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### **FRUIT FLY CONTROL IN MAURITIUS**

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Fruit production in Mauritius is confined mainly to backyards. The control of fruit flies in such situations by the use of conventional means is not practical and convenient for most householders. An area wide programme, jointly funded by the European Union and the Government of Mauritius, to control fruit flies started in April 1994. This National Fruit Fly Control Project aims at the control of fruit flies over a large area by the use of Bait Application Technique to bring down the populations to very low levels, followed by the Male Annihilation Technique, to maintain the populations at these levels. The effectiveness of control has been demonstrated by a reduction of larval infestation in both wild and cultivated fruits with a simultaneous decrease in fruit fly population and fruit infestation level.

The National Fruit Fly Control Project originally covered an area of about 600 km<sup>2</sup> and is presently being expanded to cover the entire island, that is an area of about 1800 km<sup>2</sup>.