**Occurrence of South American tomato leaf miner (*Tuta absoluta*) in Malawi**

South American leafminer*, Tuta absoluta* (Lepidoptera: Gelechiidae) native from South America was recently detected in African Continent in 2006. In Malawi, it was first reported by a plant doctor under the Plantwise Initiative. After the initial reports of strange pest, in April 2016, the Malawi National Plant Protection Organization under the Department of Agricultural Research Services (DARS) in the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development in collaboration with the Plantwise Initiative, installed Tutrap Pheromone traps in selected Extension Planning Areas (EPAs); Kaporo South, Mpata, Nyungwe in Karonga district, Bwengu, Chikangawa, Kazomba, Champhira, Vibangalala in Mzimba district and Dwale in Thyolo district to monitor spread of Tuta absoluta. Sample of the adult moth trapped onto the pheromone traps were collected and submitted to [International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjvk6mHi9PSAhWGuBoKHepdA8wQFggcMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.icipe.org%2F&usg=AFQjCNGvnicHzftMEOCkyFP7djg7LMexnA&sig2=KWR3AsTvA0Q730zaGm9e3w) (ICIPE) Kenya for identification. Submitted samples confirmed the presence of the pest in all the EPAs surveyed area in Malawi. Other hosts include: to reduce the impact of the pest on tomato growers and further spread, awareness campaigns and integrated pest management including use of crop rotation, field hygiene and pesticides.