



## REPUBLIC OF KENYA

### MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION State Department for Crops development *Office of Principal Secretary*

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**Our Ref: MOA/PLANT/2/20(105)**

**Date: 12th April, 2018**

**To. Agriculture CECMs  
County Directors of Agriculture**

Dear All,

#### **RE: ALERT ON THE OUTBREAK OF FALL ARMY WORM (Spodoptera frugiperda) IN KENYA**

Fall armyworm (FAW) is a migratory pest native to North and South America. In the African continent the pest was first reported in September 2016 in the West Africa region. It has spread to almost all the sub saharan countries where it is causing severe damage, especially in maize fields and to a lesser degree in sorghum and other crops. This pest occurs in large numbers and its caterpillars cause severe damage to more than 80 plant species.

In Kenya, the pest was first reported in Trans Nzoia County in March, 2017 and by the end of the year it had spread to forty two (42) counties including the major maize production areas of Rift valley and Western regions. The pest has continued to pose great threat to food security and livelihoods in the country. Its high reproductive ability, wide plant host range and migratory characteristics, coupled with favorable climatic

conditions throughout the year, make it a more devastating pest than many others and the greatest single threat to food security in the country.

Infestation and damage in maize during the current long rains season (2018) has started very early and is expected to be high and widespread. There is therefore need to prepare to continue supporting vulnerable farmers and undertake emergency control operations in outbreak areas, in order to contain the pest at levels that do not cause significant food loss.

This is therefore to request for your immediate action to enhance awareness creation, monitoring, capacity building and to undertake emergency control and other appropriate integrated pest management interventions to forestall huge economic losses, due to this pest, during the current cropping season. Find attached updated technical information (Brochure, Poster, Flier and a Guide for FAW IPM) on the pest.

Your urgent support towards FAW management will be appreciated.

Yours

**Dr. Johnson Irungu**  
**Director Crop Resources, Agribusiness and Market Development**