

**NOTICE 88 OF 2009**  
**DECIDUOUS FRUIT INDUSTRY**

**REQUEST FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A STATUTORY LEVY**  
**TO CONTROL FRUIT FLIES**

**COMMENTS REQUESTED BY NAMC**

The Minister of Agriculture received a request from the Deciduous Fruit Producers' Trust (DFPT) for the implementation of a per hectare statutory levy on pome, stone and table/dried grapes to combat fruit fly *via* the sterile insect technique, in terms of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act (MAP Act), Act No. 47 of 1996.

Section 10 of the MAP Act stipulates *inter alia* that a directly affected group may request the Minister in writing to establish one or more statutory measures. The applicant for the statutory measures is DFPT who acts on behalf of SIT Africa (Pty) Ltd, a service entity owned by the various national producer associations.

If approved, this will be a separate levy and the existing statutory levies on deciduous fruit (to finance information, research transformation etc.) will remain unchanged.

The industry proposed the introduction of the following levy to fund the roll out of the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) on Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly):

	<b>Proposed levy</b>
Stone fruit and table / dried grapes	R 200 / hectare
Pome fruit	R 125 / hectare

SIT allows for the control of a range of phytosanitary pests, as well as the overall reduction of the use of synthetic pesticides, with its concomitant increase in insect resistance as well as residues, are increasingly being rejected by consumers in export markets.

Directly affected groups (e.g. producers, traders, agents, exporters and export inspection bodies) in the deciduous fruit industry are kindly requested to submit any comments, in writing, regarding the proposed statutory levy, to the NAMC on or before 13 February 2009, to enable the Council to finalise its recommendation to the Minister in this regard.

**ENQUIRIES:**

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