

## FRUIT FLY ERADICATION IN THE SOUTHERN REGION (ARG/5/005) D4

### CORE FINANCING

YEAR	Experts		Equipment	Fellowships		Scientific Visits		Training	Sub-contracts	Misc. Comp.	Total US \$
	m/d	US \$	US \$	m/d	US \$	m/d	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	
1995	15/0	171,000	150,000	10/0	33,000	-	-	25,000	-	-	379,000
1996	15/0	180,000	100,000	17/0	58,650	-	-	25,850	-	-	364,500
1997	13/0	163,800	50,000	10/0	36,000	-	-	25,300	-	-	275,100

### FOOTNOTE a/ FINANCING

YEAR	Experts		Equipment	Fellowships		Scientific Visits		Training	Sub-contracts	Misc. Comp.	Total US \$
	m/d	US \$	US \$	m/d	US \$	m/d	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	
1995	3/0	37,800	102,000	-	-	-	-	3,000	5,000	-	147,800
1996	3/0	39,600	39,200	-	-	-	-	-	27,000	-	105,800

First Year Approved: 94

Total expenditure to 30 September 1994:

\$340,596 (TACF)

**OBJECTIVES:** To achieve declaration of fly free zone in the southern region of Argentina by eradicating the medfly; to support control and eradication activities of fruit fly in Mendoza and San Juan provinces.

**BACKGROUND:** Argentina is a major producer of agricultural products and grows fruit crops on nearly one million hectares. Fruit accounts for 9% of total agricultural exports and generates close to \$450 million a year. In recent years, fruit flies have damaged about 15-20% of fruit production. The most dangerous fruit fly in Argentina is the Mediterranean fruit fly (medfly) because of the damage it causes and the quarantine barriers imposed by medfly free countries on imports from infested countries. The provinces of Mendoza and San Juan have established programmes to eradicate the medfly, including the sterile insect technique (SIT). Sterile insect rearing facilities have been established in both provinces; monitoring programmes to determine the population are in effect, and a quarantine barrier to prevent reinfestation is in operation. In 1992, the Government launched a programme to eradicate the medfly in the southern region of the country, which devotes 95,000 hectares to fruit production in the valleys, mainly apples and pears. A quarantine barrier started operation early in 1994. In other regions, as part of a recently established national programme, the Government is taking the first steps to eradicate or control the fruit fly. Almost \$9 million a year is being spent in eradication efforts, more than \$4 million in the Mendoza province. To support these efforts, the Agency established the project ARG/5/004 in 1993 to assist the national programme in formulation of plans to eradicate the medfly in the southern region and in making recommendations for more efficient implementation of activities in the Mendoza and San Juan provinces. As a result, the present project was formulated to eradicate the medfly in the southern region and to support similar ongoing activities in the provinces of Mendoza and San Juan.

**PROJECT PLAN:** For the southern region the main activities will be: (1) Establishment and operation of an efficient quarantine barrier at road crossings, rail lines, airports and Atlantic ports. (2) Implementation of an intensive fly monitoring survey in the field. (3) Combat of medfly using SIT and complementary methods. (4) Declaration of fly free area by international plant protection organizations. The main activities for the Mendoza and San Juan provinces in the ongoing eradication programme are: (1) Eradication of the medfly by a comprehensive programme for management of the flies, including the use of SIT. For this purpose sterile flies are being produced in two mass rearing facilities in the provinces. (2) Operation of a quarantine barrier to prevent reinfestation. (3) Monitoring the flies in the field. (4) Declaration of fly free area by international plant protection organizations. (5) Emergency operations to deal with reinfestations.

**NATIONAL COMMITMENT:** Under the leadership of the Argentine Institute for Plant Protection (IASCAV), which is responsible for eradication and control of the fruit fly, several national and provincial institutions are co-operating in implementing the programme. IASCAV is responsible

for co-ordination of all activities, contacts with international organizations that certify fly free zones, finding foreign resources, and provision of technical support. IASCAV also provides funds to provincial institutions responsible for field operations, trains personnel, and prepares additional legislation to support quarantine activities. Provincial health protection agencies are responsible for field operations such as sampling, monitoring, quarantine barriers and public information campaigns. The Institute for Agricultural Technology (INTA) supports field operations. Universities undertake research on specific topics, and the National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA) assists in the use of SIT. The respective provincial governments are funding most of the activities in the Mendoza and San Juan provinces, including operation of the two mass rearing facilities. IASCAV is funding the activities in the southern region. Up to the end of 1993 the Government has spent \$13,290,000 on these activities and expects to spend an additional \$33,000,000 over the four year period of the project. Most of these resources will be made available by the federal and provincial governments.

**AGENCY INPUT:** The Agency will transfer the Vienna-42 genetic sexing medfly strain developed at Seibersdorf to reduce the cost of rearing the flies and to introduce a more effective field programme using SIT, and will also provide expert services for the management of SIT eradication programmes, training in fly rearing technology and fly release techniques. Experts will also advise on quarantine barriers and fly monitoring. Fellowships and scientific visits will be awarded mainly to Guatemala, Mexico and the USA, which have similar SIT programmes. Local training courses will be organized with lecturers sponsored by the Agency. Equipment will be provided to upgrade the two sterile fly rearing facilities, for fly monitoring activities in the field, identification of flies in entomology laboratories, operation of the quarantine barriers and for research activities supporting the programme.

**IMPACT:** The southern region of Argentina would be declared a fly free zone. Maintenance of the quarantine barrier in the southern region at the conclusion of the project would lead to increased fruit production, which would lead to increased exports to the northern hemisphere and would generate considerable foreign exchange. The project will also contribute to efforts to eradicate the fruit fly in the provinces of Mendoza and San Juan. Declaration of fly free zones has the potential to increase the export of fruit by several hundred million dollars annually.