



FOOD JUSTICE: A LOOK THROUGH THE BANANA LENS

JESSICA JONES-HUGHES, MS, RD



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**DID YOU EAT A
BANANA THIS WEEK?**



BANANAS EATEN THIS WEEK:

WORLD: 4.2 BILLION POUNDS





**U.S.: 120 MILLION
POUNDS**

**NYC: 4 MILLION
POUNDS!**

**WHERE'D YOUR BANANA COME
FROM?**

HOW DID IT GET HERE?



 **Americans have not had to think very hard about where their food comes from, or what it is doing to the planet, their bodies, and their society.** 

– Michael Pollan

*Author, *The Food Movement, Rising**

*The Omnivore's Dilemma, The Botany of Desire,
In Defense of Food*

HISTORICAL REALITY OF BANANA TRADE

- 1st US multinational corporations = predecessors of Dole and Chiquita (early 1900s)
- Multinationals own and control entire supply chain and resources
- Long history of oppression and government control/influence in Central and South America (“Banana republics”)



HISTORICAL REALITY OF BANANA TRADE: IMPACT

- Poor living and working conditions for workers and communities
 - Piece work pay; Child labor; Gender Discrimination
 - Funding para-militaries linked to violence, suppression of unions
- Environmental degradation
 - Monoculture
 - Heavy Pesticide/Insecticide use
 - Polluted air, water and soil
- Small Farmer loss of land



WHERE IS THE JUSTICE TODAY?

- Intense price wars
- Banana plantation workers receive 4% of final retail price of banana (<0.02cents / lb.)
- U.S. Cheap food system
- 5 companies control 50% of banana trade
- #1 fruit consumed in USA



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WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1.) Education: Learn about the story behind your food


- Ask companies and farmers hard questions
- Learn about what various certifications mean
- Learn the history of food

2.) Buy from small-scale farmers locally and globally

3.) Apply your learning!

- Set realistic goals, apply to yourself, your clients, institutions





**"WHAT CAN BE DONE BY THOSE STUDENTS,
THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE, THOSE ACTIVISTS, THOSE
MISSIONARIES WHO COME TO MY
NEIGHBORHOOD WITH THE HEARTS FULL OF
HOPES AND DREAMS BUT WITHOUT ANY REAL
SOLUTION FOR MY PROBLEMS?" HE ASKED. "A
LOT! THEY CAN DO A LOT."**

–Pope Francis

We are ALL consumers! With your personal daily food purchasing decisions and your work, you can contribute to supporting a more just and fair world.

Contact information: joneshjm@gmail.com

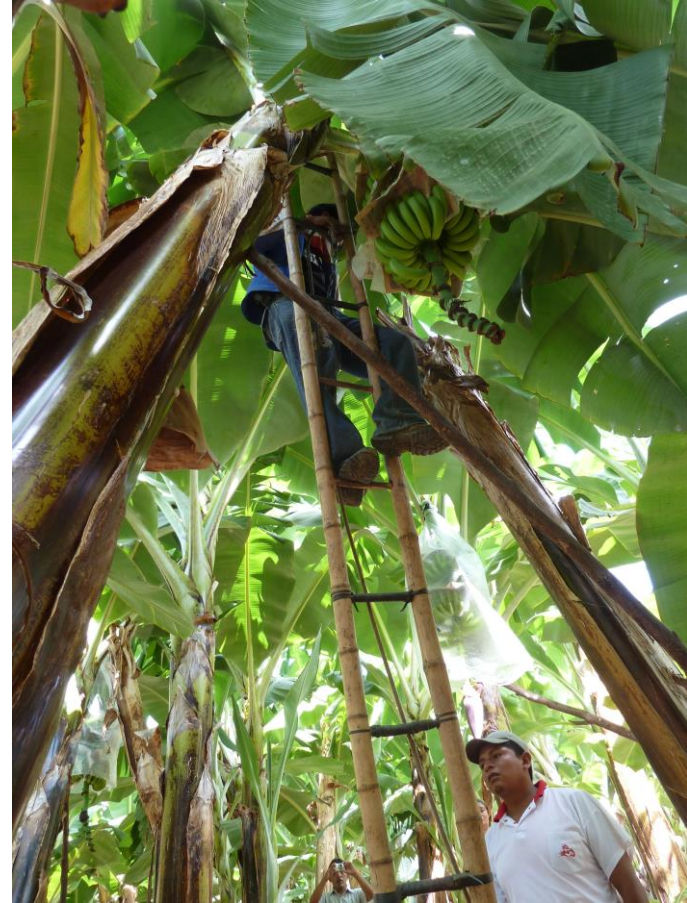


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Thank you!

Questions?



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Sources:

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