

# Native fruit flies

There are four fruit fly species of economic relevance: citrus fly, mango fly, guava fly and zapote fly. All are native to the American continent and are distributed in tropical and subtropical areas. They cause damages by feeding from fruits and economic losses to the country if they are not controlled.

The National Campaign against Fruitflies (CNFM) started in Mexico in 1992 with the aim to control, suppress and eradicate. The CNFM has been based in the concept of integral management of pests, and includes trap-based monitoring and sampling of fruits, and the use of mechanical, chemical, SIT (sterile insect technique) and biological control methods.

Environment-friendly strategies, such as the release of irradiated sterile fruitflies, are used to control these pests. The release of wasps produced in the Moscafurt plant in Metapa de Dominguez Chiapas, Mexico is also used, since they are natural enemies of the pest.

The establishment and maintenance of fruitfly free zones has allowed fruit exports without post-harvest quarantine treatment; moreover, in the absence of the pest, control activities such as the application of selective bait are not required, and costs and environmental damages are reduced since the use of insecticides decreases.

In 2010, the Inter-American Institute of for Cooperation in Agriculture carried out an “Economic assessment of the

National Campaign against Fruitflies in the states of Baja California, Guerrero, Nuevo León, Sinaloa, Sonora and Tamaulipas (1994-2008)". The study showed that the operation of the campaign is profitable.