



Fall Armyworm: Current Global Status, Response, and Continued Threat

Thursday, 04 October 18:00 – 19:30. Sheikh Zayed Centre

Background information

The **Fall Armyworm** has spread rapidly across Sub-Saharan African countries and has recently been confirmed in Asia. In the absence of natural biological control or adequate management by farmers, the pest can cause serious yield losses in maize, sorghum, millet, rice, cotton, groundnuts, and vegetables.

While farmers and policymakers are becoming increasingly aware of the pest, the outbreaks clearly showed the lack of preparedness and the need for alertness and sustainable management practices at both the level of smallholder farmers and national and regional policymakers.

The global cost of invasive species such as Fall Armyworm is estimated at **US\$1.4 trillion per year** – close to 5% of global gross domestic product. These losses are mostly due to reduced agricultural productivity and lower yields. Consequently, the economic performance of countries which rely on their agricultural sector is disproportionately affected.

Overall, countries need to be empowered to prevent or detect and control invasive species in order to protect and restore agricultural and natural ecosystems, reduce crop losses, improve health, remove trade barriers and reduce degradation of natural resources, infrastructure and vulnerable areas, thus safeguarding the livelihoods of millions of farmers.

While it is already too late to stop the current Fall Armyworm infestations, **urgent and coordinated action is needed** to prevent the further spread of other pests and diseases, and smallholders need access to sustainable management practices. A strategy for coordination, communication and cooperation between stakeholders at national, regional and global level is indispensable.



Objectives

This side event will give an overview of responses currently in place to the arrival of the Fall Armyworm in new regions of the world, and will present concrete pathways for transforming agricultural systems to be more resilient against future invasive threats. The panellists represent a range of agricultural stakeholders; including FAO, member countries, agricultural NGOs and the private sector. You will have the possibility to discuss with the panellists actions underway to manage the Fall Armyworm and possible ways of collaboration.

Speakers

Hans Dreyer, Director Plant Production and Protection Division (AGP), FAO

Phyllis Mends, Alternate Permanent Representative of Ghana to the FAO

Hans Hoogeveen, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the FAO

Roger Day, Programme Executive, Action on Invasives, CABI

Allan Hruska, Principal Technical Coordinator for FAW, FAO

Johannette Klapwijk, Koppert Biological Systems

Nick Perkins, Lead Technical Advisor, Development Communication & Extension, CABI (moderator)

Languages

The panellists will speak in English, interpretation in French will be provided.

Refreshments

An *aperitivo* with a selection of snacks and drinks will be provided outside of the room from 17:30. Please join us for a drink and conversation before the side event.

