



GOVERNMENT OF KENYA



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

# MANAGEMENT GUIDE FOR FALL ARMYWORM (FAW) *Spodoptera frugiperda*

## Prevention

- ◆ Adhere to regional planting schedules; avoid off-season and late planting of maize
- ◆ Keep maize fields weed-free
- ◆ Avoid planting new maize crop near FAW infested plants
- ◆ Avoid moving FAW infested plant materials to limit pest spread
- ◆ Apply Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) from planting to harvesting

## Monitoring

- ◆ Scout weekly after crop emergence and take timely action if FAW damage or larvae are present
- ◆ Appropriate scouting involves looking for damage on at least 10 consecutive plants in 10 randomly selected sites
- ◆ Look for cream / grey egg masses covered with cotton-like material on the underside of leaves
- ◆ Look for green, brown or black larvae inside the whorl
- ◆ A mature caterpillar has a distinct inverted “Y” pattern on the head and four black spots in a square arrangement at the tail end
- ◆ Look for ragged and elongated holes on the leaves
- ◆ Check for damage on tassels and cobs

## Management

- ◆ Handpick and squash egg masses
- ◆ Pick and crush caterpillars or drop them in hot water
  - ◆ Killing one caterpillar prevents more than 1500 new caterpillars which would have formed after a period of 4 weeks
- ◆ Put a half handful of wood ash or fine sand in the whorl of the attacked plants to kill the larvae
- ◆ Apply a pinch from a mixture of 50g ground hot pepper + 2kg wood ash into plant funnel (whorl) at knee-high stage
- ◆ Apply biological control products (e.g. Dipel DF, Baciguard 16wdg, Halt 50WP, Xentari) or Neem-based insecticides (e.g. Achook or Nemraj Super)

## Chemical Control

- ◆ Spray early morning or late evening using an insecticide containing any of the following active ingredients:
  - Gamma Cyhalothrin (e.g. Vantex 60 CS)
  - Flubendiamide (e.g. Belt 480 SC)
  - Chlorantraniliprole (e.g. Coragen 20SC)
  - Indoxacarb (e.g. Avaunt 150 EC)
  - Acephate (e.g. Orthene Pellet),
  - Carbosulfan (e.g. Marshal 250 EC)
  - Alpha-Cypermethrin (e.g. Bestox 100 EC)
  - Abamectin + Chlorantraniliprole (e.g. Voliam Targo 063 SC)
  - Lufenuron (e.g. Match 50 EC)
  - Lambda Cyhalothrin (e.g. Duduthrin)
- NB:** Repeat spraying 2 weeks after the first spray in order to control larvae that emerge after the first spray. Also alternate pesticides with different modes of action to avoid pest resistance



Egg mass on lower leaf surface



Young larvae (caterpillars) in maize plant whorl



Advanced stage larva and its frass (excreta)



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