

Below is an excerpt from a press release from the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) that describes the current situation of Sunn Pest in two districts of Afghanistan.

Press briefing by Richard Provencher, Public Information Officer and UN agencies in Afghanistan 26 May 2005

.....

Sunn Pest infestation affecting districts of Herat and Badakhshan

An infestation of Sunn Pests, which feed on wheat grain damaging or killing the crop, has been reported by farmers in various districts in Herat and Badakhshan provinces.

In response, the regional Combined Disaster Management Team (CDMT), which is based in Herat and consists of both provincial government officials and representatives of international agencies, have provided US \$46,000 for sweep (sweep) nets and chemicals to capture and kill the pests. The regional CDMT is also mapping out areas of heavy Sunn Pest infestation and will produce a regional hazard map for future contingency planning.

Meanwhile the Ministry of Agriculture and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), supported by the Indian Embassy, have arranged for 20,000 litres of environmentally friendly pesticides to be delivered from India. The shipment will arrive in Mazar on Friday and will be put to use immediately.

.....