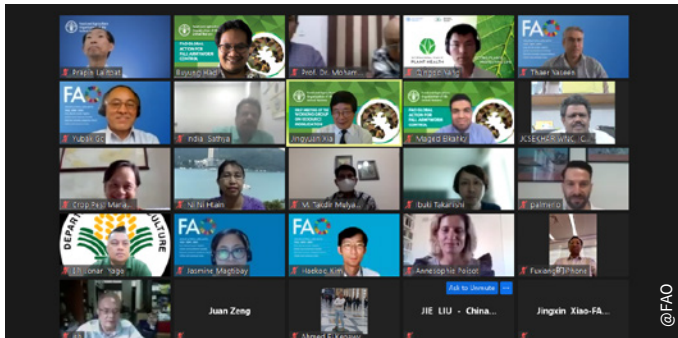




Fall Armyworm Control in Action Newsletter

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All eight demonstration countries presented the progress of the GA implementation at the mid-year meeting.

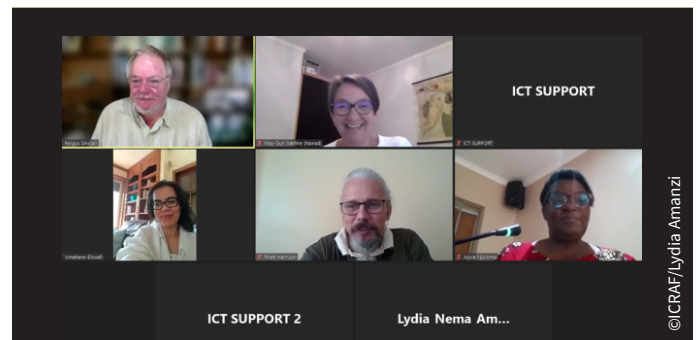
ICRISAT and ICRAF. Knowledge sharing activities among demonstration and pilot countries are being initiated and will eventually take place in all GA geo-zones.

ICRAF, SADC and FAO organized a two day workshop on “Developing smallholder-oriented IPM strategies for fall armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda* Smith) management”¹ on 24 and 25 August 2021. 38 scientists working on FAW management in agroecology, biological control, plant breeding, biological, botanical and chemical pesticides, monitoring and IPM, presented and discussed their latest results in the workshop that was attended by 225 participants.

Highlights

In July, two mid-year meetings on the implementation of the Global Action for Fall Armyworm Control (GA) took place for Africa and the Near East and Asia regions. A total of 74 participants from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Kenya, Malawi, China, India, the Philippines, and Egypt attended the meetings in which each demonstration country presented the GA implementation progress. All countries have established their national FAW National Task Forces (NTFs).

The NTFs are developing work plans and regional integrated pest management (IPM) strategies for sustainable FAW management, in close collaboration with technical partners such as CABI, *icipe*,



ICRAF, together with the Department for Agricultural Research under the MoA of Malawi, NORAD's Senior Adviser Dr. May-Guri Sæthre and FAO's Chief Scientist Ismahane Elouafi, opened the workshop “Developing Smallholder Oriented IPM Strategies for Fall Armyworm Management”.

Implementation

A survey is currently underway to **monitor the progress of the GA in demonstration and pilot countries**. The survey will collect and

analyze information on FAW infestation levels prior to the launch of the GA and the situation as of today.

Data on coordination, technology evaluation and capacity development activities are being collected.

Communications and Partnerships

New **FAO/IPPC guidelines** “Prevention, preparedness, and response guidelines for *Spodoptera frugiperda*”² were published in July 2021 and will form the basis of a series of three webinars directed at National Plant Protection Organizations staff to be held during the last quarter of 2021. The guidelines will shortly be available in French and Arabic.

The FAW Secretariat is currently preparing a **webinar on the GA that will take place on 28 October 2021, 1-3 pm CET**. Global, regional and national perspectives on the GA implementation will be covered in the webinar. Farmers and scientific views will also be presented. Invitations will be distributed shortly to the recipients of this newsletter.

New Developments

A new study³ undertaken by Paola Sotelo-Cardona, Wen-Po Chuang, Mei-Ying Lin, Ming-Yao Chiang, and Srinivasan Ramasamy on FAW female ovipositional preferences and immature survival and development when feeding on alternative plant resources provided evidence that female adults prefer maize plants for oviposition compared to other crops. It also appears that FAW females were reluctant to lay their eggs in tomato, in the absence of maize crops. The study also assessed FAW offspring performance and concluded that the oviposition preference of female FAW moths did not

necessarily predict the development time of larvae. Whilst the oviposition preference is clearly on maize, the best larvae performance was observed on soybeans.

A team of scientists from icipe studied the region-wide dynamics of FAW in Africa in order to understand the bioecology of FAW, its management and potential patterns of seasonal spread. The study⁴ concluded that crop rotation and intercropping are IPM strategies that may either disrupt the cycle of the pest or deter feeding or oviposition.

Field stories

In Egypt, farmer field schools (FFS) is used as an extension approach in developing farmers' capacities at selected locations. In Dandarah, an FFS on FAW IPM has been established with 26 participants enrolled for the current season. Through the effort, farmers' awareness for sustainable FAW management has been improved. Farmers tried various methods of management such as use of microbial pesticides and other practices. The results are promising and the crops are in good condition compared to the control field.

A series of workshops on early detection and management of FAW took place in five agro-ecological zones of Cameroon. These workshops aimed to sensitize, inform and build the capacities of

leaders of producer organizations, extension workers as well as technicians from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. One hundred and fifty participants were trained during this campaign.

In the Philippines, a series of workshops on biology and ecology of FAW and sustainable management options for policy makers was conducted in Ilocos region in July 2021. The workshops increased awareness on FAW and strengthened the capacity and capability of Provincial Agriculturists, Municipal Agriculturists of the participating municipalities, Regional and Provincial Corn Programme Coordinators and Provincial IPM Coordinators for proper recognition of FAW and technically sound and sustainable FAW management.



In Dandarah, 26 participants have enrolled in the FFS for IPM for the current season.



One hundred and fifty participants were trained during the workshop series in Cameroon.

¹ www.virtual.oxfordabstracts.com/#/event/2329/program

² www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb5880en

³ www.nature.com/articles/s41598-021-95399-4#auth-Paola-Sotelo_Cardona

⁴ www.journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0249042



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