

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (47/10)

Justin Chadwick (3 December 2010)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK *"We hope that, when the insects take over the world, they will remember with gratitude how we took them along on all our picnics."* Richard Vaughan

BACTROCERA INVADENS (BI)

In May this year BI was detected in surveillance traps in the north of South Africa. For some time Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and industry had been readying themselves for such an incident. A BI action plan had been developed and a stockpile of material had been accumulated to deal with such an event. The action plan activated a steering committee which has met regularly since the May detection. Growers in the affected area were instrumental in taking ownership of the problem and assisting with eradication. To my knowledge the eradication of BI in this area is the first in the world – and illustrates how foresight, good planning and a true public-private partnership can address such a problem. I would like to thank all those who have played a role in this successful eradication – from DAFF Jan Hendrik Venter, Alice Baxter, Mike Holtshauzen, Marianna Theyse, Joey Coetzee and all the DAFF inspectors in the field; from CRI Aruna Manrakhan, Vaughan Hattingh, Hennie Le Roux, Peter Stephen, John Henry Daniel and all those who played a role behind the scenes; the growers in the area, in particular Bertus Dilman and Hannes Nel; and representatives from the other fruit sectors. More information is supplied in the Cutting Edge No 111 – an extract is included below:

*Soon after detection of **B. invadens**, a delimiting survey was carried out by DAFF to determine extent of spread. The area between Pontdrif and Musina was placed under quarantine. Eradication procedures commenced on 4 June 2010 and were directed at host patches in the area between Pontdrif and Musina. Eradication was carried out over a period of 12 weeks using a combination of ground applied male annihilation treatments (deployment of fibreboard blocks impregnated with methyl eugenol and Malathion targeting the male population) and air/ground applied protein bait treatments. Male annihilation blocks were removed from the area as from 30 August 2010 and monitoring for the fly continued in the area thereafter to determine eradication success. Twelve weeks have now elapsed since the last **B. invadens** find in the area and no **B. invadens** was captured in the area following removal of methyl eugenol (ME) blocks. Eradication has been declared successful in this area, but monitoring will continue.*

CONTINUED VIGILANCE

The successful eradication of BI in this area is not the end of the story – the threat remains and the industry will need to remain vigilant. The BI Steering Committee continues to meet, and the stockpile of materials is being replenished. Cutting Edge 111 advises as follows:

Fruit growers throughout southern Africa are encouraged to undertake monitoring for the presence of **B. invadens** in accordance with the procedures described in documents approved by the **Bactrocera invadens** Steering Committee (Cutting Edge numbers 102 and 77; Fresh Notes 13 and 4).

River Bioscience (grower owned subsidiary of CGA) has some products that may be of interest to growers in their biosecurity planning. The following was supplied by Keith Danckwerts (GM of River Bioscience):

Growers are reminded that it is time to take action against FCM with Cryptogran. Best results are achieved by early season control to suppress overall population, in particular December sprays; which can be combined with Black spot sprays except copper based fungicides.

Growers wanting to monitor for the presence of the African invasive fruit fly **Bactrocera invadens** can use RB's monitoring lure Invader-lure with a dichlorvos tablet in a Lynnfield trap. Growers can manufacture their own Lynnfield traps very cheaply or can purchase these from River Bioscience.

Please see RB website www.riverbioscience.co.za

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GROWERS' ASSOCIATION, CITRUS ACADEMY AND CITRUS RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL**