

**FRUIT FLY-FREE AREAS AND AREAS OF LOW PREVALENCE
OF FRUIT FLIES**

Communication from Peru

1. Since 1998, Peru's National Agrarian Health Service (SENASA) has been implementing a plan to control and eradicate fruit flies (*Ceratitis capitata* and *Anastrepha* spp) present in the country, as part of a process conducted with the support of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) with a view to improving plant and animal health. The objective is to eradicate pests from these areas and maintain their pest-free status.
2. To achieve this goal, Peru has adopted a Regulation for the Control, Suppression and Eradication of Fruit Flies; the pest detection system, covering a farming area of 420,000 hectares, has been modernized, expanded and refined; integrated pest control activities, involving extensive participation by farmers, have been stepped up, with special emphasis on farming valleys along the Peruvian coast. Communication and awareness-raising campaigns are also currently being carried out in order to inform the population, and quarantine protection measures are being implemented in valleys that are in the process of achieving eradication.
3. As a result of these activities, conducted under the supervision of the SENASA with input from the private sector, the populations of both species of fruit fly have already diminished to levels close to eradication in some valleys and irrigated areas, especially in the departments of Moquegua, Arequipa, Ica, Lima, and Piura.
4. The low levels achieved benefit producers and exporters alike, since there are fewer losses from pest damage and it will be possible to ease the phytosanitary requirements applicable to Peruvian exports of fruit-fly host products.

For example, an economic study carried out in 2002 reported:

- Profits from reduced fruit infestation: US\$6 million per crop year;
 - prospective profits from pest eradication: US\$23 million per crop year (elimination of damage);
 - producers' private savings as a result of pest eradication in the main coastal valleys will be around US\$20 million per crop year (savings on costs for control activities).
5. The SENASA is currently preparing technical files to substantiate the declaration of fruit-fly free areas and to that end is strengthening the quarantine protection system in order to maintain the status achieved.