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### **ERADICATION OF AN EXOTIC FRUIT FLY FROM MAURITIUS**

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The Oriental fruit fly, *Bactrocera dorsalis* (Hendel) which is one of the most damaging fruit fly pests, is presently distributed over Asia, Pacific Ocean islands and South America. Its presence in the African region was recorded for the first time in the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius in June 1996. Early detection of this pest was possible due to a network of fruit fly traps being operated islandwide in the context of an area wide National Fruit Fly Control Programme. Immediate steps were taken towards the containment of *B. dorsalis* with a view to its eventual eradication. The measures include two techniques presently being used in the control programme, the Bait Application Technique and Male Annihilation Technique. The incursion of *B. dorsalis* covered an area of about 250 km<sup>2</sup>. Eradication measures have yielded successful results and it is expected that by the end of the present fruiting season in May 1998, the first phase of eradication will have been completed. The last adult was trapped in May 1997 and detection from collected fruits dates back to the same period.