
FRUIT INDUSTRY

REQUEST FOR A STATUTORY MEASURE (PER HECTARE *AD HOC* LEVY) FOR THE FUNDING OF THE AREA-WIDE *BACTROCERA DORSALIS* ERADICATION PROGRAMME IN SPECIFIED PRODUCTION AREAS IN THE EASTERN-, WESTERN- AND NORTHERN CAPE

NAMC REQUESTING COMMENTS FROM INDUSTRY ROLE PLAYERS

On 19 November 2025, the Minister of Agriculture received a request from FruitFly Africa (Pty) Ltd, on behalf of the fruit industry, for the continuation of the 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 for a new four-year period implemented as soon as possible (the current statutory levy will expire by the end of December 2025). This application includes the Lower-Orange-River area (on table-grapes and citrus) a new area where the levy will be introduced for the first time which was previously not part of this *ad-hoc* producer levy.

The Department of Agriculture (DoA) supports the BD control strategy and will continue to co-fund operational expenses of the area-wide Medfly control programme *via* the Public- Private Partnership arrangement between the DoA and the participating producers *via* FruitFly Africa (Pty) Ltd (FFA).

It is proposed that a maximum levy of R1 367-00/ha per year (excluding VAT) be introduced, for the 1st year of the cycle, 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 R60 million (2026) and R86 million (2029) will be required to run the eradication programme.

These funds will only be levied in areas and in years where eradication measures are required. Should no eradication actions be necessary during a season, no funds will be levied. For regions bigger than 2 500 hectares a *pro-rata* lower per hectare levy will be applicable.

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 Eastern-, Western- and Northern Cape still has an official (from the DOA) pest-free status with regards to BD, and it is therefore vital to put all possible precautionary measures in place to keep these fruit production areas pest-free.

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

- Hex River Valley;
- De Wet;
- Brandwacht;
- Elgin-Grabouw;
- Hemel & Aarde Valley;
- Vyeboom;
- Warm Bokkeveld (including Hamlet, Eselfontein rd., Onder-Swaarmoed);
- Koue Bokkeveld;
- Agter-Witzenberg;
- Bo-Swaarmoed;
- Wolseley;
- Tulbagh
- Langkloof; and
- *Lower-Orange-River (on table-grapes and citrus is a new area where the levy will be introduced for the first time).*

This mechanism was used with great success during the past four years and **enabled FFA and regional structures to eradicate *Bactrocera dorsalis* in the Hex River valley and Elgin-Grabouw area**. The fruit industry is confident that the successful continuation and expansion of this measure as motivated will not only empower regions to differentiate themselves in the international marketing environment, but will substantially enhance their ability to comply with international quarantine requirement in support of the national growth targets based on exports, maintaining and growing jobs and ensure food security in rural areas.

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 is 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 16 January 2026, to enable the NAMC to finalise its recommendation to the Minister in this regard.