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## FRUIT INDUSTRY

### REQUEST FOR AN *AD HOC* AREA BASED PER HECTARE STATUTORY LEVY TO FUND *BACTROCERA DORSALIS* (BD) ERADICATION PROGRAMMES IN SPECIFIC PRODUCTION REGIONS

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#### NAMC REQUESTING COMMENTS / INPUTS FROM INDUSTRY ROLE PLAYERS

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On 27 July 2021, the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development received a request from FruitFly Africa (Pty) Ltd (FFA) for the implementation, of a new area based, per hectare *ad hoc*, statutory levy for the funding of *Bactrocera dorsalis* (BD) (also known as the Oriental Fruit Fly) programmes in specific production regions to be implemented from January 2022 for a four year period.

The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRDD) supports the application and BD control strategy and will continue to support co-funding operational expenses *via* the Public Private Partnership arrangement between DALRRD and the participating producers *via* FruitFly Africa (Pty) Ltd. Currently, DALRRD run an initiative for the surveillance and eradication of BD in South Africa. The proposed application sets out a strategy that will lighten the burden on DALRRD's human resources and ensure fast reaction times to potential threats are available on grass roots level.

It is proposed that a maximum levy of R1 160-00/ha per year be introduced in the production regions (indicated below) based on the need for eradication within a specific year subject to the number of hectares to be treated. FFA calculated that between R47 442 813 (2022) and R54 920 986 (2025) will be required to run the eradication programme.

**These funds will only be levied in areas and in years where eradication measures are required.** If approved, this will be a separate statutory levy, meaning that the existing statutory levies in the fruit industry (to finance research, information, transformation etc) will remain unchanged.

The eradication programme will be available in the following production regions, namely:

- Elgin-Grabouw-Vyeboom (EGV1);
- Hex River Valley (Incl. De Wet & Brandwacht);
- Witzenberg (Warm Bokkeveld, Wolseley, Tulbagh, Koue-Bokkeveld, Agter-Witzenberg and Bo-Swaarmoed); and
- Langkloof.

The NAMC believes that the statutory levy requested are consistent with the objectives of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act (as set out in section 2 of the Act).

Directly affected groups in the fruit industry are kindly requested to submit any comments, in writing, regarding the proposed statutory levy, to the NAMC on or before 27 August 2021, to enable the Council to finalise its recommendation to the Minister in this regard.

**ENQUIRIES:**

National Agricultural Marketing Council

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