

Mango fruit fly

Fruit flies lay eggs under the skin of mature and ripening fruit. Some fruit flies such as *Bactrocera invadens*, also lay eggs on small fruit. The eggs hatch into whitish maggots. The maggots feed on the fruit flesh and the fruit starts to rot. If the fly population becomes too large, there is no control method that will be genuinely effective and profitable. Hence all preventive and prophylactic measures with demonstrable effects should be used in the orchards e.g. Collecting fallen fruits and those oozing sap to throw into a deep pit where should be bunt. Ripened fruits should be removed early to stop attracting fruit flies. To limit proliferation, it is essential to control the fly population at the beginning of the season. ICIPE has developed an effective baiting method with pheromones that is widely used in Kilifi County (Figure 29).



Figure

29: Fruit fly trap on a mango tree