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Augmentorium: a "3-in-1" tool for the agroecological management of fruit flies

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Abstract

Agroecological crop protection is based on three main pillars: prioritizing preventive measures, promoting biodiversity, and promoting soil health. Augmentorium is a tool used in some parts of the world for the sanitation of fruit fly (Tephritidae) populations. It is a simple, effective, environmentally friendly, inexpensive and easily accessible technique for all farmers, including small scale farmers, or even for citizens who have a few fruits or vegetables in their garden. Beyond the first and main function of preventing future fruit fly infestations, the augmentorium can secondly serve as a framework for biological control of fruit flies, by promoting parasitoids. Thirdly, the augmentorium can also be used for composting. Thus, the augmentorium fulfills 3 functions; reducing fruit fly populations, increasing populations of their natural enemies, improving soil health.