
FRUIT INDUSTRY

REQUEST FOR A PER HECTARE STATUTORY LEVY TO FUND THE AREA WIDE FRUIT FLY CONTROL PROGRAMME - SPECIFICALLY FOR THE ELGIN/GRABOUW AND VYEBOOM (INCLUDING EERSTEHOOP) AREAS

NAMC REQUESTING COMMENTS FROM INDUSTRY ROLE PLAYERS

On 9 July 2025, the Minister of Agriculture received a request from FruitFly Africa (Pty) Ltd (FFA), on behalf of the fruit industry, for the implementation of a Rand per hectare (R p/ha) statutory levy to continue the funding of the Area-Wide Integrated Pest Management Programme (AW-IPMP), in selected production regions, for a new three (3) year period, namely 2025/26 - 2027/28. This three (3) year period is specifically to bring the region in line with other areas where such statutory levies have already been approved in 2024 (expiring 26 September 2028).

If approved this will be a separate and differentiated levy, meaning that the other existing statutory levies in the fruit industry (financing research and development, information, transformation etc.) will remain unchanged. It is proposed that the differentiated levy be introduced, in the following two production regions namely, Elgin/Grabouw and Vyeboom (including Eerstehoop), based on the needs and unique requirements in terms of international best practice and tailor-made strategies for these two areas.

The AW-IPMP is managed in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture (DOA) which co-fund the operational expenses *via* a Public Private Partnership arrangement between the Department and the participating producers for the past 17 years. Producers are represented by area coordinating committees and the various national deciduous fruit industry commodity organisations.

FFA's current geographical footprint covers $\pm 50\%$ of the pome- and stone fruit industries and $\pm 86\%$ of table- and dried grape plantings in South Africa. It also follows the multi-insect risk mitigation approach to pro-actively adapt to the ever-changing global phytosanitary landscape of the fruit industry. FFA also contributes towards the direct cost of emerging producers participating in the

programmes (more than R4 million over a four-year term for all the regions making use of statutory levies).

It is proposed that the differentiated levy be introduced in the respective production regions based on the needs and unique requirements in terms of international best practice and tailor-made strategies for such areas. The proposed strategy includes the Sterile Insect Technique at various stages of implementation as agreed with the producers in such areas. The 2025/26 financial year will cover the period from October 2025 to September 2026.

The areas that agreed to be included during this levy cycle, of the envisaged ultimate industry-wide roll of the programme, are:	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Elgin-Grabouw R p/ha	1 974	2 112	2 260
Vyeboom (including Eerstehoop) R p/ha	1 910	2 044	2 187

The business plan and overall contributions from the DOA and producers (*via* a statutory levy and user-pay services) can be summarized as follows:

Period	DOA contribution		Producer's contribution		Annual Total
2025/26	R17 000 000	17,34%	R81 062 339	82,66%	R98 062 339
2026/27	R17 000 000	16,38%	R86 793 191	83,62%	R103 793 191
2027/28	Not available yet		R92 932 648		

The NAMC believes that the proposed statutory levies requested are consistent with the objectives of the MAP Act (as set out in section 2 of the Act).

The NAMC believes that the application by FruitFly Africa for the implementation of the proposed statutory levies in the relevant regions are consistent with the objectives of the MAP Act (as set out in section 2 of the Act).

Directly affected groups (e.g. producers, packers and exporters) in the fruit industry are kindly requested to submit any comments, in writing, regarding the proposed fruit fly statutory levies, to Mathilda van der Walt (mathildavdw@namc.co.za) on or before 15 August 2025, to enable the NAMC to finalise its recommendation to the Minister in this regard.