Sustainability Report 2021–2022
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Introduction
Since 1990, Chiquita has been committed to helping create sustainable change in our farming regions by pursuing ‘principled embeddedness’. This is our commitment to follow the principles of corporate responsibility worldwide, bringing long-term value to our local communities and helping them to grow by transferring knowledge and technology as well as increasing economic opportunities.

In 2015, we extended this strategy to sustainability and have continued to develop the “Behind the Blue Sticker” program considerably; today it is the backbone of what we believe and do. Built around three pillars, the “Farmer’s Code”, “Being a Good Neighbor” and “For the Greater Good”, we believe that creating shared value for the much-loved Chiquita brand, our customers, suppliers, associates and the entire community will help build a brighter future.

For many years we have been working steadily and quietly on our farms to ensure we bring the best and most sustainable bananas to the global markets every day, putting in place a wide range of practices across the company in recent years to help us reduce our carbon emissions and limit the impact of climate change.

We are proud to share and celebrate a significant milestone in our fight to reduce carbon emissions. Earlier this year, we announced our “30BY30” Carbon Reduction program, a major initiative that aims to reduce carbon emissions across our operations by 30 percent by the end of 2030. After a thorough review process, Chiquita has become the first global fruit company to put in place an emissions reduction strategy that is validated by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi). This plan proves that global agriculture companies can take effective, practical action that aligns with the Treaty of Paris, and we hope that this program will serve as a model for others in produce, as well as the wider food industry.

As the deadline to hit net zero emissions approaches, this report will focus on how we can positively impact the environment by minimizing climate change.

“We invite you to think about how we can work together, raise our voices, and create an even greater impact for future generations to come.”

“Simply put, we are facing global climate changes that affect us all and we feel we need to join our voice with those calling for greater action.”

Peter Stedman
Sustainability Director
At Chiquita, we believe that the journey to a truly sustainable industry in all aspects simply makes sense – for the environment, for the future of our business, and for our valued farming communities. Our people and their families are the most important part of our business and we have been focused on protecting them during these challenging times. Meanwhile, as part of the essential food supply chain, we are continuing to grow and bring our customers the highest quality Chiquita bananas and are proud of our teams’ hard work and dedication throughout the supply chain.

We are working hard to take a leadership position within the industry, bringing our suppliers and supply chain with us on this journey, and developing challenging commitments that provide a roadmap for the future of the banana industry.

I am acutely aware of the negative impacts that climate change brings to our business; like any other risk, we must adapt to manage our business in the most efficient way possible. Having farmed for more than 120 years, we have seen first-hand that the climate is changing, affecting the livelihoods of our employees, their families, and the communities they live in, as well as the availability of our much-loved fruit for our customers and consumers. Climate change is a global event, affecting not only where our bananas are grown, but also in the markets we serve.

Our actions on our farms and our communities are not intended to stop climate change but instead to build better climate resilience and to contribute to the reversal of such effects.

“By developing our carbon reduction pathway, we are showing other global agricultural companies that it is possible to run a successful business while also embracing carbon reduction.”

Our actions will only succeed if they do not impact on our commercial offering. We have spent a great deal of time ensuring we can safeguard our productivity, quality, and excellence in logistics and service. We have had to invest considerably to achieve this, but we believe it will strengthen our long-term competitiveness.

In 2021, we validated our “30BY30” carbon footprint reduction approach through the Science Based Target Initiative (SBTi) to ensure our claims and goals are in line with climate science. We are excited to be the first banana company to receive SBTi approval, but of course we continue to work hard to do better and more for our business and customers. Our consumers are increasingly interested in the topic of carbon-neutral products, which can help all of us to lower our individual carbon footprint. Eventually, we hope we can develop bespoke carbon offset projects that involve our operations and the actions of the communities that we are part of.

This sustainability report will outline our own experience with climate change and explain our “30BY30” initiative, and will update you on all the other elements in our “Behind the Blue Sticker” approach. We hope our initiatives will resonate with our associates, suppliers, retail customers and consumers and that together we can find constructive ways to collaborate in these efforts. We love our planet and must all seek to preserve and improve it for our children and all future generations.
Our experiences of climate change

With decades of agricultural experience and data, Chiquita has noticed a gradual, but significant shift in weather patterns.

From our records and experiences over the last few decades, we can see a drier, hotter climate emerging in many of our growing areas, and more extreme weather events.
**Changing weather patterns**

Chiquita relies on year-round rainfall and sunshine in our growing areas to cultivate our bananas. While different regions and countries have slightly varying weather systems, we are now seeing a change in these traditional patterns.

For example, in Costa Rica and Panama over the last few years, we have had to implement irrigation for the first time since we began farming in these regions. We continue to see irregular weather patterns in this region, and expect this trend to continue. It is also clear that temperatures are continuing to rise. While this will affect all our growing regions, we project that it will have the most significant impact in countries further from the equator, such as Guatemala and Honduras.

With extensive production footprint in both countries, we know better than most that climate change is becoming an existential threat. The erratic temperature patterns and series of extreme weather caused by global warming have created a grave situation on the ground in countries like Honduras and Guatemala.

**Impact of natural disasters**

In 2020, Central America experienced its most active Atlantic hurricane season, with a record-breaking 30 named storms wreaking havoc across the region in a matter of weeks. In particular, hurricanes Eta and Iota left hundreds dead and hundreds of thousands of people displaced.

Honduras and Guatemala bore the brunt of these storms, suffering severe damage to homes, schools, roads, bridges, and other infrastructure.

"The storms also left large swathes of the countries underwater, including many banana farms that are vital to the region’s national economies."

The hurricanes had wide-reaching impacts on our business. In Honduras and Guatemala, the entire land was impacted in some way. In Honduras, 56% was severely affected and in Guatemala, 38%. This is equivalent to over 5000 football pitches being out of use.

Chiquita’s president and Honduran native, Carlos Lopez Flores, visited the region and witnessed the devastation first-hand. He warned that as well as the humanitarian crisis, the resulting loss in banana production would impact the international market in the coming years.
Our strategic vision

We want Chiquita to be the banana of choice in every market we are in, providing our customers with the very best quality product and service right from our farms to the retailers’ shelves. Together, we want to create shared value for the Chiquita brand, our customers, suppliers, associates and the community. We want to do this in the spirit of doing well and giving back, with respect for the environment and everyone involved in our business.

Our experiences of climate change

In our Farm Rejuvenation and Reengineering program, we are improving efficiency, increasing yield and substantially reducing our environmental impact, while ensuring the best Chiquita banana quality.

Our experiences of climate change

Our efforts under this pillar are those that are for the benefit of the whole industry and the world more broadly.

We have added our efforts to tackle climate change under our “30 by 30” programme to the work that we continue to do to tackle TB4.

Every day, every minute, somewhere in the world, someone is peeling and eating a Chiquita banana. Those bananas come from farms in South and Central America and we ensure that, from farm to consumer, our business processes are sustainable and efficient.

These farms, and the thousands of people who work on them, are at the heart of our business. Our Employees at the Centre program runs initiatives that make sure our employees get the right training and support and are healthy, safe and motivated in their daily work. Looking to the future, in this report we will set out how we safeguard and promote the rights of women within Chiquita, and what we aim to do going forward on this important topic.

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Our experiences of climate change
Farmer’s Code

Our Farm Rejuvenation and Reengineering program is part of our commitment to sustainable farming and biodiversity. It aims to improve efficiency, increase yield, and make a real difference to our environmental impact.
Chiquita Sustainability Report 2021–2022

Recovery

There are three steps in the recovery process from Eta/Iota hurricanes in Guatemala and Honduras.

1. We identify and map areas according to how badly they are affected, from lightly to severely, considering how long they were flooded, how much sediment was deposited, and the actual condition of the plants.

2. We create a priority list, based on the plants’ condition, ease of access to the farm and the condition of the infrastructure.

3. We work on recovery actions, focusing on cleaning and fixing cableways, bridges, canals, and agricultural practices like debunching, deleafing, removing debris from the plantation, removing sprouts, pruning (chopback), fertilizing; preparing the soil, replanting, reconstructing drainage systems, cableways and irrigation systems in the most severely affected areas.
Rejuvenation

In 2015, we speeded up the rejuvenation of all our farms. This program focuses on improving efficiency and increasing yield while reducing our environmental impact and is one of our major mitigation strategies against climate change.

The rejuvenation process consists of completely restructuring the farms’ primary and secondary drainage systems, which allows our fields to cope better with increasing rainfall. We are working particularly hard on this program in Honduras and Guatemala, as they continue to recover from Hurricanes Eta and Iota.

In 2015, on average only 62% of fields achieved above the Chiquita threshold yield, so these were our priorities for rejuvenation. In 2020, 95% of our fields (apart from our Honduras farms) were above the threshold level. In some countries – for instance, Guatemala – up to 60% of fields have been through the rejuvenation process.

“Rejuvenation allows us to ensure that as much water as possible gets into the soil and any excess can flow efficiently from the fields.”

This has also allowed us to expand the number of plants in each hectare of rejuvenated land, which means there is less evaporation from bare soil, which further improves our water efficiency. The company has found that all fields that have gone through this process have beaten our business’s strategic minimum yield target by three years after rejuvenation. This investment means our plantations are more resilient to climate change; by maximizing our access to and use of available water and nutrients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Panama</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Food waste
At Chiquita, we are incredibly proud of the high quality of our products for export. Because our standards are so high, between 5% and 20% of bananas do not meet our strict requirements every year. There are several reasons why a banana will not meet the criteria, but this doesn’t mean they go to waste.

At times, bananas don’t grow exactly to plan; they might have an unusual shape or develop natural bruising. While these variations may seem minor, these differences often mean that the banana can’t be exported for store display. Nonetheless, they are still perfectly good to use in other ways—such as making banana purée. Chiquita owns a purée plant in Costa Rica, where an average of 65,000 tons of bananas a year from Panama and Costa Rica are processed into delicious, wholesome banana purée. If they don’t become banana purée, Chiquita also makes the most of its unused bananas by making banana flour.

“"The company often also encourages consumers to try banana-based recipes at home to reduce waste from overripened bananas.""

Bruised bananas are also given to farmers who use them to feed their livestock. Chiquita bananas are a great energy source, not only for consumers but for the entire ecosystem. Our latest innovation, the biodigester system, allows us to harness energy from parts of the fruit that previously could not be used. This system is located at Chiquita’s Tropical Ingredients facility in Costa Rica and has become a sustainable energy source for that location, as well as the local farming community.

Chiquita has also worked to combat food waste by partnering with key organizations, like Feeding America, the U.S.’s largest hunger-relief charity. In 2020 alone, over ten million Chiquita bananas were donated to people who needed nutritious foods.
Being a Good Neighbor to our communities around our farms means working together to ensure that rights are protected and livelihoods and the natural environment are improved.
Immediately after Hurricanes Iota and Eta

Over 210 people received medical assistance

Communities’ support

This initiative has also always stood for providing humanitarian assistance. In 2020, this part of Chiquita’s sustainability program was called upon in a way we had never faced before.

Firstly, the world suffered the massive upheaval caused by the global COVID 19 pandemic and the first global lockdown, and then we went through the aftermath of hurricanes Iota and Eta.

As with past storms, Chiquita sprang into action to support the communities in need of humanitarian aid, partnering with key relief organizations and the respective governmental institutions to organize and undertake relief efforts by providing donations, funds, and transportation. We also provided medical support through health service fairs, medical dispensaries at our farms and a company-sponsored health clinic in La Lima, Honduras. More than 89 tons of aid was shipped and distributed from Chiquita’s North American headquarters.

In 2020, 90 tons* of humanitarian aids from the US was collected, shipped and distributed by Chiquita to affected areas

Immediately after Hurricanes Iota and Eta

A total of 2,700 bags with food, water and cleaning supplies were donated to all Chiquita employees affected by the hurricane.
There’s growing evidence that all businesses need to make big changes in how they think about and work in their environments. When we grow and process our beautiful yellow bananas, we do our best to keep our impact where we work as low as possible.

On our own and supplier growers’ farms in Costa Rica, Panama, Guatemala, and Honduras, we work hard to increase productivity while also maintaining and improving biodiversity. As part of this, we have committed to ensuring that no more forests will be cleared for agricultural expansion.

To honor our commitment, we limit every crop we produce to areas that can support long-term cultivation and return any land where we can’t guarantee this to its natural state. After pioneering this approach, we are totally focused on protecting forests and reforestation. We also work hand-in-hand with The Rainforest Alliance, who closely monitor the company’s biodiversity work, and have developed a range of great ways to drive down impact, such as product rotation and good practices like preventive defoliation (picking off leaves). All of this work has allowed us to use our land to its fullest potential. We’re also adopting precision agriculture, carefully targeting agrochemicals to exactly where and when they’re really needed, and only using approved products certified by GLOBALG.A.P. and RFA.

To conserve biodiversity in the long term
To raise awareness in communities through environmental education
To promote participation of local communities

The Nogal Reserve in Costa Rica is 250 acres of rehabilitated rainforest and is home to over 1,000 species of flora and fauna.

In 2018 Chiquita gifted 375 acres of the rehabilitated San San Pond Sak wetlands to the people of Panama.

Over 30,000 farmers and students have taken part in environmental education programmes coordinated by the reserve.
The Nogal reserve

Nogal is a great example of the impact of our biodiversity work. Founded in 2004 in the Sarapiqui region of Costa Rica, the reserve is a collaboration between Chiquita and some of its customers to promote conservation and protect biodiversity.

With support from the German Society for International Cooperation, the Costa Rican government, and the Rainforest Alliance, we have undertaken a range of initiatives to support conservation and education.

The Nogal Reserve is in the San Juan La Selva Biological Corridor and we are an active member of the Local Committees. One of the project’s main objectives has been to ensure the reserve connects better with other patches of forest, so that wildlife can move freely from place to place. To achieve this goal, the project created its own biological corridor called the Local Biological Corridor Nogal-La Selva, which connects more than 600 hectares of forest.

“From 2006 to the present day, an additional 20 hectares have been recovered and restored in the area around the project, as well as protecting the 92 hectares of the reserve.”

In May 2020, we celebrated the reserve’s 15th anniversary and the more than 20,000 trees planted to help improve air quality, creating safe shelter for wildlife, and reduce the risk of natural disasters such as floods and landslides.

In 2021, the Nogal reserve obtained the Blue Flag for Biodiversity, and we were one of only four companies that obtained it.
San San Pond Sak

The San San project was created in 2008 to help protect biodiversity and support community development in the border region between Costa Rica and Panama.

The San San Pond Sak reserve is a Ramsar wetland of international importance near the Caribbean shore, and in February 2018 we donated 160ha of reforested land in the wetland to the people of Panama. This was the result of very successful partnerships with various public and private organizations all working together to protect Panama’s environment.

Community education

Since we started the Nogal project, Chiquita has worked to inspire and involve local communities by coordinating environmental education programs.

So far, over 30,000 students and farmers have taken part in these programs, improving their knowledge about biodiversity, waste management, ecosystem services and conservation. As well as these resources, Chiquita helped to build a school cafeteria, open-air gym and library with community internet access.
For the Greater Good

Our efforts under this pillar are those that are for the benefit of the whole industry and the world more broadly.
Tropical Race 4 (TR4) is a worldwide issue for our industry. Farms in the Far East have been battling with this for the last 20 years.

It has spread west and has now been detected in Colombia and Central America on high alert. It is fair to say that export markets are unlikely to run short of bananas, but protection against this disease comes at some effort and cost. Before TR4 was found in Colombia (August 2019) and Perú (April 2021), Chiquita had been ramping up its response and research.

There are two major activities:

1. Preventing the spread of TR4 into non-affected countries and farms: for instance, by adopting strict hygiene controls and procedures for accessing the workplace and having protocols for employees and visitors; ongoing training for our associates on best practices; and collaborating with Authorities/Associations like the FAO, Government Agencies and all relevant Banana Associations to encourage and promote total industry commitment.

2. Research into a longer-term solution for disease resistance, such as working together with universities and other research centers on projects to breed disease-resistant bananas.

To sum up, we are investing in all the precautions to prevent the spread of TR4 while actively leading and investing, where we should, in initiatives to achieve the long-term sustainability and stability of the banana supply. Bananas are not just part of our portfolio: we are focused, we are bananas.

Carbon Footprint

1,466 million tons of CO₂ emitted in 2019

29% reduction in emissions 2013 to 2019

30% reduction in scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2030
Our carbon footprint

With our focus on reducing our carbon footprint, we have worked closely with a sustainability consultancy to gather data, model reduction pathways, plan mitigation measures and ultimately to submit our “30 by 30” reduction plans to the Science Based Targets initiative.

We took an in-depth look at every step of our supply chain, including retail customers and the end consumer, to construct a banana life cycle assessment. The company found that the majority of the emissions come from growing and harvesting operations, with the remaining coming from packhouses and logistics. In 2019, producing a box of bananas required 12kgs of carbon, which is approximately 50g of carbon for each banana. As a comparison, berries and grapes typically require double that amount.

"Since 2013, Chiquita’s carbon footprint has been reduced by 29%".

While measurement methods have changed over time, our actions, along with those of our suppliers, have made a significant impact on reducing emissions. This reduction of around 600,000 tons of carbon is the equivalent of 140,000 fewer cars on the road or the equivalent of a full plane flying between London and New York 2,000 times.

Overall footprint for reference 12kgs per LBE*
Chiquita’s scope one and two emissions incorporate those that we are directly responsible for, such as:

- Using fertilizers is by far the biggest contributor to carbon emissions from our farming work. These fertilizers are key to a productive farm that produces the high-quality bananas our customers love.
- Transporting the bananas to port, storing them there and loading them onto vessels also takes significant amounts of fuel and electricity. In Costa Rica, the whole country is serviced entirely by renewable power, which makes a massive difference to our carbon footprint compared to other operations.
- We are also working to ensure that our power is either certified renewable or is generated from renewables. To reduce our fuel use, we are exploring how to add biofuels and potentially use of electric vehicles into operations.
Our supply chain

As with most companies in our supply chain, what are called scope three emissions are much bigger than our own and account for 93% of all emissions.

The largest is the footprint from the farms that supply Chiquita bananas but are not directly owned by us. As part of our “30 by 30” commitment, we have long-term relationships in place with these grower suppliers and will be working with them to try and help them to develop their own carbon reduction strategies by 2025.

To reduce the farm supply chain impact, Chiquita will investigate getting fertilizer and other products that are used on the farm, such as plastic, cardboard and chemicals, from companies that have their own, verified carbon reduction strategy. For shipping, we are confident that we will see our shipping suppliers continue to make strides to reduce their carbon footprint.

For example, the phasing out of high-sulphur fuel in favor of very low sulphur has already made a really important impact.

The International Maritime Organization has set a benchmark standard for the industry. They have a well-designed roadmap to further reductions that our shipping suppliers can follow.

Procuring refrigerated container services and renewing our containers has already significantly reduced our carbon footprint compared to emissions in 2013.

Between the start of 2015 and the end of 2017, we replaced 4,570 older containers with 5,700 new ones and in 2018 a further 5,000 containers were replaced. In all, 73% of our container fleet has now been replaced with modern, energy-saving versions.

“\nThe average container age has reduced from 7.6 years in 2015 to 5 years in 2018. In 2018 alone, the container upgrade led to savings of more than 3.5 million liters of fuel.\n”

From 2018 to date, we have also renewed 138 generator sets. These are used to power controlled-atmosphere reefer containers that carry cargo like our bananas by truck over long distances at set temperatures. The new sets save 52% on diesel compared to previous ones. This results in using 250 fewer tons of diesel per year.

Scope 1 and 2 – Emission (kgCO₂) by value chain stage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Farms (63%)</th>
<th>Market ports (8%)</th>
<th>Tropics ports (26%)</th>
<th>Tropics transport (2%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>63K</td>
<td>8K</td>
<td>26K</td>
<td>2K</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Given that we have been working diligently to reduce our carbon emissions since 2013, it seemed to us that the logical next step would be to set our own strategy.

In March 2021, we announced our "30 by 30" sustainability program, which is a major initiative aiming to reduce carbon emissions across our operations by 30% by the end of 2030. After a thorough review, the Science Based Target initiative (SBTi) approved our "30 by 30" sustainability program and ambitious climate target goals, making us the first global fruit company to be recognized by them. The SBTi is the organization that defines best practices, using science-based targets, and is responsible for validating and measuring our progress according to a set of strict criteria.

Recognizing the threat climate change poses to our banana crop and cherished farming communities, we commissioned a Carbon Footprint Study to identify key areas for carbon emission reduction that we want to focus on. The results of the study then guided us in creating the "30 by 30" Carbon Reduction Program. In line with the Paris Agreement, we have set a fully detailed roadmap to 2030 with clear objectives to reduce energy consumption by moving to greener electricity using solar panels and wind turbines, replacing the diesel we use by switching to biofuels or electric vehicles, and reducing nitrogen emissions from fertilizers. We have also made it a priority to work closely with our supply chain partners to help them to develop their own science-based plan by 2025. As we continue to strive toward our goal of reducing our carbon emissions by 30%, SBTi will independently track our progress, ensuring that both our advances and improvements are monitored and addressed as they should be.

For the Greater Good

For the Greater Good
A call to collaborate

Our iconic Blue Sticker has always stood for outstanding quality. Chiquita believes that a responsible and sustainable banana is a large part of what the sticker represents. We are determined to continue our commitment to sustainable farming and biodiversity and are also inspired to give back to the communities where we work.

As a global company, we recognize we have a responsibility to ensure our business processes are efficient and increasingly sustainable throughout our supply chain, while also ensuring our workforce is healthy and motivated.

Reducing emissions and improving biodiversity are not new activities for us. Since 2012, we have reduced overall farm to retail emissions by 23% by ensuring our supply chain is as efficient as possible, using the best agricultural practices, and investing in greener technology, but we realize we need to go further and we cannot do this alone.

While we are the first global fruit company to be validated by the SBTi for our “30 by 30” carbon reduction strategy, we hope others in the industry will follow our lead in the fight against climate change. We believe that continuing to invest in precision farming and embracing the fourth industrial revolution is the best way to maximize carbon efficiency from agriculture. We are committed to leading the way in adopting new ideas and approaches that are essential if we are to preserve our remaining vital carbon sinks and high value ecosystems.

In parallel with decarbonizing our production and logistics operations, we are committed to eradicating food waste, preserving biodiversity, and globally promoting the role that our bananas play in a sustainable low carbon, plant-centered diet.

“As a global citizen, we are committed to help feed Planet Earth in 2050 within a science-based carbon footprint that meets international agreements.”

For us, our “30 by 30” initiative marks an exciting milestone in our long-standing commitment to sustainability and positions Chiquita at the leading edge in the fight against climate change.
Chiquita has a long term strategy in place to increase the sustainability of banana production: it is called the Behind the Blue Sticker Approach.

The programme grows and evolves each year but the core of it has been in place since the late 1990s.

It is based on three pillars:

- **The Farmers Code**, our work on our own farms.
- **Being a Good Neighbor**, our work with communities.
- **For the Greater Good**, our industry collaborations.

Farming in the most efficient way is good for the environment, society and business: we promote farm rejuvenation and reengineering, aiming to improve efficiency, increase yield, reduce waste and make a real difference to our environmental impact. We empower our employees by promoting diversity and inclusion, fighting discrimination, ensuring representation and decent livelihoods for all.

We have a duty and commitment to our communities and we know that their success translates into our success. We protect, restore and foster biodiversity and re-forestation.

400 million people in 135 are relying on the banana industry. We owe to all of them to preserve and maintain the banana crop, by protecting our planet and eradicating diseases. We are committed - in cooperation with associations, scientists, academics, NGO’s and other stakeholders, – in reducing our carbon footprint to fight Climate Change and to find a global solution to TR4.

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