The Fall Armyworm is an insect pest

- Native to the Americas but now found across sub-Saharan Africa
- Feeds on more than 80 crop species, but prefers maize
Fall Armyworm (FAW) in Africa

- First detected in early 2016
- Has spread rapidly
Sustainable management of Fall Armyworm in Africa: FAO Programme for Action
Maize & FAW management
In Africa, there are 37 million hectares of maize fields

- Of which 3 million hectares are large-scale producers
- More than 98% are smallholder family farmers
Immediate Responses
FAO’s actions

▪ Experts’ meeting in Ghana, July 2017
  • Lessons learned from the Americas for the sustainable management of FAW
  • Coordination among partners to ensure coherent work
  • Farmer Field Schools Curriculum Development

▪ Framework for Partnership for Coordination
FAO’s actions

- **Resource Mobilization**
  - 27 TCP projects: in 25 countries, 1 regional and 1 inter-regional project (USD 7,419,735)
  - 1 Trust Fund project funded by OFDA for Eastern Africa (USD 944,000)
  - Japan – South Sudan
  - Irish – Ethiopia & Kenya
  - Three new TCP-E projects

- **FAO Programme for Action**
FAO’s Programme for Action: Sustainable Management of Fall Armyworm in Africa
Five components

• Management of FAW: Farmer Education & Communications
• Testing and Validation of FAW Management Practices
• Monitoring, Risk Assessment & Early Warning
• Policy & Regulatory Support
• Coordination
Fall Armyworm in Africa: Situation & Programme

FAO’s Programme for Action

- Sustainable Management of the Fall Armyworm in Africa: FAO’s Programme for Action (also available in French)
- Summary of FAO’s Programme for Action (also available in French)
- Presentation on FAO’s Programme for Action

Fall Armyworm

Fall Armyworm (FAW), or Spodoptera frugiperda, is an insect that is native to tropical and subtropical regions of the Americas. In its larval stage, it can cause significant damage to crops, in not well managed, it prefers maize, but can feed on more than 80 additional species of plants, including rice, sorghum, millet, sugarcane, vegetable crops and cotton. In Africa, FAW was first detected in Nigeria in January 2016 and has quickly spread across virtually all of Sub-Saharan Africa. Because of trade and the moth’s strong flying ability, it has the potential to spread further. Farmers will need great support to sustainably manage FAW in their cropping systems through Integrated Pest Management.

Guideline on IPM of FAW on maize

1. Fall Armyworm: Pesticide Risk Reduction
2. Fall Armyworm Scouting
3. Fall Armyworm Trapping

Documents

- FAO’s position on the use of genetically modified maize
- Advisory Note on Fall Armyworm (FAW) in Africa (also available in French)
- Key messages on Fall Armyworm in Africa (also available in French)
- How to manage Fall Armyworm (Spodoptera frugiperda) (also available in French)
- Fall Armyworm (Spodoptera frugiperda): Identification, biology and ecology (also available in French)
- Info sheet: Fall Armyworm threatens food security and livelihoods across Africa

FAO Conference side event documents:

- FAO note on Fall Armyworm (also available in French-Spanish)
- Fall Armyworm Q&A (also available in French-Spanish)
- Fall Armyworm life cycle (also available in French-Spanish)
- EMBRAPA Presentation
- FAW Side event agenda

Resource Partners Consultative Meeting
28 November 2017
Rome, Italy
Fall Armyworm Management

SIMPLE GUIDE FOR SMALLHOLDERS

PREVENT

Sustainable management of Fall Armyworm (FAW) starts with prevention. There are actions that farmers can take before or when planting their fields to reduce infestation and impact of FAW in their crops. Key first steps include:

1. **Early Detection:** Regularly scout fields for signs of fall armyworm damage, such as eaten leaves and frass (caterpillar droppings). Early detection allows for timely intervention.

2. **Crop Rotation:** Planting crops in a rotating sequence can help reduce the buildup of pest populations. Fall armyworm populations can be higher in fields where the same crop is grown year after year.

3. **Crop Choice:** Selecting crops that are less susceptible to fall armyworm damage can minimize the need for control measures. Some varieties are bred to resist attack.

4. **Cultural Practices:** Practices such as proper crop management, planting in favorable environments, and maintaining healthy soil can reduce the stress on plants, making them less attractive to pests.

5. **Physical Controls:** Using physical barriers like row covers or planting barriers can help prevent egg deposition and early larval stages from entering the field.
Farmer education & Communications

- Farmer Field Schools
  - Guide developed and launched
    - – English & French
  - Sub-regional trainings planned in early 2018
  - National-level roll-out of FFS
  - Linking to national programmes, NGOs, IFAD, etc.
Testing & Validation of practices

• Prevent with plant diversity.
• “Recycling” pathogens.
• Attract predators & parasitoids.
• Locally produced biological controls (Trichogramma, Bt)
• Locally-available substances (ash, soaps, botanicals, , applied directly to the whorl of infested plants.)
Pesticides

• Review of pesticide use – including costs
• Advise to countries and regulators regarding pesticides – especially Highly Hazardous Pesticides
• Engagement of private sector of bio-pesticides
• Work with pesticide registration systems
• FAO Call of Interest – bio-pesticides
Fall Armyworm Monitoring and Early Warning System (FAMEWS)

MONITORING = FIELD SCOUTING + PHEROMONE TRAPPING

FAMEWS mobile app
*developed by FAO IT-Services*
FAO Guidance Notes on standardised protocols for FAW Scouting & Trapping to be used with FAMEWS app

FAMEWS Update:
1. FAMEWS mobile app was deployed in all African countries on 1 March.
2. FAO IT-Solutions is developing the Global Platform that allows national FAW Focal Points to validate their data before it is available for mapping and analysis.
3. Nearly all Sub-Saharan countries have FAW Focal Points deployment of FAMEWS mobile app and pheromone traps.
4. App (bit.ly/2FKraru) and training kit with docs, presentations, (bit.ly/2BZEW8g) available online in English/French.
Coordination

• National Task Forces
• Framework for Coordination endorsed by the STC of the African Union
• Technical Working Groups
Next steps: FAW Programme & Partnership

• Testing & Validation of practices
• Massive roll-out of Farmer Field Schools & Farmer education
• Massive roll-out of FAMEWS
• Pesticide use & policy
• Increasing partnerships & coordination
• Resource mobilization

• Costed Five-year programme: US$ 87.5 million