# PEST MANAGEMENT DECISION GUIDE: GREEN LIST

## Striped mealybug on cassava

*Ferrisia virgata*

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

### Monitoring
- Actively monitor crops for symptoms of mealybug infestation, particularly during growing and fruiting periods.
- Adults have oval shaped bodies, up to 5 mm long with dark stiped running across the back.
- Symptoms can be observed on the underside of leaves, around stem nodes, on fruit and at growing points. Symptoms include:
  - White wax secretions on leaves during heavy infestations.
  - Remains of white, waxy cocoons found on plants.
  - Sooty mould developing on leaves due to secretion of sticky honeydew by mealybug pests.
  - White, filamentous masses along plant stems.
- Consider undertaking direct control actions as soon as striped mealybugs are identified on your crops.

### Direct Control
- Prune severely infested branches and burn to reduce the spread of pests from one tree to another.
- Control ant populations as they reduce natural predator populations.
- Use of soap spray (1 tablespoon of liquid soap with 4 litres of water) to remove insect infestation from plants.
- Apply 1-2% vegetable oil (e.g. neem oil) as a spray on plants.

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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.

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