

Announcing a new book:

Rearing codling moth for the sterile insect technique

The codling moth *Cydia pomonella* is amongst the most severe pests of pome fruit in the temperate regions of the world. Broad-spectrum insecticides have mainly been used to control this pest resulting in several negative environmental consequences. The demand for alternative control techniques is therefore increasing worldwide, and includes synthetic growth regulators, mating disruption, attract and kill, microbiological control agents, and the sterile insect technique (SIT). The integration of sterile insects with these control practices within the context of area-wide integrated pest management offers great potential. However, efficient and effective mass-rearing of the target insect is a fundamental component of the SIT but its complexity for Lepidopteran pests is very often underestimated.

There has been an increasing interest to develop codling moth SIT for integration with other control tactics over the past years. This new book that was published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in the Plant Production and Protection Paper series compiles and summarizes available information on the rearing of the codling moth in relation to the SIT. Aspects such as colonization, adult and larval diet, sexing, quality control, shipment, disease control, data recording and management are described. It is not a text book as such but is developed so that individual sections can be consulted by the reader when necessary. The document therefore, does not provide guidelines per se, nor is it a compendium of standard operating procedures, as these will need to be developed for each rearing facility based upon local needs and availability of materials and ingredients. The document is an attempt to bring together all existing information on the rearing of codling moth.

The book was authored by Dr V.A. Dyck, a former staff of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria.

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