



ZULULAND NORTH EXTENSION NEWS



ELDANA CONTROL OF UNPLANNED CARRY-OVER CANE

We are approaching the end of the crushing season and with more than a 20% reduction in growers' allocations, the Mill is unable to crush all available cane this season. Unfortunately, this could pose a serious biosecurity threat if eldana reaches hazardous levels during the off-crop.

As determined by the Felixton LPD&VCC committee, we remind growers of the following:

- Fields with eldana levels more than **≥10e/100** stalks are hazardous because of the potential escalation of eldana populations. Fields with these levels must be harvested immediately.
- Cane with more than **24 internodes** is considered to have reached the age when it becomes highly vulnerable to eldana.
- Percentage stalk red (%SLR) is a measure of the internodes which have been damaged to a point where no sucrose remains, indicating a loss in sucrose yield.
- Fields with **≥5 e/100** or **≥2.5% SLR** may not be carried over.

For the Biosecurity teams to be able to assist with eldana surveys in all carry-over fields, we therefore advise growers of the following:

- Notify the SASRI Biosecurity Officer of any unplanned carryover fields, so that these can be inspected.
- Ensure that all carry-over fields are treated for eldana using one of the IRAC compliant insecticide spray programmes.
- These programmes are available at the SASRI Biosecurity and Extension office.
- It is the grower's responsibility to ensure that fields with more than **≥5e/100** stalks or **≥2.5% SLR** are harvested before the mill closes.
- When the Mill is closed, any fields with eldana levels in excess of **100 e/100** stalks will have to be destroyed, irrespective of age.
- The crushing season for Felixton ends on 19th December 2021.

Please contact me urgently if you need assistance.

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