**FAO AUDIO NEWS PACKAGE**Red Palm Weevil- Script **ENGLISH**

24.03.2017

**INTRO**

One of the world’s most invasive pest species, the Red Palm Weevil, has experts concerned as it continues to spread rapidly across Europe, the Middle East, North African and Central America regions.

This beetle has caused significant socio-economic impacts on the date palm production sector and the livelihoods of farmers in affected areas.

A high-level event will take place from 29-31 March at the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome this week.

And to tell us more about how experts are dealing with the issue is Shoki Al Dobai, a crop protection office with FAO.

**QUESTIONS**

1. In terms of the economic losses within the affected areas, how much destruction has been associated with this pest?
2. How are experts trying to control the disease and what challenges are they facing?
3. What is expected from the high level event this week?