






# WORKSHEET 5.1: GLOBAL VIEW OF THE BANANA SUPPLY CHAIN

<b>PRODUCER</b>		Banana production takes approximately nine months; bananas are harvested while still green
<b>PACKER/ EXPORTER</b>		The harvested bunches are transported to a packing shed where they are divided, inspected, sorted, washed and boxed for export.
<b>IMPORTER</b>		Bananas are placed in refrigerated vessels or containers. They are shipped, taking 6 to 12 days to get to Europe
<b>RIPENER</b>		When the bananas arrive at their destination port, customs are cleared and bananas are taken by truck to ripening rooms
<b>WHOLESALE / DISTRIBUTOR</b>		Once ripened, yellow bananas are delivered to the regional distribution centres of retailers and wholesalers, then sent to individual stores
<b>RETAILER</b>		Final stage of the chain, consumers buy most of bananas from supermarkets and also from local shops or market stalls.