# Sooty Mold on Tree Crops

*Capnodium* spp. or *Scorias* spp.

**Prevention**
- Monitor plants for the presence of ants and sucking insects and take action
- Prune plants with excessive branches to maintain adequate space and allow air and light movement through the field
- Keep plans healthy with nutrients but do not over fertilize

**Monitoring**
- Regularly look for:
  - Black surface growth on leaves, branches and fruit, that rubs of easily by the finger
  - Whitefly, aphids, psyllids, leafhoppers, mealybugs, and soft bodied scale insects in shoot tips and back of leaves
  - Distorted leaves that may indicate presence of these insects
  - Sticky card board painted yellow or white can help trap some of these insects

**Direct Control**
- Place yellow sticky traps in fields as a means of monitoring and controlling whitefly, psyllids and leafhoppers
- Cut back heavily infested branches. Schedule annual pruning early in the rainy season
- Use oil sprays, such as Saf-T-Add, Golden Pest Spray Oil, Neem Oil or any horticultural oil
- Support the activities of biological control agents; such as parasitic wasps and lady bird beetles

**Direct Control**
- When considering insecticidal control, always use personal protective equipment, and read and follow the pesticide label.
- Do not apply to mature fruits or during periods of flowering.
- Oil sprays can be combined with some of the following insecticides: pyrimethanil (e.g. Protector), abamectin (e.g. NewMectin / Cure) and pyrethroids such as alpha-cypermethrin (e.g. Fastac) or lambda-cyhalothrin (e.g. Karate)

**Restrictions**
- Pyrimethanil - WHO class III; abamectin - not classified by WHO; alpha-cypermethrin - WHO class II; lambda-cyhalothrin - WHO class II.