Longtailed mealybug on cashew

**Pseudococcus longispinus**

### Prevention
- Use planting materials with certified planting material to reduce spread of infestation into new fields.
- Avoid the use of broad spectrum pesticides to encourage natural enemies (lacewings, pirate bugs, lady beetles) and parasitoids (*Tetracnemoidea sydneyensis* or *T.peregrina*).
- Collect any fallen leaves and plant material below cashew trees and destroy by burning to prevent the spread of mealybug pests.

### Monitoring
- Observe for small, oval shaped insects with long tails (roughly a quarter of their body length) and a defined stripe running down the back.
- Look for mealybugs between clusters of berries, on soft stems, flower buds, twigs, near the main root where soil is loose and the upper side of leaves.
- Symptoms of mealybug infestations include delayed ripening, abnormal shapes and premature dropping of fruit. Sooty mould on leaf surfaces which can cause leaves to turn yellow and drop.
- Use of yellow sticky traps with a pheromone lure to monitor for adults, follow product label for guidance.
- Inspect plants anytime of day, monitor more frequently during dry periods.
- As soon as mealybugs are identified in your fields, undertake direct control actions.
- Consider direct control actions as soon as symptoms are observed.

### Direct Control
- Use a strong jet of water to dislodge insects from plants.
- Burn or bury (50 cm deep) any infested plant parts.
- Prune highly infested plant areas such as stems or leaves and then destroy.
- Control ant populations as they reduce natural predator populations.
- Use of soap spray (one bar of soap in 20 L of water) to remove insect infestation from plants.
- Apply 1-2% vegetable oil (e.g. neem oil) as a spray on plants (10 ml of liquid soap to 1 litre of water, add 50 ml of neem oil).
- Paste a grease band (5 cm wide) on the main stem of the plant to prevent pests from crawling up to the leaves and fruit.

Note: Pesticides may be available to control this pest. Please check with the Ministry of Agriculture in your country to find out which pesticides are registered in your country and the local restrictions for their use.