

Boost in fight against False Codling Moth

By [Fred Meintjes](#) | 19 October 2023

Pioneering work in the fight against False Codling Moth has been rewarded in South Africa by the Western Cape government

Financial support of some R2m has been announced by the Western Cape Department of Agriculture for citrus growers, using the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) for False Codling Moth (FCM).

The SIT programme is delivered by X Sterile Insect Technique (X-SIT), forming part of the RBX Group, and is a subsidiary of the Citrus Growers' Association of Southern Africa (CGA).

The RBX Group develops, supplies and supports sustainable crop protection products that assist in keeping export crops free of pests so that they can meet international phytosanitary regulations and food safety requirements.

X-SIT helps to retain international market access for a critical sector of the South African economy.

The Western Cape al substantial amount of sustaining some 140,

Welcome to Fruitnet.com. This site uses cookies.
[Read our policy.](#)

son, generating a e province while



Sterile False Codling Moth being released in the Western Cape

The X-SIT technique is a sustainable and environmentally safe practice that does not make use of any pesticides.

In combating FCM, the practice involves rearing large numbers of male and female moths, sterilising them by exposure to radiation and then releasing them into the orchards.

When the sterile moths mate with wild moths, the eggs that are produced are not viable. This leads to a huge reduction in the FCM population over time.

The SIT treatment programme started in 2007 in Citrusdal, following research by the CGA's research subsidiary Citrus Research International, as well as the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Hannes de Waal, Chairman of the CGA, welcomed the support from the provincial government for the programme.

"We are truly grateful to the Western Cape Department of Agriculture," he said. "Projects such as this is important in keeping key markets like Europe and the US open to producers. We are proud to contribute to communities through both job creation and environmental preservation."

The Western Cape minister of agriculture, Dr Ivan Meyer, said the Department of Agriculture's support gave access to citrus growers who found the SIT Programme unaffordable, supported compliance with export requirements and protected jobs within the citrus industry.

He explained that the citrus industry played a critical role in the fruit and export basket of the Western Cape, and job creation and economic development in the province.

"The Sterile Insect Technique is a proven intervention, as research has shown that it reduces fruit infestation and export rejections and reduces the risk of fruit destined for export being rejected by the importing country," the minister added.

The SIT programme supports 140 jobs and is not only used for citrus crops. Currently, it is used on 19,500ha of varied crops, including table grapes and stonefruit.

The facility in Citrusdal has the potential to increase this to over 40,000ha.

De Waal is hopeful at serve as a critical bas control," he added.

Welcome to Fruitnet.com. This site uses cookies.
[Read our policy.](#)

ither expensive but pproach to key pest

“We will continue and encourage other funders to realise the importance of the Sterile Insect Technique in export crop protection.”

EUROFRUIT



Welcome to Fruitnet.com. This site uses cookies.
[Read our policy.](#)