



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Fall Armyworm in Asia: Consultative Meeting 20-22 March 2019, Bangkok, Thailand

Concept Note

Background

The Fall Armyworm (FAW) was first confirmed outside of its native Americas in Africa in early 2016. Since then it has rapidly spread across Sub-Saharan Africa, infesting tens of millions of hectares of maize, sorghum and millet. In mid-2018 FAW was been confirmed in Yemen and India and now continues to spread quickly. Late 2018 there were reports about infestations in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh (official confirmation ongoing), and in mid-January some (unconfirmed) reports of FAW presence in Thailand and Myanmar. FAW can cause significant yield loss to maize and other crops if not managed well or in the absence of natural control.

FAO organized an [Experts Meeting](#) in July 2017 in Ghana, bringing experts from Brazil, Mexico, USA to present lessons learned from the Americas an work with African colleagues to identify priorities and develop a partnership. Out of this meeting, twelve Technical Working Groups were formed that have helped guide the global FAW Programme.

FAO has developed a robust [FAW Programme for Action](#), in collaboration with many partners and developed a [Framework for Partnership](#). FAO has mobilized over US\$ 15 million to put these plans into action. Many of the results and documents are available of [FAO's FAW website](#).

As FAW continues to spread, FAO is poised to help member countries be aware of the threat, take action to monitor arrival, take early action, learn lessons from other regions, further strengthen the community of international experts, develop regional, national plans' of action, and identify the current knowledge gaps to identify research priorities and work closely with farmers and their organizations in responding.

To begin this process in Asia, an Consultative Meeting on FAW in Asia is scheduled to take place in Bangkok, Thailand from March 20-22, 2019. FAO will work closely with the IPPC and other partners to bring together relevant scientists and practitioners to share knowledge and experiences and help the region prepare for the continued spread of FAW in Asia.

The conference on FAW in Asia is timely, as the insects continues to spread in Asia. High-level officials of the Indian and Chinese governments indicated support for the proposal in earlier interactions with FAO. RAP and FAO-HQ (AGP) agreed in December 2018 to organize the conference. In December 2018 RAP secured funds to co-finance he event. AGP is providing additional support from an Inter-Regional TCP and other sources.

Purposes

The conference will serve the purposes of:

- Awareness raising of risks of having FAW spread into countries and within countries;
- Introduction of tools and guidance available that help the countries to monitor and sustainably manage FAW ;
- Exchange of experiences and lessons learnt from the recent invasion in Africa, and developing a community of experts to provide technical and policy advice;
- Fine-tuning the strategic framework for sustainable FAW management to the Asian context including actions that can be taken at regional and country level.

A Policy and a Technical Brief on FAW will be prepared for the workshop.

Expected Outcomes

- Key decision makers are informed about the arrival of FAW into Asia, potential impacts, and lessons learned and experiences from the Americas, Africa and Asia.
- Technical and management knowledge and information shared with Asian colleagues and appropriate response discussed in the Asian context.
- Key tools available for FAW monitoring and management are known to Asian experts and country representatives, and country action plans are developed.
- Experts are identified to form part of the Technical Working Groups for further technical discussions.
- Communication materials shared among countries for adaptation and use.

Target Participants

The target participants include representatives from South Asia and Southeast Asian countries (up to 3 per country: policy/decision maker, national IPM/plant protection official and country FAO office), key experts from Americas and Africa, representatives from partner organizations (technical partners, donors, regional organizations) and others.

Draft Agenda

<u>Day 1 Wednesday, 20 March</u>		
09.00 -10.00	Opening session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome address by FAO - High level opening: Hosting country, FAO ADG-RAP, AGP Director - Purpose and expected outputs of the meeting
10.00 - 10.30	Session 2. Introduction to FAW and lessons learned from FAO Global Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biology of FAW - Global update FAW spread and implications regarding threat & management preparedness – lessons learned (Allan)
10.30 - 11.00		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coffee break & photo
11.00 -13.00	Session 3: Lessons and experience from African and Latin American regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representative/expert(s) from Africa - Representative/expert(s) from Latin America - Representatives from International organizations
13.00 - 14.00		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lunch break
14.00 - 15.30	Session 4: country status of FAW in Asia (awareness, monitoring, immediate response, mid and long term strategies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - India - Bangladesh - Sri Lanka - Thailand - China - Myanmar
15.30 - 16.00		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coffee break
16.00 - 17.00	Session 5: FAW monitoring and surveillance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction of FAO tools FAMEWS, Nuru - China experience in monitoring and management of migratory pests
<u>Day 2 Thursday, 21 March</u>		
09.00 - 10.00	Session 6. FAW management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction of FAO Technical Working Groups for FAW management, and partnerships

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biological control/IPM of FAW - Indian experience in IPM/biocontrol of FAW, and farmer training (ZBNF) - Awareness raising and training materials (references-FAW)
10.00 - 10.30	Session 7. Technical working group discussions, reporting back	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group discussions Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Technical entry points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Biological control ▪ Chemical control ▪ Biopesticides ▪ Agroecology ▪ Host plant resistance o Cross cutting themes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring & Early Warning Systems ▪ Policy for FAW management ▪ Communications ▪ Strengthening farmers' capacities to manage FAW: FFSs, Participatory Action Research, Farmer Innovations
10.30 - 11.00		Coffee break
11.00 - 12.30	Session 7	Group Discussions
12.30 - 13.30		Lunch break
13.30 - 15.30	Session 7. presentations	Presentations and Plenary Discussion of the Technical Working Groups
15.30 - 16.00		Tea Break & announcements
16.00 - 17.30	Session 8. Summarizing Lessons Learned & Knowledge Gaps	TWG Conveners & Coordination
Day 3 Friday, 22 March		
09.00 - 09.30	Session 9. Action plans – situation based: preparedness, early arrival FAW, sustainable management of FAW	Presentation to developing Action Plans – situation based
09.30 - 10.30	Country AP Preparation	Group work to develop action plans

10.30 - 11.00		Coffee break
11.00 - 12.00		Presentations of action plans, discussion
12.00 - 13.00	Session 9. Regional action	Regional TCP for FAW management – introduction, discussion, action points
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch break	
14.00 - 14.30	Session 10. Way forward – networking and exchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Working Groups on FAW – Asian participation • Other regional mechanisms for exchange on FAW, action points
15.00 - 15.30		Conclusions – priorities for FAW management in the Asian region
15.30 - 16.00	Closing	