

# **FRUIT FLIES THREATS AND FIGHTING PERSPECTIVES IN KENYA**

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# Abstract

- ***Bactrocera invadens* (BI) was first reported in Kenya in 2003**
- **The impact of BI in Kenya:**
  - export restriction;
  - Kenya's fruit industry loose up to \$ 6 million annually; and
  - food insecurity.
- **Efforts to address the fruit fly have concentrated on:**
  - surveillance programs;
  - pest identification and management; and
  - registration and commercialization of pesticides.

## Present status of the pest

- The pest is widely distributed and prevalent in the low lands (below 1500m ASL)
- Direct damage to mango can exceed 80%
- Indirect damage is related to the restrictions in export markets (export restrictions has been noted for several host commodities in the US, Mauritius, Seychelles, and S. Africa)

# **National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO)**

- **The Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services (KEPHIS) is the National Plant Protection Organization of Kenya. With regard to fruit fly the institution undertakes:**
  - surveillance programs;
  - capacity building in fruit fly management; and
  - coordination of national fruit fly fighting initiatives such as the National Fruit Fly Team (NFFT) and the National Fruit Fly Task Force (FFT).

# National Fruit Fly population monitoring protocols

- Kenya has national fruit fly monitoring protocols that are reviewed continuously
- some of the protocols are outputs of the FAO *Bactrocera invandens* TCP
- a national the database of consolidated trapping results manned by KEPHIS

## **University/Research Institute dedicated to BI**

- **University/Research Institutes**

- The International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) in Nairobi collaborate with national universities in its capacity building programs

- **Local taxonomy expertise**

- Kenya has a number of fruit fly taxonomists; taxonomic trainings have been continuous with technical backstopping from ICIPE and experts from other countries

# Present status of fruit fly fighting management

- Task force
  - comprising of the private (growers' association and large scale individual fruit growers) and public sectors (KEPHIS, KARI, MoA, & the Pest Control Product Board) is in place to the awareness of the fruit fly
- Surveillance programs
  - are in place
- Research work on management options in place include:
  - use of local baits;
  - use of biopesticides;
  - orchard sanitation; and
  - post harvest treatments (cold treatment)

## Sponsored fruit fly activities

- ICIPE programs funded by BMZ, IAEA, and IFAD. The programs undertake:
  - regular monitoring in strategic sites for both invasive and native fruit fly species;
  - testing different types of attractant and pesticides;
  - implementation of management techniques; and
  - farmers' trainings.
- Horticulture Research Fund (HRF), this is public fund that has allocated money towards mitigating the impact of fruit fly



## **Strategy at regional level**

- **Co-ordination of activities through regional programs such as the African Fruit Fly Program (AFFP) of ICIPE**
- **The economic blocks**
  - to provide political leadership to regional program (s) and to give the fruit fly problem high priority among the list of developmental issues.
  - play a significant role of lobbying for funding
- **Public-private sector partnership**

# Recommendations

- Need for a regional approach in tackling the fruit fly problem
- Need for funds to go beyond the pest surveillance programs
- Need for sharing of biodiversity-parasitoids
- Need for transparency in sharing of information as regards to the BI