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**REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ERADICATION OF  
THE CARAMBOLA FRUIT FLY IN SOUTH AMERICA**

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The Carambola Fruit Fly (CFF), *Bactrocera carambolae*, is a relatively recent introduction into the Western Hemisphere and is closely related to the Oriental Fruit Fly, *B. dorsalis*. Its establishment in South America is a threat to the production and marketing of fruits throughout tropical and subtropical South and Central America and the Caribbean.

CFF was first detected in Suriname, and the Ministry of Agriculture conducted trapping surveys to determine its geographic distribution and tested control strategies since 1988. Action begun in 1995 in Suriname and Guyana, and 1996, in Brazil, have halted the spread of CFF at the eastern and western extremes of its distribution. France has also determined the geographic distribution of CFF within French Guyana.

In Mid-1997, a regional program composed of the four infested countries (Suriname, Guyana, French Guyana, and Brazil) was initiated to eradicate CFF from South America. IFAD, USDA, IICA and the governments of the affected countries fund this program.

The program uses the male annihilation technique (MAT) through the distribution of bait stations throughout infested areas by ground release. Bait stations are fiber blocks impregnated with methyl-eugenol and malathion or spot sprays of methyl-eugenol and malathion mixed with min-u-gel. Plans for future actions include MAT by aerial release.

No flies have been detected in Guyana since November 1997 and only two flies were found in the 150 traps located in the Oiapoque area of Brazil. The control program in west Suriname has eradicated the fly from the area, though one hot spot remains. Our latest trapping data shows that the sparsely inhabited interior (the vast majority of the area) of Suriname is free of CFF. Intensive trapping in the Saint George area in French Guyana from November 1997 to January 1998 has shown an average of 5 flies/trap/ month.

The program is planned to be completed in three years after beginning full-scale activities.