



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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24 **Abstract**

25 Crop rotation and bio-organic fertilizer application have historically been employed as
26 efficient management strategies for soil-borne disease suppression through soil
27 microbiome manipulation. However, details of how this occurs, and to what extent the
28 combination of methods affects soil microbiota reconstruction from diseased soils
29 lacks investigation. In this study, pineapple-banana rotation combined with
30 biofertilizer application was used to suppress banana *Fusarium* wilt disease, and
31 effects on both bacterial and fungal communities were investigated using the Miseq
32 Illumine sequencing platform. Our results show that pineapple-banana rotation
33 significantly reduces *Fusarium* wilt disease incidence, and that the application of bio-
34 organic fertilizer causes additional suppression. Bacterial and fungal communities
35 thrive using rotation in combination with bio-organic fertilizer application: taxonomic
36 and phylogenetic α -diversity in both bacteria and fungi increase along with disease
37 suppression. Between the two strategies, bio-organic fertilizer application affects both
38 bacterial and fungal community composition most predominantly, followed by
39 rotation. Large-scale changes in the fungal community composition and special
40 *Burkholderia*-related network functions contribute to the observed soil borne-disease
41 suppression. Our results indicate that pineapple-banana rotation combined with bio-
42 organic fertilizer application has strong potential for the sustainable management of
43 banana *Fusarium* wilt disease.

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

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49 **1 Introduction**

50 Banana *Fusarium* wilt disease, which caused by *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense*
51 *race 4* (FOC) forms a major constraint for yield and quality of banana production
52 (Ploetz, 2015; Butler, 2013). Multiple studies have revealed that individual measures,
53 such as fumigation (Duniway, 2003; Liu et al., 2016), chemical fungicides (Nel et al.,
54 2007), crop rotation (Zhang et al., 2013b), and bio-control (Wang et al., 2013) have
55 particular effects on reducing the incidence of soil borne-disease by disrupting soil
56 microbial community membership and structure. Traditionally, fumigation, chemical
57 fungicides, or crop rotation was used in fields with high incidence rates, and bio-
58 control was used in low- or new-incidence fields because of its apparent mild effect
59 (Shen et al., 2018). However, single measures often have limited effectiveness, and a
60 few studies regarding soil borne-disease suppression have focused on using multiple
61 strategies to improve control efficiency. Shen et al. (2018) reported that biofertilizer
62 application after fumigation with lime and ammonium bicarbonate was an effective
63 strategy in banana *Fusarium* wilt disease control. Thus, although 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 Of all available management strategies, chemical pesticides are optimally
67 effective against soil-borne plant pathogens, but this strategy was not friendly to
68 environment, including pollute soil and water and induce 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 was
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 advantage of
73 introducing beneficial microbes that will occupy niches with the inclusion of organic
74 material that will create additional niches for beneficial indigenous microbes (Cai et



75 al., 2017; Zhang et al., 2013). In our previous study, we investigated a biofertilizer
76 containing a *Bacillus* strain which isolated from rhizosphere of a continuously
77 cropped banana, we investigated its ability to promote banana growth and control
78 *Fusarium* wilt in banana (Shen et al., 2015; Fu et al., 2016; Fu et al., 2017). Therein,
79 we concluded that bio-organic fertilizer application was a practicable and worthy
80 measure for banana *Fusarium* wilt suppression.

81 Besides, crop rotation was also considered as an alternative method in soil-borne
82 disease control for its highly efficient and environmentally friendly (Krupinsky et al.,
83 2002). Crop rotation often breaks the microflora and chemical characteristics of the
84 single continuously cropped soil (Christen and Sieling, 2010; Yin et al., 2010).
85 However, rotation crop have different effects on the soil-borne diseases. The
86 mechanisms of crop rotation control soil-borne disease include inhibiting the
87 reproduction of pathogens through allelochemicals secretion, inducing the
88 antagonistic microbes against the pathogens, and improving rhizosphere microbial
89 community structure by leading different carbon into the soil through root exudates or
90 residues (Robert et al., 2014). In our previous work, banana-pineapple rotation was
91 picked out for its high-efficiency in banana *Fusarium* wilt disease prevention and
92 control, as well as bio-organic fertilizer application (Wang et al., 2015). However, the
93 combined control efficiencies of the two measures (pineapple-banana rotation and
94 bio-organic fertilizer application) remained unknown. Thus, there is a large need for
95 investigation of efficient disease suppression combination approaches to *Fusarium*
96 wilts control in banana, and hence work toward maintaining sustainable worldwide
97 industrial banana development.

98 The occurrence of soil-borne disease is mainly due to the imbalance of soil
99 microbial communities caused by soil-borne pathogen blooms (Mendes et al., 2014).
100 Effective soil-borne disease suppression management strategies must demonstrate



101 significant change on the soil microbial community in addition to FOC minimization
102 (Cha et al., 2016; Chaparro et al., 2012; Gerbore et al., 2014; Mazzola and Freilich,
103 2017). We proved the effectiveness of microbial agents for bio-control by changing
104 the structure of soil microbial communities in previous reports (Fu et al., 2017; Shen
105 et al., 2015). We also investigated the influences of quarterly rotation (pineapple) on
106 FOC population density and soil microbial community structure to attempt to explain
107 the mechanism of pineapple-banana rotation on soil borne-disease suppression (Wang
108 et al., 2015). Our results suggest that fungal community structure and several genera
109 introduced in rotation season may be the most critical factors in soil FOC decrease.

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

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



127 and pineapple-banana rotation combined with biofertilizer application to control
128 banana *Fusarium* wilt disease; 2) explore the characteristic of the soil microbial
129 communities prompted by crop rotation and biocontrol strategies after banana harvest
130 using the MiSeq platform; 3) evaluate the probable disease suppression mechanisms
131 caused by our rotation and bio-control strategy.

132 **2 Materials and Methods**

133 **2.1 Field experimental design**

134 The field experimental site was set in Hainan Wanzhong Industrial Co., Ltd., China, a
135 company that specializes in banana planting. The field soil had a chemical
136 background of pH 5.12, soil organic matter (SOM) 5.57 g kg⁻¹, NH⁴⁺-N 7.39mg kg⁻¹,
137 NO₃-N 6.68 mg kg⁻¹, available P 56.9 mg kg⁻¹a and available K 176.4 mg kg⁻¹. The
138 fertilizer was supplied by Lianye Bio-fertilizer Engineering Center, Ltd., Jiangsu,
139 China, detailed information was as follows: organic fertilizer (OF), first fermentation
140 with a 2:3 weight ratio use amino acid fertilizer and the pig manure; Bio-organic
141 fertilizer (BIO), with a two secondarily fermented based on OF according to the solid
142 fermentation method (Wang et al., 2013). The research was carried out in a field
143 which a serious *Fusarium* wilt disease incidence (>50%) was observed after a
144 continuously banana cropped for more than 6 years. Nine replicates in each treatment
145 were set up with a randomized complete block design, and area of each block was 300
146 m². Three treatments were assigned: (1) banana continuously cropped for two years
147 with common organic fertilizer applied (BOF); (2) banana planted after pineapple
148 rotation with common organic fertilizer applied in banana season (POF); (3) Banana
149 planted after pineapple rotation treatment with bio-organic fertilizer applied (PBIO).
150 In the rotation system, pineapple and banana were planted in density of 45000 and
151 2,400 seedlings ha⁻¹, respectively. All the organic fertilizer was applied to the soil at



152 once as base fertilizer before banana planted; other measures are consistent with
153 common banana production.

154 **2.2 Banana *Fusarium* wilt disease incidence statistics**

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

161 **2.3 Soil sample collection and DNA extraction**

162 During the harvest time of last banana season, 5 healthy plants were randomly picked
163 out in each biological replicate plots for soil samples collection. Soil samples were
164 collected from four random sites at a distance of 10 cm from banana plant, a depth of
165 20 cm soil column were picked out using soil borer in each sampling site. All the 5
166 soil columns from each biological replicate plots were mixed for DNA extraction. All
167 mixed samples were placed in cold storage and transported to the laboratory. After
168 screening used a 2-mm soil sieve, total soil DNA was extracted using Clean Soil
169 DNA Isolation Kits (MoBio Laboratories Inc., Carlsbad, USA) from fine grained soil.
170 After a determination of DNA concentration and quality using NanoDrop 2000
171 (Thermo Scientific, USA), all soil DNA were diluted to a concentration of 20 ng μl^{-1}
172 for PCR amplification.

173 **2.4 Polymerase chain reaction amplification and Illumina Miseq sequencing**

174 Primers F520 (5'-AYTGGGYDTAAAGNG-3') and R802 (5'-
175 TACNVGGGTATCTAATCC-3') were chosen to amplify the V4 regions of 16 S
176 rRNA gene (Claesson et al., 2009). Primers ITS (5'-GGA AGT AAA AGT CGT



177 AAC AAG G-3') and ITS (5'-TCC TCC GCT TAT TGA TAT GC-3') were chosen
178 for amplification of the fungal ITS region (Schoch et al., 2012).

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

184 **2.5 Bioinformatic analysis**

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

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

198 To compare bacterial and fungal community structures among all soil samples,
199 principal coordinate analysis (PCoA) was set up based on the weighted UniFrac
200 metric matrix (Lozupone et al., 2005). Multiple regression tree (MRT), based on
201 Bray-Curtis distance metric, was carry out to evaluate the effects of rotation and



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

206 **2.6 Network analyses**

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

212 **2.7 Statistical analysis**

213 Differences statistical analyses between the three treatments were carried out in SPSS
214 20.0 and R software. Pearson correlations among disease incidence, different Phylum
215 and FOC relative abundance were analysed in R. Linear models were also performed
216 using R after stepwise model selection using Akaike information criteria.

217 **3 Results**

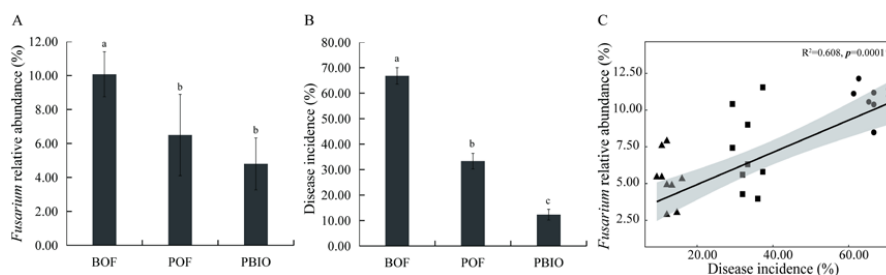
218 **3.1 Disease incidence and relative abundance of *Fusarium***

219 Pineapple rotation and biofertilizer application effectively reduced *Fusarium* wilt
220 disease incidence in the next season's banana plantation (**Fig. 1A**). The incidences of
221 banana *Fusarium* wilt disease in POF and PBIO treatments were 33.3% and 12.3%,
222 respectively, which was significantly lower than that in BOF treatment, which
223 reached up to 66.8%. The treatment, PBIO with rotation and biofertilizer application,
224 showed the lowest disease incidence with a 63.1% decrease compared with POF. The
225 relative abundance of *Fusarium* shows the same tendency as disease incidence, and



226 disease incidence was significantly correlated to relative abundance of *Fusarium*, as
227 revealed by MiSeq sequencing data (Fig. 1C).

228



229

230 **Figure 1. *Fusarium* wilt disease incidence, *Fusarium* relative abundance and Pearson**
231 **correlations between them. (A and B) *Fusarium* wilt disease incidence and *Fusarium***
232 **relative abundance for banana continuously cropped for two years with common organic**
233 **fertilizer applied (BOF), banana planted after Pineapple rotation with common organic**
234 **fertilizer applied in banana season (POF); banana planted after Pineapple rotation treatment**
235 **with Bio-organic fertilizer applied (PBIO). Bars above the histogram represent standard errors**
236 **and different letters indicate significant differences ($p < 0.05$) according to multivariate**
237 **variance analysis and multiple comparison results. (C) Pearson correlations between**
238 ***Fusarium* wilt disease incidence and *Fusarium* relative abundance.**

239

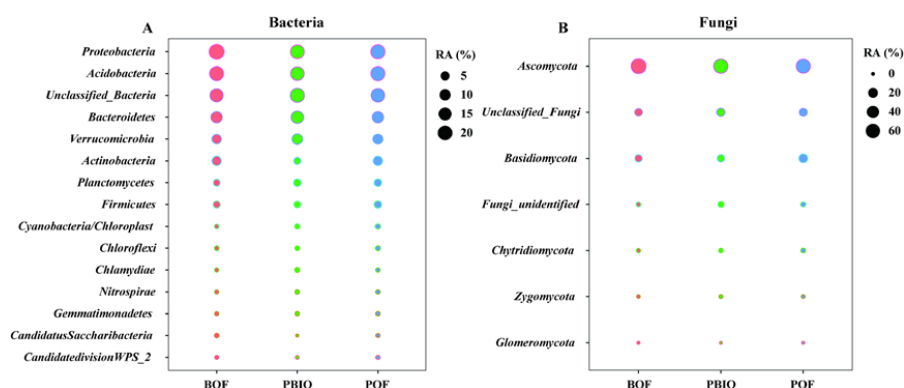
240 3.2 General analyses of the high-throughput sequencing data

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 OTUs were obtained.
243 For bacteria, *Acidobacteria*, *Actinobacteria*, *Bacteroidetes*, *Firmicutes*,
244 *Proteobacteria* and *Verrucomicrobia* were the most abundant phyla, with relative
245 abundances all greater than 1%. For fungi, *Ascomycota*, followed by *Basidiomycota*,
246 *Chytridiomycota*, *Zycomycota*, and *Glomeromycota* were the most abundant phyla
247 (Fig. 2). ANOVA analysis showed that *Chlamydiae*, *Cyanbacteria/Chloroplast*,



248 *Gemmatimonadetes*, *Nitrospirae*, *Planctomycetes*, and *Verrucomicrobia* abundances
 249 were significantly higher in the PBIO and POF treatment samples compared with
 250 BOF treatments, besides, the relative abundance of *Ascomycota* was decreased in
 251 PBIO treatment. (Duncan test, $p < 0.05$).

252



253

254

255 **Figure 2. Bubble chart of bacterial (A) and fungal (B) phyla in BOF, POF and PBIO**
 256 **treatments.**BOF=Banana continuously cropped for two years with common organic
 257 fertilizer applied, POF= Banana planted after Pineapple rotation with common organic
 258 fertilizer applied in banana season; PBIO=Banana planted after Pineapple rotation treatment
 259 with Bio-organic fertilizer applied; Values represent the average abundance across the nine
 260 replicate libraries for soil samples collected from each treatment.

261

262 3.3 Effect of pineapple rotation and biofertilizer application on soil microbial 263 diversity and community structure

264 Rarefaction analyses, Chao1 and Faith's PD were performed to characterize α -
 265 diversity. Rarefaction analyses show that the number of OTUs tends to smooth at
 266 14,900 selected bacterial sequences and 34,943 fungal sequences. Compared with the
 267 BOF treatment, more OTUs were observed in the POF and PBIO treatments, both for



268 bacteria and fungi, and the PBIO treatment exhibited the most OTUs of all treatments
 269 (Table 1, Fig. S1). Compared with the OF treatment, pineapple-banana rotation
 270 treatments, POF and PBIO, increased both taxonomic and phylogenetic α -diversity in
 271 both bacteria and fungi. In addition, the PBIO treatment showed the highest Chao1
 272 richness and Faith's PD values (Table 1).

273 **Table 1.** Bacterial and fungal α -diversity indexes of three treatments. BOF=Banana
 274 continuously cropped for two years with common organic fertilizer applied, POF=Banana
 275 planted after Pineapple rotation with common organic fertilizer applied in banana season;
 276 PBIO=Banana planted after Pineapple rotation treatment with Bio-organic fertilizer applied;
 277 Values represent the average index of nine replicate. Means followed by the different letter
 278 for a given factor are significantly different ($p < 0.05$; Duncan test).

	Treatment	Numbers of Otus	Chao1	Faith's PD
Bacteria	BOF	2606 ± 071b	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

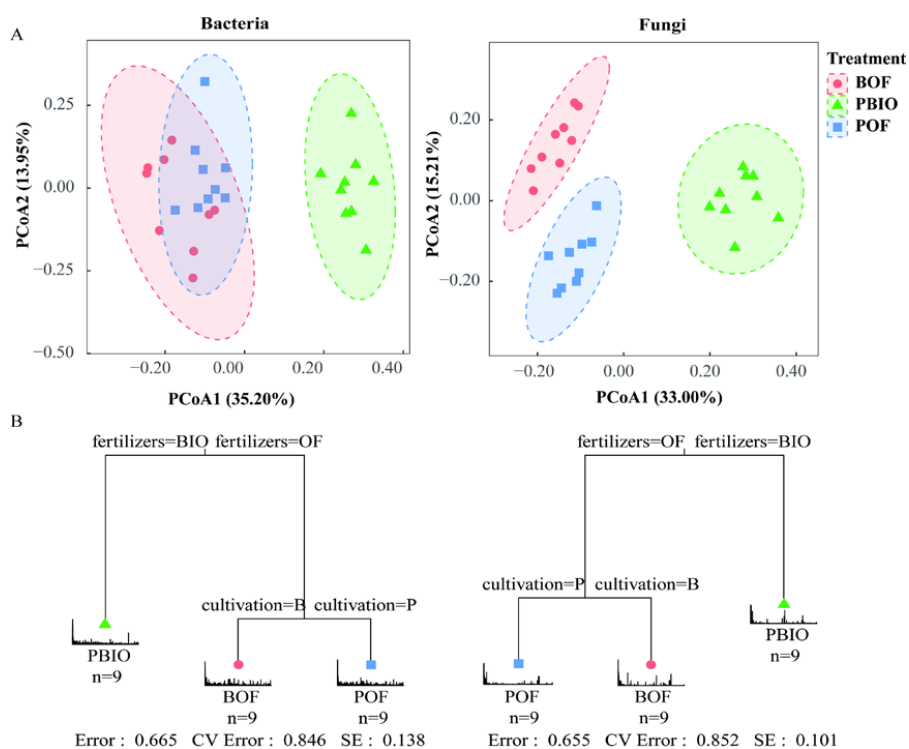
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280 We evaluated microbial community structure by PCoA based on a UniFrac
 281 weighted distance matrix to analyze differences of community composition in three
 282 treatments. Fungal PCoA showed three distinct groups representing samples taken
 283 from the three treatments. However, bacterial PCoA showed only two groups.
 284 Weighted UniFrac distances showed PBIO treatment separate from BOF and POF
 285 treatments along the first component (PCoA1), both in bacteria and fungi. POF
 286 treatment was separate from BOF treatment along the second component in fungi,



287 whereas in bacteria, POF and BOF treatments were not separate along the second
 288 component (**Fig. 3A**).

289 Furthermore, MRT results indicated that Bio-fertilizer application acted the
 290 largest deterministic influence on composition of both bacterial and fungal
 291 community, and that cultivation was secondly important. Driven by fertilization,
 292 PBIO treatment was separate from BOF and POF treatments, then, BOF and POF
 293 treatments were driven by cultivation (**Fig. 3B**).



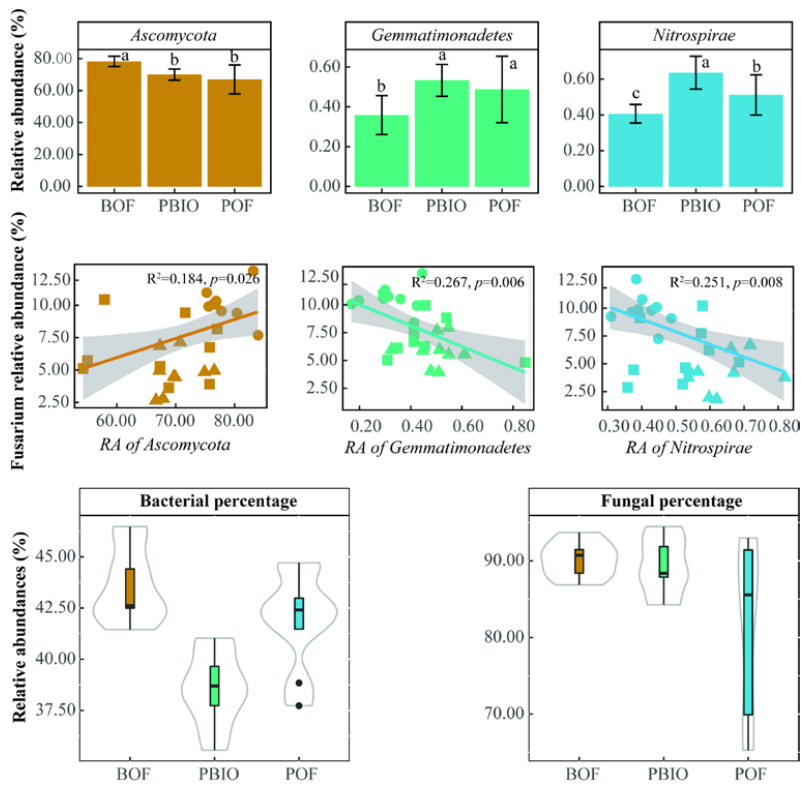
294 **Figure 3. (A) UniFrac-weighted principle coordinate analysis of fungal and bacterial**
 295 **community structures in different treatment.** BOF=Banana continuously cropped for two
 296 years with common organic fertilizer applied, POF= Banana planted after Pineapple rotation
 297 with common organic fertilizer applied in banana season; PBIO=Banana planted after
 298 Pineapple rotation treatment with Bio-organic fertilizer applied. **(B)** Multiple regression tree



300 (MRT) analysis for the bacterial and fungal community showed the variables of fertilization
301 and cultivation in each branch.

302 3.4 Effect of pineapple rotation and biofertilizer application on soil fungal and 303 bacterial community composition

304 Those phyla that significantly correlated with FOC abundance were selected for the
305 evaluation of effects on soil fungal and bacterial community composition versus
306 relative FOC abundance. Eight Bacteria phyla and three fungi phyla were
307 significantly correlated with pathogen abundance (Table S2 and S3). Moreover, more
308 fungi were significantly correlated with FOC abundance compared with bacteria,
309 based on the percentage of FOC related phyla showing this trend (Fig. 4B).



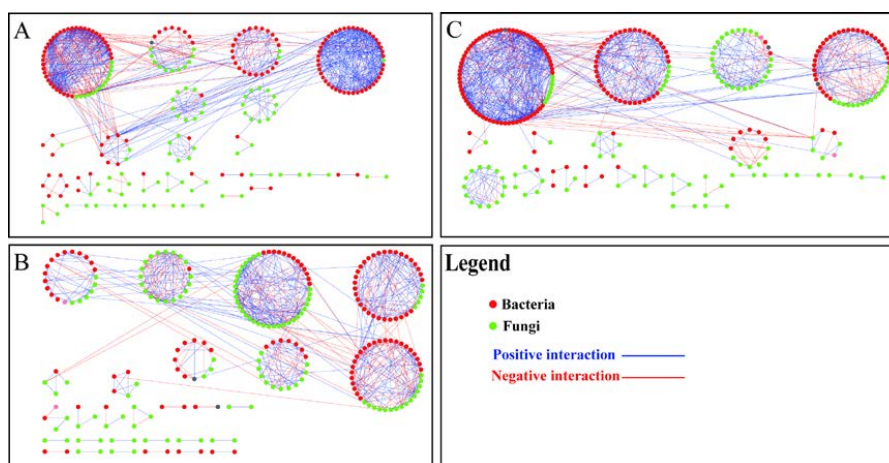
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311 **Figure 4.** (A) The relative abundance of *Ascomycota*, *Gemmatimonadetes* and *Nitrospirae*
312 phyla in the three treatments and the linear regression relationship between the *Ascomycota*,
313 *Gemmatimonadetes* and *Nitrospirae* phyla and the disease incidence. (B) Percentage of FOC
314 related bacterial and fungal phyla in all treatments. Different letters above the bars indicate a
315 significant difference at the 0.05 probability level according to the Duncan test.

316 3.5 Key topological properties of the networks

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



326
327 **Figure 5. Network plots of bacterial and fungal communities in soil BOF (A), PBIO (B)**
328 **and POF(C).** BOF=Banana continuously cropped for two years with common organic



329 fertilizer applied, POF= Banana planted after Pineapple rotation with common organic
 330 fertilizer applied in banana season; PBIO=Banana planted after Pineapple rotation treatment
 331 with Bio-organic fertilizer applied; Red nodes indicate bacteria; Green nodes indicate fungi;
 332 Red lines between nodes (links) indicate negative interaction; Blue lines indicate positive
 333 interaction.

334

335 Networks with 286 (143 bacterial and 98 fungal), 245 (122 bacterial and 123
 336 fungal), and 241 (163 bacterial and 123 fungal) nodes were picked out from BOF,
 337 PBIO, and POF treatments, respectively. F/B represents ratio of fungal to bacterial
 338 nodes. The F/B ratios were 0.69, 1.01, and 0.75 in BOF, PBIO, and POF treatments,
 339 respectively. This result suggests more active fungal OTUs in the PBIO treatment
 340 sample, followed by POF and BOF treatments.

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

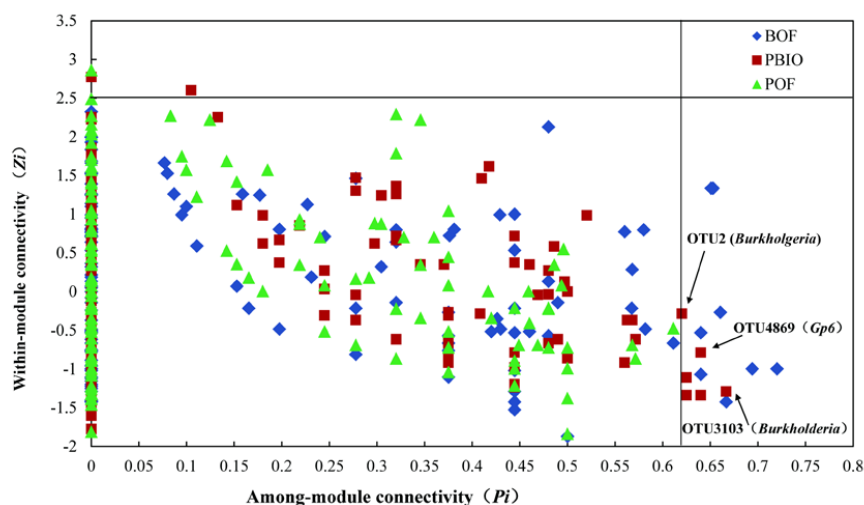
343 **Table 2.** Topological properties of the empirical and associated random pMENs of microbial
 344 communities under BOF, POF and PBIO. BOF=Banana continuously cropped for two years
 345 with common organic fertilizer applied, POF=Banana planted after Pineapple rotation with
 346 common organic fertilizer applied in banana season; PBIO=Banana planted after Pineapple
 347 rotation treatment with Bio-organic fertilizer applied; Avg K=Average connectivity; Avg
 348 CC=Average clustering coefficient; GD=Average path distance.

Treatment	Network size	R ²	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

349



350 The threshold value Z_i was measures the connected degree between two nodes in
351 the same module, P_i was measures the connected degree between two nodes from
352 different modules. According to the Z_i and P_i values found in our study, all nodes
353 divide into four categories (**Fig. 6**). Three nodes categorize as generalists (module
354 hubs) with intense connectivity to many nodes in the same modules, two from the
355 PBIO network and one from the POF network. However, no module hubs were found
356 in the BOF network. Fourteen nodes were categorized as connectors (generalists) with
357 high connectivity to several modules, eight from the BOF network and six from the
358 PBIO network. Interestingly, module hubs (generalists) were only found in pineapple-
359 banana treatment (PBIO and POF), and connectors (generalists) and module hubs
360 (generalists) were found at the same time only in pineapple-banana with bio-organic
361 fertilizer applied treatment (PBIO). Annotation information from all generalists
362 showed that bacterial OTU2 and OTU3013 belonging to *Burkholderia* were
363 generalists in PBIO network, while were absent in POF and BOF networks.
364 Additionally, another generalist OTU4869, from the PBIO network was identified as
365 *Gp6* in *Acidobacteria*.



366



367 **Figure 6. Zi-Pi plot showing the distribution of OTUs based on their topological roles.**
 368 Each symbol represents an OTU in different treatment. The threshold values of *Zi* and *Pi* for
 369 categorizing OTUs were 2.5 and 0.62 respectively as proposed by Guimera and Amaral (2005)
 370 and simplified by Olesen et al. (2007).

371 **3.6 Relationship between microbial indicators and incidence of banana *Fusarium***
 372 **wilt disease**

373 Bacterial and fungal structure (weighted PCoA1), richness (Chao1), and Faith's PD;
 374 *Ascomycota*, *Gemmatimonadetes*, and *Nitrospirae* phyla relative abundances; and
 375 *Fusarium*, *Burkholderia*, and *Bacillus* genus relative abundances were selected in the
 376 linear model and explored for the best contribution factor of disease incidence (**Table**
 377 **3**).

378 **Table 3** Linear models (LM) for the relationships of microbial indicators with disease
 379 incidence and the relative importance of each indicators. P was results of ANOVAs. **p* < 0.05,
 380 ***p* < 0.01 and ****p* < 0.001.

	df	F	P	Relative Importance
Bac-PCoA1	1	276.19	<0.001***	15.76%
Fun-PCoA1	1	11.44	0.004**	17.80%
Bac-Chao1	1	7.38	0.017*	9.50%
Fun-Chao1	1	0.36	0.559	4.05%
Bac-Faith's PD	1	1.92	0.188	6.72%
Fun-Faith's PD	1	1.16	0.300	6.33%
<i>Ascomycota</i>	1	14.21	0.002**	3.29%
<i>Fusarium</i> Relative abundance	1	0.36	0.557	8.06%
<i>Nitrospirae</i>	1	0.05	0.820	7.50%
<i>Gemmatimonadetes</i>	1	0.10	0.752	2.81%
<i>Burkholderia</i>	1	0.41	0.534	10.40%
<i>Bacillus</i>	1	1.74	0.209	3.52%
Residuals	14			

Model summary: R²=0.944, AIC =-122.98, p < 0.001

Total response variance: 95.74%

381



382 Importantly, bacterial structure ($F = 276.19$, $p < 0.001$, Relative Importance =
383 15.76%), fungal structure ($F = 11.44$, $p < 0.004$, Relative Importance = 17.80%), and
384 *Burkholderia* relative abundance ($F = 0.41$, $p < 0.534$, Relative Importance = 10.40%)
385 constrained disease incidence the most (with a relative importance more than 10%).

386 Besides, based on linear regression analyses between disease incidence and
387 selected microbial indicators, we found that bacterial structure ($F = 276.19$, $p < 0.001$,
388 Relative Importance = 15.76%), fungal structure ($F = 11.44$, $p = 0.004$, Relative
389 Importance = 17.80%), bacterial richness ($F = 7.38$, $p = 0.017$, Relative Importance =
390 9.50%), and *Ascomycota* relative abundance ($F = 14.21$, $p = 0.002$, Relative
391 Importance = 3.29%) have significant relationship to disease incidence.

392 **4 Discussion**

393 Our previous research proved the effectiveness of pineapple-banana rotation and bio-
394 organic fertilizer application were proved to be in the control of banana *Fusarium* wilt
395 disease (Wang et al., 2015; Fu et al., 2017). Soil microbial community change is an
396 important indicator for exploring mechanisms behind these two control measures. In
397 this study, disease incidence and soil microbial community characteristics during the
398 banana-growing season were measured to evaluate the control effect and potential
399 impact of rotation and bio-organic fertilizer application.

400 Our previous results indicate that two pineapple-banana rotation treatments
401 significantly reduce *Fusarium* wilt disease incidence and the relative abundance of
402 *Fusarium*, compared with banana monoculture. Moreover, the application of bio-
403 organic fertilizer enhances this suppression ability. (Shen et al., 2018) reported that
404 bio-fertilizer application after fumigation with lime and ammonium bicarbonate was



405 highly effectively in banana *Fusarium* wilt disease control. Thus, although many
406 measures can slow down the spread of *Fusarium* wilt disease (Pda et al., 2017),
407 effective control can be enhanced by the combined use of more than one measure.

408 Significantly higher Chao1 and Faith's PD were detected in rotation and
409 biofertilizer treatment. Previous studies have shown high positive correlation between
410 disease suppression and a high diversity of bacteria with a concurrent low diversity of
411 fungi (Bonanomi et al., 2010; Fu et al., 2017). However, inconsistent with these
412 results, pineapple-banana rotation and biofertilizer treatment (PBIO) harbor a
413 significantly higher fungal richness and diversity than the other two treatments (BOF
414 and POF). This agrees with two other previous studies that indicated the importance
415 of fungal diversity in the suppressive capacity of vanilla soils and potato cropping
416 system (Xiong et al., 2017). Microbial diversity has been seen to increase with higher
417 soil pH values (Liu et al., 2014; Shen et al., 2013). We observed that soil pH
418 increased in rotation and bio-organic fertilizer treatment (**Table S1**), therefore, the
419 high bacterial and fungal diversity observed in our rotation and bio-organic fertilizer
420 system may be due to high soil pH.

421 Both PCoA ordinations and MRT results reveal significant differences in
422 microbial community structure after rotation and biofertilizer applications. This is
423 supported by previous studies stating that rotation (Helena et al., 2016; Hartmann et
424 al., 2015) and bio-organic fertilizer application (Sun et al., 2015) altered soil
425 microbial community composition. Despite the apparent cultivation, MRT analysis
426 revealed fertilization effects on microbial community composition, indicating that
427 bio-organic fertilizer application in banana season was the most important factor in
428 determining microbial community composition. The result was similar to previous
429 results where bio-organic fertilizer application was the largest factor in determining
430 microbial community composition rather than temporal variability (Fu et al., 2017).



431 This is also a powerful illustration of the necessity of bio-organic fertilizer application
432 in pineapple-banana rotation.

433 Phyla level results show that rotation and biofertilizer application decreases the
434 relative abundance of *Ascomycota*, and increases the relative abundance of
435 *Chlamydiae*, *Gemmatimonadetes*, *Nitrospire*, *Planctomycetes*, and *Verrucomicrobia*,
436 which are all associated with disease suppression in previous reports (Trivedi et al.,
437 2017; Shen et al., 2018). Our fungal result is consistent with previous observations of
438 low *Ascomycota* phylum abundance in suppressive soil, which is logical because
439 *Ascomycetes* constitutes the largest group of soil pathogens (Lu et al., 2013).
440 Furthermore, this tendency was observed in our previous report in which a decrease of
441 *Ascomycetes* was considered as important factors in FOC decrease during the
442 pineapple season (Wang et al., 2015). The bacterial result is partly consistent with
443 previous observations that rotations with wild rocket and Indian mustard increase the
444 *Nitrospira* and *Gemmatimonadetes* content (Jin et al., 2019). It's worth noting that our
445 BIO was secondary fermentation with *Bacillus* added, while, *Bacillus* genus was not
446 enriched in the BIO treatment soil. Moreover, microbial structure appeared to be the
447 most constrained factor with disease incidence in linear models between microbial
448 indicators and the incidence of banana *Fusarium* wilt disease. Xiong et al (2017)
449 suggest that microbial species introduced by biofertilizer application induce wilt
450 suppression by microbiome transform, rather than pathogen suppression directly.
451 Alteration of the soil microbiome may cause more response than the added *Bacillus*
452 itself in the PBIO treatment sample in our case as well.

453 We earlier confirmed that pineapple-banana rotation reduces the amount of
454 *Fusarium oxysporum* mainly by modulating fungal communities during pineapple
455 season (Wang et al., 2015). In the present research we observed that in all treatments,
456 compared with bacteria, more fungi significantly correlate with FOC abundance. Even



457 though more kinds of bacteria are related to FOC, more percentage of fungi shows
458 relevance. These results agree with findings of Mona et al. (2014) and Cai et al.
459 (2017), who reported that fungal communities have a more crucial response to soil
460 factors changes than bacterial communities. Thus, the higher FOC-relevance found in
461 fungal community both in the pineapple and banana season further reinforced the
462 importance of fungal community changes in our case.

463 We found microbial molecular ecological networks to reveal distinct differences
464 between the microbial communities associated with the three treatments. More fungal
465 OTUs were picked up in the PBIO treatment samples, followed by the POF and BOF
466 treatments, based on the F/B ratio. Several researchers have used microbial molecular
467 ecological networks to study complex microbial ecological systems in suppressive
468 soils, including corn-potato rotations (Lu et al., 2013) and vanilla (Xiong et al., 2017).
469 Although the OTUs selected to build the network are only a part of the whole system,
470 there is no doubt that these OTUs are very important for soil function (Coyte et al.,
471 2015). Therefore, we conclude that the large number of fungal OTUs present in the
472 system may lead to changes in soil function. PBIO, POF, and BOF soils harbored
473 modules with modularity values of 0.718, 0.642, and 0.616, respectively, in this study.
474 Modularity represents how well the network was organized (Zhou et al., 2011). Thus,
475 PBIO network, which possess high modularity, has more connections between nodes
476 in the same modules, followed by POF and BOF. The altered networks compared
477 with POF and BOF may partially contribute latent attributes to higher disease
478 suppression in our rotation and bio-organic fertilizer application trials. Furthermore,
479 no module hubs (generalists) are present in the BOF network, whereas all three
480 module hubs are found in the pineapple-banana rotation network as *Zi-Pi* relationship
481 indicated. In all three networks, connectors (generalists) and module hubs (generalists)
482 were found at the same time only with the PBIO treatment. Generalists typically only



483 occupy a small fraction of a community; however, the presence of those generalists is
484 quite important (Zhou et al., 2011; Jens et al., 2011). These nodes could enhance
485 connectors within or among modules. If the network is poorly connected, or not
486 connected at all, the community is predicted to be disordered and fluxes of energy,
487 material, and information would not be efficient (Lu et al., 2013). So in our case,
488 these generalists found in PBIO suggest that the microbial community structure was
489 more orderly and powerful than the other two treatments.

490 Annotation information from all the generalists found in our study show that
491 bacterial OTU2 and OTU3013 belong to *Burkholderia*, which were generalists in the
492 PBIO network, but were not observed in the POF and BOF networks.
493 Correspondingly, a high abundance of *Burkholderia* and high percentage of
494 antagonistic *Burkholderia* was found during pineapple season in our previous report
495 (Wang et al., 2015). In addition, our linear model analysis shows that besides bacterial
496 and fungal structure, *Burkholderia* relative abundance constrains disease incidence
497 with the high Relative Importance factor of 10.40%. *Burkholderia* genus was versatile
498 organisms for its powerful function of occupying ecological niche and variety
499 functions include biological control and plant growth promotion and so on in
500 agriculture (Coenye and Vandamme, 2003). This suggests that even though the
501 relative abundance of *Burkholderia* in PBIO was not that high, it is the change of
502 network structure in the rotation and bio-organic fertilizer treatments that attribute to
503 the general wilt suppression activity, and that change may specifically be due to
504 special functions of *Burkholderia*. Additionally, one generalist in the PBIO treatment
505 sample was identified as *Gp6* in *Acidobacteria*. Although no *Acidobacteria*
506 antimicrobial activities have previously been recorded, several studies have
507 demonstrated the *Acidobacteria* is greatly affected by soil pH and *Gp6* was positively



508 correlated with soil pH (Bartram et al., 2014; Jones et al., 2009). Therefore, the
509 special function of *Gp6* in PBIO network probably results from an increase in soil pH.

510 **5 Conclusions**

511 An expansion of previous work, this study revealed that pineapple-banana rotation
512 combined with bio-organic fertilizer application during the banana season is effective
513 in reducing *Fusarium spp.* abundance and banana *Fusarium* wilt. Several different
514 analyses indicate that bacterial and fungal communities, especially fungal structure,
515 are changed by rotation and bio-organic fertilizer application. Bio-organic fertilizer
516 inhibits *Fusarium* wilt disease by changing the soil microbial structure, rather than
517 any designated microorganism. Large changes in the fungal community and special
518 *Burkholderia* functions in the network are likely the most responsible factors for soil
519 borne-disease suppression. Pineapple-banana rotation combined with bio-organic
520 fertilizer application has strong potential for the sustainable management of banana
521 *Fusarium* wilt disease.

522 **Data availability**

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

525 **Author contributions**

526 Rong Li and Beibei Wang designed the research and wrote the manuscript. Beibei
527 Wang, YannanOu and ZongzhuanShen performed trials and conducted fieldwork.
528 Beibei Wang and Jinming Yang analyzed the data. Rong Li, Lin Fu, Yunze Ruan,
529 Yan Zhao and Qirong Shen participated in the design of the study, provided
530 comments and edited the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final
531 manuscript.

532 **Competing interests**



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

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