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National Agricultural Marketing Council
Strategic positioning of South African agriculture in dynamic global markets

DECIDUOUS FRUIT INDUSTRY

REQUEST FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PER HECTARE STATUTORY LEVY TO FUND THE AREA WIDE MEDITIRRANEAN FRUIT FLY CONTROL (MEDFLY) PROGRAMME

COMMENTS REQUESTED BY NAMC

The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries received a request from Hortgro Services for the expansion and continuation of the per hectare (ha) statutory levy, to fund the area wide Mediterranean fruit fly control programme, in selected production regions for the next four year period, namely 2012/13 to 2015/16 period.

Section 10 of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act stipulates *inter alia* that a directly affected group may request the Minister in writing to establish one or more statutory measures. The applicant for the statutory measures is Hortgro Services, who acts on behalf of Fruit Fly Africa (Pty) Ltd (previously SIT Africa), a service entity owned by the various national producer associations.

If approved this will be a separate levy, meaning that the existing statutory levies on deciduous fruit (to finance information, research, transformation etc.) will remain unchanged.

The industry proposed the introduction of the following levy to fund the roll out of the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) on the Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly) programme. The (maximum) amounts of the proposed statutory levy (which includes aerial baiting costs) on the planted hectares in the specified production regions, would be as follows:

	July 2012 – June 2013	**July 2013 – June 2014**	**July 2014 – June 2015**	**July 2015 – June 2016**
Langkloof	R175/ha	R186/ha	R880/ha	R940/ha
Blouputs	R625/ha	R665/ha	R715/ha	R770/ha
Elgin, Grabouw, Vyeboom and Villiersdorp area, the Hemel-&-Aarde area, the Ceres (Warm Bokkeveld) area, the Wolseley and Tulbagh area	R775/ha	R825/ha	R875/ha	R935/ha
Hex River Valley	R1 075/ha	R1 150/ha	R1 225/ha	R1 300/ha

Council Members: Ms N Msimang, Ms M Gill, Mr A Young, Ms T Zimu, Mr A Cronje, Mr J Purchase, Mr L Magingxa, Mrs M vd Merwe, Mr S Symington, Mr L Maduma

The implementation of this programme allows for the monitoring and control of a range of phytosanitary pests, as well as the overall reduction of the use of synthetic pesticides, with its concomitant increase in insect resistance as well as residues. The above are increasingly being rejected by consumers in export markets.

Directly affected groups (e.g. producers, traders, agents, exporters and export inspection bodies) in the deciduous fruit industry are kindly requested to submit any comments, in writing, regarding the proposed statutory levy, to the NAMC on or before 10 February 2012, to enable the Council to finalise its recommendation to the Minister in this regard.

ENQUIRIES:

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