



WEST AFRICAN FRUIT FLY INITIATIVE (WAFFI 2)

Led by: CIRAD, WBG and EU

Time-frame: April 2009 – March 2010

STDF funding: US\$313,220 (total project value US\$694,540)

INFORMATION SHARING ON FRUIT FLY IN AFRICA

Led by: COLEACP

Time-frame: June 2009 – June 2011

STDF funding: US\$82,800 (total project value US\$136,500)

SPS RISK ASSESSMENT IN THE MALI MANGO SECTOR

Led by: WBG and ANSSA

Time-frame: May 2010 – November 2012

STDF funding: US\$474,208 (total project value US\$528,021)

WEST AFRICAN FRUIT FLY INITIATIVE: FOLLOW-UP (WAFFI 3)

Led by: WBG, CIRAD and IITA

Time-frame: April 2010 – August 2011

STDF funding: US\$559,482 (total project value US\$848,469)

“The projects led to better cooperation and coordination at sub-regional level and created a sustainable regional platform to share knowledge on fruit fly control. Thanks to training and skills support, small-holder farmers are being empowered to become agricultural entrepreneurs, boosting production and incomes”.

G.J. Benoit
Gnonlonfin,
ECOWAS SPS lead

FIGHT AGAINST FRUIT FLY BEARS FRUIT, BOOSTING SAFER TRADE IN WEST AFRICA

The safe trade gap

Fruit and vegetable producers across West Africa faced increasing production losses due to the emergence of fruit fly attacks on their crops. That meant that locally important products for export, from mangos to citrus fruits, were being intercepted and destroyed on reaching the EU market. Small-scale farmers saw their incomes fall, and livelihoods of communities across the region were at risk. To fight back and take on the cross-border challenge of African fruit fly meant finding a regional response that could plug research, knowledge and skills gaps on fruit fly control for the long-term.

Partnership approach

Close regional cooperation and partnerships led to capacity building and awareness-raising activities in the four projects. Alongside EU, WBG and COLEACP initiatives, the projects consolidated efforts in West Africa and brought together regional organizations, including ECOWAS, and national governments to coordinate the fight on fruit fly and tackle the disruption to safe trade. Producers, exporters, value chain associations and research institutes across West Africa and the continent as a whole shared knowledge and identified targeted solutions. The projects led to better fruit fly control, stronger public-private sector dialogue and awareness on the value of a regional approach.

Results

- Studies under the projects plugged the knowledge gap on tackling fruit fly and paved the way for a Regional Action Plan to Control Fruit Fly in West Africa.
- Practical training and workshops on fruit fly control reached a wide range of stakeholders. Producers developed skills to protect their crops; exporters learned how to comply with safety and quality standards, and trainers adopted the latest training methods.
- Better coordination led to greater regional awareness on fruit fly. Up-to-date information and analysis plugged data gaps. In addition, 18 newsletters were shared with over 1,300 public and private sector stakeholders in 59 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.
- Thanks to wider efforts, alongside the projects, the mango trade regained its momentum: between 2009 and 2014 mango exports to the EU rose by 67% in volume and 101% in value. At the same time safety-related interceptions and rejections fell.

Sustaining impact

- An independent meta evaluation in 2016 found that the projects were “highly relevant, with a good level of effectiveness and efficiency”, and had an “overall positive impact on productivity and exports”.
- STDF support paved the way for a regional project to control fruit flies in 2016 by ECOWAS, WAEMU, the EU, AFD and CORAF/WECARD.
- CIRAD and IITA built on the projects rolling out the West African Fruit Fly Initiative (WAFFI 4).
- In Mali, linking up private sector actors led to the creation of the Mali Mango Value Chain Association.

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