

**USE OF LAPTOPS AND PDAS IN THE FIELD COLLECTION
OF SURVEY DATA ON *ELDANA SACCHARINA*
(LEPIDOPTERA: PYRALIDAE) IN SUGARCANE**

KUPPEN J P and LESLIE G W

*South African Sugarcane Research Institute, Private Bag X02,
Mount Edgecombe, 4300, South Africa
Jay.Kuppen@sugar.org.za Graeme.Leslie@sugar.org.za*

In the past, paper data sheets have been routinely used in the field to record survey data on *Eldana saccharina* Walker (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae). These data sheets required significant staff time to collate, validate and summarise. In 2001, laptop PCs were tested as field data recorders to replace the paper data sheets and, in 2004, a personal digital assistant (PDA) was tested. It was found that data handling with this device was as efficient as with laptops.

Reported in this poster is the use of electronic equipment in the field which reduced many of the problems associated with paper records.

Keywords: Eldana saccharina, stalk borer, surveys, data sheets, sugarcane, computerisation