Leafminer monitoring for cucurbits

Recognize the problem
The leafminer is a destructive pest of cucurbits. Adult miners are small yellow and black shiny flies. The young insects (larvae) are pale and then darken to yellow as they mature.

Leafminers attack the plant by creating mines in the leaves where they feed on the leaf tissue. This damage reduces the effectiveness of nutrient production in the leaves and provides an entry point for diseases that attack the plant. The plant becomes weaker and in severe attacks, the plant can die.

Background
Leafminer monitoring is done to identify the adult and its young early, and to assess any crop loss. It is extremely important to monitor crops properly so that you can identify the problem early and control it quickly. This will reduce economic losses and the farmer will have to spend less money to control the problem.

Management
- Monitoring is done from March to August, twice a week during the crop growth period
- Go to the field of cucurbits, look at the leaves and check them for mines
- If mines are present, count the number of mines in an area of one step by one step
- If there are 4-5 mines in the entire area, then you have to act to control the problem, through chemical, mechanical or cultural control

Scientific name(s) > Liriomyza sp.

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Pakistan