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ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUNITY-BASED FALL ARMYWORM MONITORING SYSTEM IN SOMALIA

January 2019

SDGs:



Countries:

Somalia

Project Codes:

TCP/SOM/3604

FAO Contribution:

USD 204 000

Duration:

11 September 2017 – 31 August 2018

Contact Info:

FAO Representation in Somalia

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Implementing Partners

Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI)

Beneficiaries

Vulnerable farmers and other rural communities

Country Programming Framework

Pillar One: Resilience: – Preventing shocks through adequate early warning systems accompanied by preparedness to respond in situation of crises; in particular Output 1.4.1 A pest and disease surveillance system/network is established and functional at community level.



BACKGROUND

In early 2016, a severe outbreak of the fall armyworm (FAW) was reported in southern and eastern Africa. Given the tendency of FAW to migrate long distances, it was only a matter of time before the populations from either Kenya or Ethiopia reached Somalia. For the effective and timely management of FAW, farmers needed to be made aware of the destructive nature of this new pest. A proven strategy for managing migratory and invasive pests is through direct engagement with the affected communities, providing the knowledge and tools required to intervene when such pests occur. Such a strategy would enable farmers to prevent the crop damage likely to be caused by FAW outbreaks. The control of FAW would be a major challenge to farmers in Somalia, as it was not only a new pest but was also known to have developed resistance to readily available pesticides. The overall objective of the project was thus to put in place a community-based FAW monitoring, forecasting and early warning system (EWS).

IMPACT

The project successfully increased Somalia's resilience at community level to the threat to agricultural production represented by FAW through the provision of training to extension workers and farmers, both male and female, and the distribution of the necessary equipment. It supported the establishment of an early warning and information management system and built the capacity to respond to emergencies in a timely manner.

ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS

Thirteen senior government officers from Somalia visited Ethiopia and gathered first-hand information on the impact, control and management of FAW. On the basis of this visit, 40 extension workers from 21 districts in five states were trained in the monitoring and management of FAW, and engaged as community forecasters. The trained extension workers coordinated community sensitization activities in their districts.

Community-based FAW EWSs were developed in 105 villages across 21 districts. Training was given to 2 400 farmers from four states in FAW identification and monitoring using FAW moth pheromone traps, and 105 moth traps and 1 050 pheromone lures were distributed. With support from the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa, the project also produced a poster for the identification of FAW and a farmer's leaflet in Somali language for distribution to farmers.

A nationwide 17-member FAW task force was formed in February 2018. This developed a draft country strategy for FAW management and conducted a countrywide FAW impact assessment.

IMPLEMENTATION OF WORK PLAN

Most activities were implemented within the planned budget, with the exception of a study tour, which was funded by the Department for International Development (DFID), United Kingdom. In addition, as a result of delays in finalizing and verifying the translations of the leaflet and the poster, these were not ready in time for the cropping season. This activity was expected to be accomplished under the FAO Somalia FAW programme, using funds from other donors. Following a change in leadership at ministerial level, a three-month no-cost extension was requested and approved. The monitoring and control options adopted by the project were the result of knowledge gained during the mission to Ethiopia. Another lesson learned was the importance of engaging government partners in the project implementation. This enhanced ownership and mainstreaming of the interventions into regular government activities on agriculture. The knowledge gained was cascaded from a central location to farmers through the available government channels.

FOLLOW-UP FOR GOVERNMENT ATTENTION

FAW is a new pest in Somalia and the project acted as a catalyst to support future activities on its control and management. In order to follow up the project activities, it is recommended that the number of ministry staff and farmers trained to monitor and manage FAW be increased, that the country strategy on FAW be finalized and that funds be mobilized to support additional FAW actions, including the introduction of an FAW monitoring and early warning system, a mobile application, and training for farmers in the physical control of larvae in their fields.

The Government supported project activities. This supportive atmosphere should be maintained and encouraged to ensure that the desired outcomes/results are realized in a timely manner.

SUSTAINABILITY

1. Capacity development

Forty extension workers were trained in the identification, control and management of FAW. These then trained 2 400 farmers. The trained extension workers and farmers will continue to support government efforts in the early warning and management of FAW. A task force established for the management of FAW developed a draft FAW management strategy for Somalia. As the activities of the task force will continue beyond the project, government capacity to manage FAW will continue to increase.

2. Gender equality

The project provided opportunities to both males and females. At least 21 percent of the farmers involved in the project and trained in FAW were women, while two women took part in the FAW task force.

3. Environmental sustainability

As the project largely involved capacity development, it had limited impact on the environment.

4. Technological sustainability

The technology introduced for the long-term management of FAW took into account the limited resources at community level. The tools acquired for the EWS can easily be accessed by farmers as they are readily available and inexpensive. Traps were placed strategically in a central location in each participating village. Catches from the traps were monitored by each community focal person. This information was used by MoAI to track the initial invasion of FAW in Somalia. Trapped insects were used to train farmers in the characteristics of FAW.

5. Economic sustainability

If FAW is not controlled it will lead to a severe food crisis in Somalia, requiring donor intervention to feed the communities affected. The knowledge and skills gained by government staff and the farmers who participated in the project will help farmers to minimize the impacts of the FAW invasion, averting possible massive economic losses.

DOCUMENTS AND OUTREACH PRODUCTS

- Draft FAW management strategy for Somalia.

ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS - LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Expected Impact	<i>Impact Statement: Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crisis in Somalia by supporting early warning and information management systems, building community level resilience as well as responding to emergencies in a timely manner.</i>		
Outcome	<i>Outcome Statement: Prevention of the build-up of the fall armyworm in Somalia to avert production losses for agricultural production</i>		
	Indicator	1. Number and percentage of farmers trained in FAW control practices at the village level, disaggregated by sex 2. Percentage of people trained who gained the knowledge needed for FAW control practices, disaggregated by sex 3. Number of people trained by FAO partners at the national and district level on FAW surveillance activities, disaggregated by sex 4. Estimated number and percentage of ha monitored against FAW as a direct result of project intervention	
	Baseline		
	End Target	1. 3 150 farmers: 945 women; 2 205 men 2. 75% of trained farmers: 708 women; 1 653 men 3. 42 at district level; 210 forecasters; 3 150 farmers; 30% should be women 4. 21 000 ha.	
Comments and follow-up action to be taken	1. 2 400: 504 women; 1 896 men 2. 100% of trained farmers: 504 women; 1 896 men 3. 40 at district level; 210 forecasters; 2 400 farmers; 21% were women 4. Over 21 000 ha monitored by MoAI as a direct result of project In future, when time allows, farmers need to be registered and precise figures entered in the Project Document		
Output 1			
	Output Statement: Capacity-building of key stakeholders and beneficiaries		
	Indicators	Target (expected value at project completion)	Achieved
			Yes
Baseline			
Activity 1.1			
	Activity Title: Study tour for senior MoAI staff to Ethiopia		
	Achieved		
	Comments	One study tour conducted, with costs funded under a DFID project	
Activity 1.2			
	Activity Title: Training of district trainers		
	Achieved		
	Comments	40 district trainers trained	
Activity 1.3			
	Activity Title: Training of community forecasters		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	210 community forecasters trained	
Output 2			
	Output Statement: Capacity-building for farmers on FAW EWS		
	Indicators	Target (expected value at project completion)	Achieved
			Partially
Baseline			
Activity 2.1			
	Activity Title: Sensitization of farmers		
	Achieved	Partially	
	Comments	Of 3 150 farmers targeted, 2 400 were sensitized; some villages did not have the set number of farms	
Activity 2.2			
	Activity Title: Putting in place tool and equipment to assist in field surveillance of FAW		
	Achieved		
	Comments	105 moth traps and 1 1050 pheromone lures distributed	
Activity 2.3			
	Activity Title: Preparation of publicity materials and information dissemination		
	Achieved	Partially	
	Comments	Poster and leaflet developed and translated but not distributed as they were completed late. As the FAW problem is endemic the material will be made available to farmers during the coming cropping seasons.	

Output 3	Output Statement: Formation of FAW task force for Somalia		
	Indicators	Target (<i>expected value at project completion</i>)	Achieved
			Partially
Baseline			
Activity 3.1	Activity Title: Formation of task force		
	Achieved		
	Comments	17-member task force formed	
Activity 3.2	Activity Title: Training of district trainers		
	Achieved	ally	
	Comments	Of three meetings planned, two were held; a third meeting did not take place because of delays from MoAI	

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