



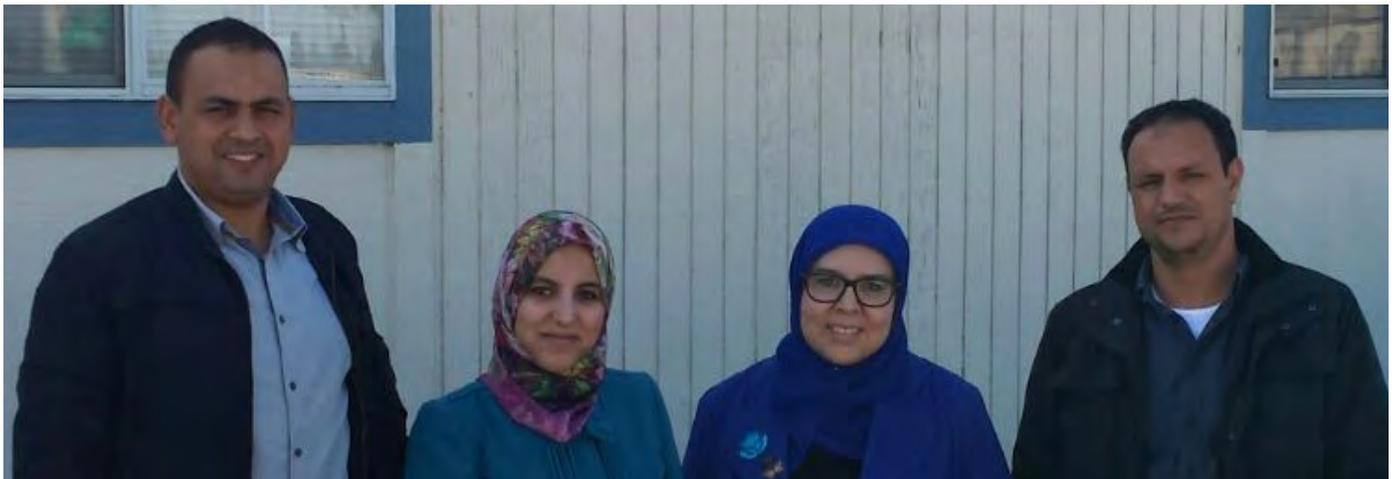
## Monitoring and Emergency Responses to Exotic Fruit Flies in California, USA

As part of developing capacity of the Moroccan team responsible for implementation of the integrated management program for fruit flies, four engineers within the National Office for Safety Foods (ONSSA) were appointed to undergo the above training from January 25 to 29, 2016 as participants in the IAEA Fellowship Program. The training was supervised by Mr. Leathers W Jason, the Primary State Entomologist in the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

During the five days of training, Moroccan team had the opportunity to have an overview of monitoring and emergency measures against three species of fruit flies constituents a real threat to the production of fruit and vegetables at the State of California mainly in Orange County and Los Angeles County. The Californian monitoring model consists in the establishment of an effective trapping network, which is known to the experts for identification in case of suspicious trapping flies.

The US phytosanitary authorities put in place strict controls on illegal entry of plant material and for this reason, the Moroccan delegation attended DOG-TEAM demonstrations for the detection of undeclared introduction of plant material by travelers or in mailings. A special visit was provided along one day to the facility of Preventive Release Program of the Mediterranean fruit fly in Los Alamitos, CA. The objective of this program is to prevent the establishment of the Mediterranean fruit fly in California using the Sterile Insect Technique, a method of biological control involving the release of large numbers of sterile males in a target area to reduce reproductive potential of wild introductions.

The training was very interesting and beneficial, exposing exposed us to different practical aspects of monitoring and eradication of fruit flies. We will share our newfound knowledge and experience with our home institution.



**ABDEKKAH BOUMIZZOURH**

**MOROCCO**

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