PEST MANAGEMENT PROGRESS ON AVOCADO IN CHILE

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Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies are being developed by INIA V Region Chile, for avocado (*Persea americana* Mill.) with the support of FONDEF and industry. This study includes mealybugs *(Pseudococcus spp)*, scales (*Hemiberlesia lataniae),* thrips *(Heliothrips haemorrhoidalis)* and Avocado red mite *(Oligonychus yothersi),* researching population dynamics of pests and natural enemies; the effectiveness of native and introduced natural enemies and associations between plants in the orchard and the periphery with beneficial fauna, as providers of food and refuge. In addition, the most efficient natural enemies have been identified and their rearing methods are being developed. The aspects of the phenological studies aim at optimizing the chemical and biological management strategies, establishing suitable opportunities for chemical treatments based in the susceptibility of pest and analyzing the effect of parasitoids and predators.
The chemical aspects include the evaluation of the effectiveness of, synthetic and organic pesticides and novel and conventional products on several pest species simultaneously.