IAEA FELLOWSHIPS
international.anl.gov/fellowships

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 a training on monitoring and emergency measures against fruit flies in California, USA from January 25 to January 29, 2016 as participants in the IAEA Fellowship Program. The training was supervised by Mr. Leathers W Jason, the Primary State Entomologist in California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).

During the five days of training, the 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 confirmation of the detection of a threatening fly requires the strengthening of the trapping system and the sampling of fruit for the delimitation of areas of intervention that will be subject to emergency measures, namely foliar treatments, destruction of fruit and the declaration of the quarantine area, requiring special measures on the handling and movement of host plant material to prevent the multiplication and dissemination of flies outside the infested area. 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.

Regarding the Mediterranean fruit fly preventive program, a special visit was provided along one day to the facility of Preventive Release Program of the Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly PRP) in Los Alamitos, in California. 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 releases of large numbers of sterile males in a target area to reduce the reproductive potential of wild introductions.

The training was very interesting and beneficial, especially with site visits. It exposed us to different practical aspects of monitoring and eradicating fruit flies as well as regulatory aspects and SIT system. We have gained knowledge and experience which we will be able to share with our home institution.

Khalid Elgharib **Morocco**

Project MOR-15017V 1/25/2016 — 1/29/2016