

Navigating

THE HIGH PEST PRESSURE of the season

River Bioscience and XSIT assist the citrus industry with maintaining market access by managing and monitoring pest population dynamics area-wide. By Rob Elfick



Rob Elfick



With export markets being a key focus of our local fruit production, managing certain phytosanitary pests whilst ensuring world-class quality and consumer safety is no easy feat. As producer-owned organisations, River Bioscience and XSIT are proud to be able to provide their counterparts with a holistic and sustainable approach to managing these pests whilst meeting market requirements.

River Bioscience and XSIT play a critical role in providing area-wide pest management approaches to reduce overall pest pressure, such as the sterile insect technique (SIT) for false codling moth (FCM), mating disruption, as well as

False Codling Moth
(*Thaumatotibia leucotreta*)

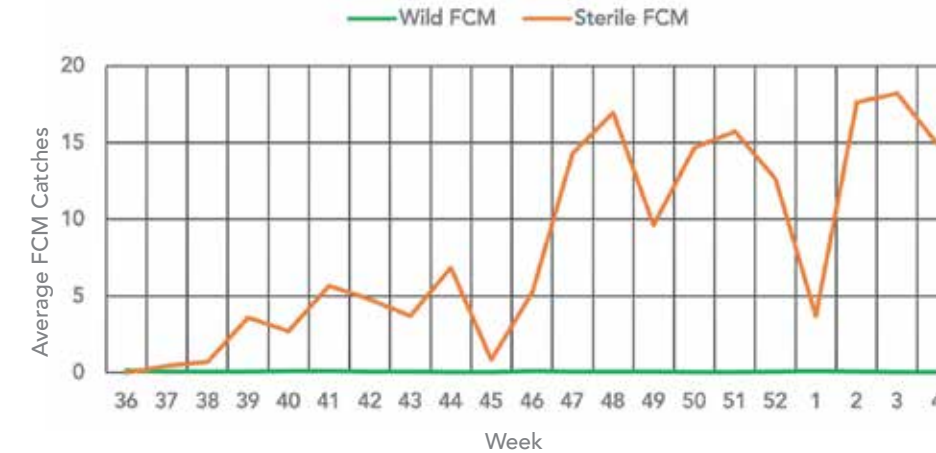
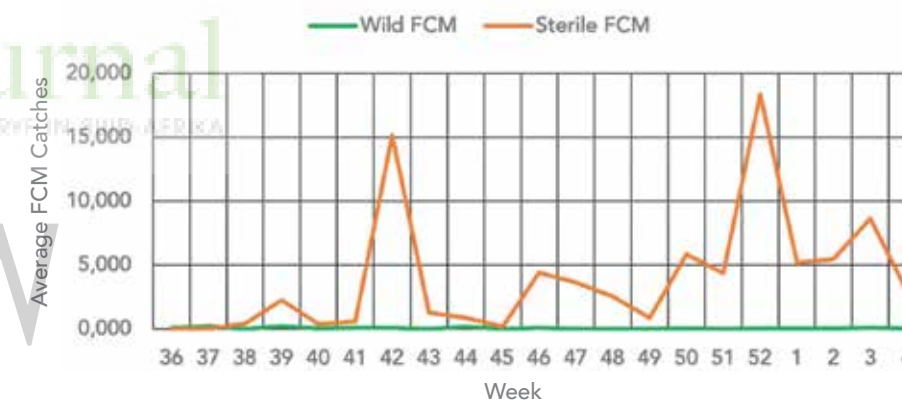
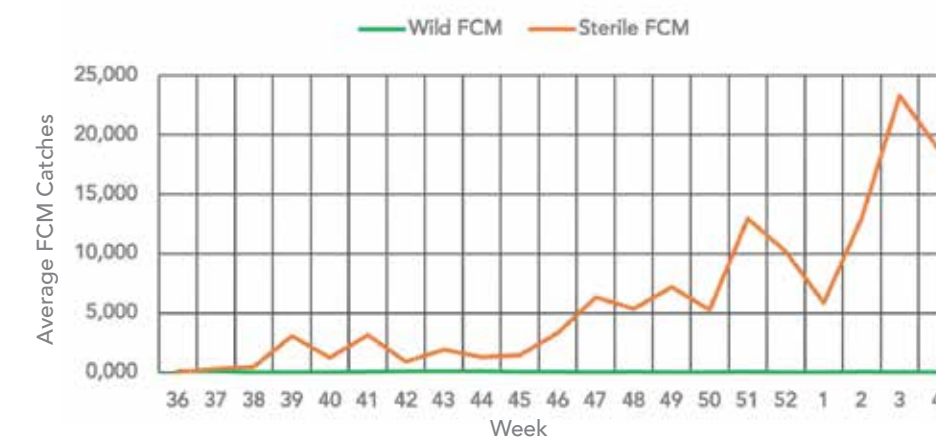


Figure 1: Number of sterile moths versus wild moths 2021/22 Season FCM Catches in ORV



Number of sterile moths versus wild moths 2021/22 Season FCM Catches in BRV



Number of sterile moths versus wild moths 2021/22 Season FCM Catches in GRV

River Bioscience and XSIT – both producer-owned – provide their counterparts with a holistic and sustainable approach to managing these pests, whilst meeting market requirements.

biological insecticides to protect fruit from infestation. These types of products play a key role in providing fruit producers with tools to be used within an Integrated Pest Management Programme (IPM) or as they call it, an “IPM toolbox”. However, in order to adopt an IPM effectively, one needs to understand what target pest pressure is, from an area level down to orchard level, and how this varies between seasons.

As part of the FCM SIT programme, XSIT monitors FCM and fruit fly pressure on close to 16 000 ha of citrus and table grapes. Every week our trained CRI certified monitors collect data from a large number of trap stations in the various valleys, then the data is circulated to our customers and key stakeholders, to drive informed decision making at both farm and orchard level. **Figure 1** shows an example of the average wild FCM catches in the Olifants River Valley (ORV). This not only helps our growers plan their IPM programmes, it also provides valuable feedback on the results and performance of the FCM SIT

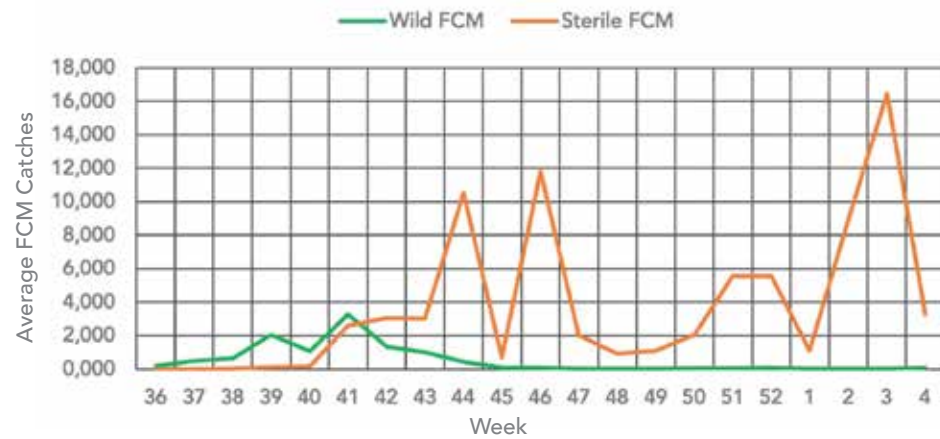
programme. The rest of the graphs show consistently more sterile moths caught per week compared to wild FCM, and this overflooding ratio is how the FCM SIT programme suppresses wild FCM populations over time, in each valley in which it operates.

Our monitoring services once again prove that River Bioscience and XSIT support producers at all levels, and have their best interests at heart. 🍊

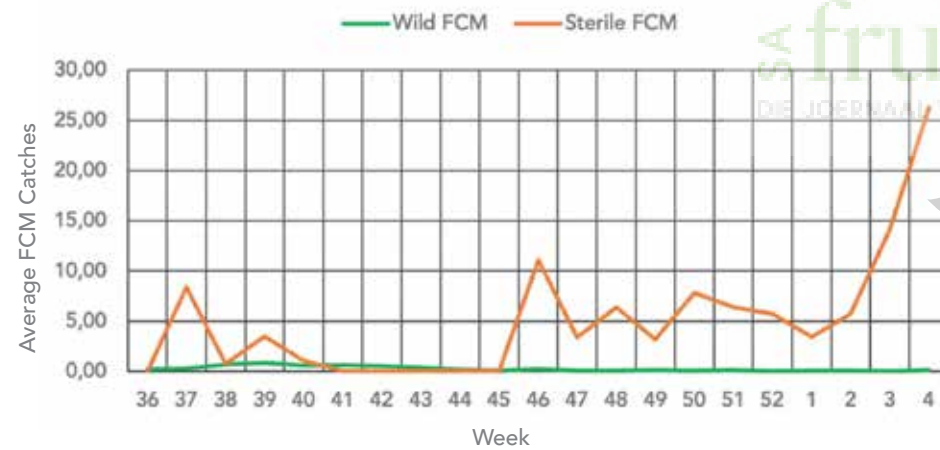
Effective adoption of IPM requires a full understanding of target pest pressure, from area to orchard level, as well as seasonal variations.



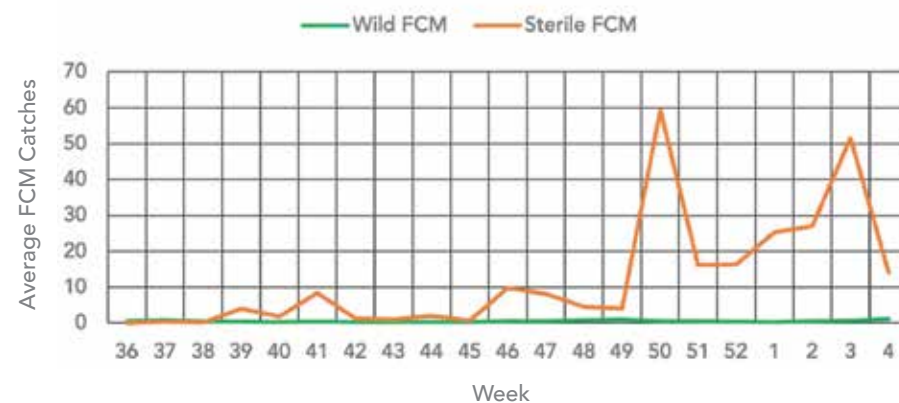
False Codling Moth on fruit
(*Thaumetotibia leucotreta*)



Number of sterile moths versus wild moths
2021/22 Season FCM Catches in HEX



Number of sterile moths versus wild moths
2021/22 Season FCM Catches in KKM



Number of sterile moths versus wild moths
2021/22 Season FCM Catches in SRV



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