Fusarium*-related fungal  
507 phyla was observed compared to bacterial. More specifically, the potentially  
508 beneficial *Burkholderia* genus may attribute to the general wilt suppression activity  
509 for its important role in network structure and its high relative importance in linear  
510 models. Pineapple-banana rotation combined with biofertilizer application has strong  
511 potential for the sustainable management of banana Fusarium wilt disease.

512 **Data availability**

513 All data are available. The sequencing data have been submitted to the NCBI  
514 Sequence Read Archive database (SRP234066).

515 **Author contributions**

516 Rong Li and Beibei Wang designed the research and wrote the manuscript. Beibei  
517 Wang, Yannan Ou and Zongzhuan Shen performed trials and conducted field work.  
518 Beibei Wang and Jinming Yang analyzed the data. Rong Li, Mingze Sun, Lin Fu,  
519 Yunze Ruan, Yan Zhao and Qirong Shen participated in the design of the study,  
520 provided comments and edited the manuscript. All authors read and approved the  
521 final manuscript.

522 **Competing interests**

523 The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial  
524 or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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