

## FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENT FOR FRUIT FLY ERADICATION USING SIT (SAF/5/002)

### D4 New

#### CORE FINANCING

YEAR	Experts		Group Activity	Equipment	Fellowships		Scientific Visits		Group Training	Sub-Contracts	Misc. Comp.	TOTAL
	m/d	US \$	US \$	US \$	m/d	US \$	m/d	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$
1997	3/8	43,120	0	60,000	6/0	18,900	1/0	9,600	0	0	0	131,620
1998	1/26	26,040	0	50,000	2/0	6,600	1/0	10,200	0	0	0	92,840
1999	2/0	29,400	0	50,000	4/0	13,800	1/0	10,800	0	0	0	104,000
2000	2/0	30,900	0	30,000	3/0	10,800	1/0	11,400	0	0	0	83,100

First Year Approved: 1997

**OBJECTIVES:** To assess the feasibility of applying the sterile insect technique on an area-wide basis to eradicate the fruit fly in designated fruit-growing areas and to determine the strategy for implementing an integrated pest control programme.

**BACKGROUND:** Infestation by fruit flies is a major constraint to deciduous fruit-growing in the Western Cape region, and as they are quarantine pests, they threaten the development of exports. The infestation potential in the deciduous fruit-growing areas, favoured by the warm climate, is very high, and it is difficult for small scale fruit farmers with limited resources to control the pest. The Government intends to integrate the sterile insect technique (SIT) in pest management programmes with a view to eradicating fruit flies in most of the infested areas in the Western Cape. The Stellenbosch Institute for Fruit Technology (ARC-INFRUITEC), which is partially funded by the fruit industry, under the Agricultural Research Council, is responsible for research on all aspects of deciduous fruit production; the Pest Management Division has experience of rearing fruit flies on a small scale. The Agency has been requested to assist in assessing the technological and economic feasibility of applying SIT. Plant quarantine will play a major role in the implementation and success of possible future large scale operations, and the Directorate of Plant and Quality Control, Department of Agricultural Development, will therefore be closely associated with the activities.

**NATIONAL COMMITMENT:** Qualified staff; premises; fruit fly monitoring equipment and materials; mass-rearing equipment and materials; quarantines; operating costs.

**AGENCY INPUT:** Expert services to assist in mass-rearing of fruit flies, SIT operations, and plant quarantines; equipment for fly trapping and mass-rearing; training.

**PROJECT IMPACT:** In the long term, small scale fruit growers will be able to reduce the costs of production and increase their income. Eradication of the fruit fly would open new international markets for the local fruit industry.