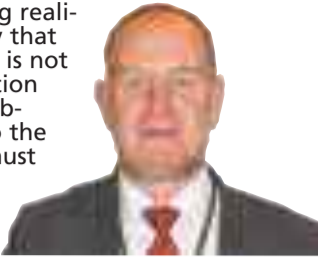


They said it...

◆ "There is an emerging realisation internationally that increased production is not solving global starvation and malnutrition problems. This has led to the realisation that we must emphasise the role of agriculture in providing a more diverse diet and having positive health outcomes."



– EMILE FRISON,
Bioversity International director general

◆ "Increasing crop productivity is not enough ... agricultural growth (must also) lead to improved nutrition and health. We need to consider if we can make ministers of agriculture accountable for the health and nutrition outcomes of agriculture."



– SHENGEN FAN,
IFPRI director general

◆ "Once we get the germplasm with higher zinc and iron varieties, it should be assessed for Australian soils. Whether someone will pay for it is the other issue for Australians. There is no current incentive for farmers to grow high zinc or iron wheat."



– RAVI SINGH,
CIMMYT Global Wheat Program

◆ "Consumers in developed countries are educated, they have nutritional knowledge, and money – they are willing to pay for more nutritious foods. Thus, it could pay private companies to develop biofortified products."



– HOWARTH BOUIS,
HarvestPlus director

Crop quality feeding the

Australia's food security concern involves protecting its 'clean and green' marketing edge. In developing nations, it is accessing enough food for survival. DEANNA LUSH reports from India on emerging global trends in food security and what it means for Australian farmers.



It's now time to spray locust hoppers.

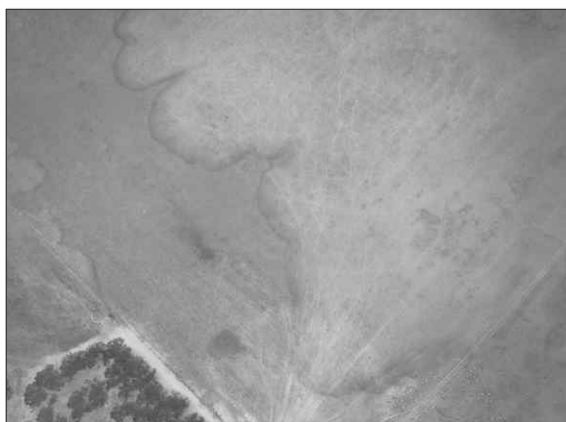
You need to act now.

All landholders on public and private land have a responsibility to spray locust hoppers on their land to prevent the development of large swarms. This will reduce the potential for crop damage and further egg laying.

Now that the weather is starting to heat up, locust hoppers are developing at a much faster pace than what we saw in spring.

Faster development of locusts means that landholders need to act now and spray locust hoppers on the ground before they can fly.

In some regions, particularly in the Mallee and areas around Horsham, Bendigo, Shepparton, Wangaratta and Wodonga, hoppers are already banding together on the ground. This is the best time to target them with insecticide, after they have hatched, when they've massed together and before they can fly.



Locust bands



Locust bands

Here's how to do it effectively.

When locusts first hatch and emerge from the ground, they are often scattered. Treating locusts at this stage may be inefficient as some locusts may not have yet hatched.

As these locusts develop, they form high-density groups or bands and this is the best time for treatment.

Farmers and other landholders should seek expert advice from their chemical seller or agronomist as to which chemical best suits their situation.

Landholders should also talk to their neighbours about treatment plans and be aware of sensitive sites such as those occupied by beehives or organic farmers.

Smaller landholders may wish to join forces with neighbours to share the costs of chemicals or spraying equipment.

All landholders treating hoppers must follow spraying safety guidelines and follow all instructions on chemical labels.

A rebate is available.

Eligible landholders can access a 100 per cent rebate to cover the cost of approved chemicals used to treat locusts until 31 May 2011.

For more information on the rebate or for any other locust enquiries, call the DPI Locust Hotline on **1300 135 559** or visit www.dpi.vic.gov.au/locusts.



Locust control starts at your place.

THE food security focus of governments around the world is shifting from farmers producing more food to growing higher quality food to meet the nutritional needs of a growing population.

Originally, food security was solely about quantity – maximising crop yields to feed a global population of nine billion by 2050.

The world's farmers have more than doubled cereal production in four decades, from 1.2 billion tonnes in 1970 to 2.5 billion tonnes in 2009. However, in developing countries, more than two billion people still suffer from micronutrient malnutrition caused by a lack of essential vitamins and minerals such as vitamin A, zinc and iron in the diet.

As a result, governments are now turning attention to food quality in meeting future nutritional demand with the question, 'does food have the necessary micronutrients to sustain people?'

This nutrient deficiency is called 'hidden hunger' and affects mostly poor people through a lack of food and not enough diversity in their diets, but also the wealthy, through an excess of foods high in oil and sugar.

The role of farmers across the world in food security and their ability to grow food to tackle nutrient deficiencies was the key focus of the Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health conference in New Delhi, India, last week.

The many international organisations and speakers represented at the event – including G8 and G20 countries, world research centres and the United Nations – underscores how

highly the issue of food security is weighing on governments and policymakers.

The conference attracted more than 1000 people from 65 countries and was organised by the International Food Policy Research Institute – an expert group advising countries on developing sustainable solutions for ending hunger and poverty.

And with prices of some foods spiking in the past week, discussions were fuelled by the possibility of another global crisis, similar to shortages experienced in 2007-08.

BIOVERSITY International director general Emile Frison, based in Rome, says food security previously meant producing a bigger pool of rice, wheat and maize.

However, he says there is an emerging realisation internationally that increased production is not solving global starvation and malnutrition problems.

"This has led to the realisation that we must emphasise the role of agriculture in providing a more diverse diet and having positive health outcomes. That is the heart of the strategy," he said.

Dr Frison says the worldwide agricultural sector is not prepared to deal with nutritional needs because it is geared toward 'industrial agriculture', where the focus is on bulk production of single crops and increasing returns on expensive inputs.

"This requires us to look differently at agricultural intensification. How can we maximise the benefits of agriculture, not just in production and tonnes per hectare of major staples but how agriculture can contribute

Why link agriculture with food and nutrition?

- One billion people go hungry every day, which is likely to increase with rising food prices.
- More than two billion people in developing countries suffer from micronutrient malnutrition, or 'hidden hunger' through a lack of essential vitamins and nutrients.
- People who eat large amounts of staple foods, such as maize, wheat and rice, and low amounts of foods rich in micronutrients, such as fruits, vegetables and animal products, are at greatest risk of hidden hunger.
- Hidden hunger causes disease susceptibility, impairs child development, and death.
- 3.5 million children die every year through undernutrition.
- More than 30 per cent of the world's population – two billion people – are anaemic.

