



**Asia-Pacific Regional FAW Management Steering committee  
Inception meeting (virtually)  
June 17, 2020**

### **Introduction**

Asia-Pacific Regional FAW Management Steering committee was held virtually on June 2020. Focal person of the Fall Armyworm, experts and FAO staff attended it. The invitees are listed in the annex.

### **Objective of the Inception Meeting**

The meeting established the Steering Committee for the FAW control initiative in the region and adopted its Terms of Reference.

The meeting objectives are to:

1. form the Regional Steering Committee on FAW;
2. share, discuss and reach consensus on the ToRs and membership of the regional, sub-regional steering committees as well as the Technical Committee;
3. report on the current status of the regional action on FAW control;
4. discuss next steps on the organization of the regional action, and initialization of the national action plans and technical supports needed by the countries.

### **Opening**

Mr. Jong-Jin Kim, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific welcomed all participants to the Steering Committee, gave an introduction of the current FAW situation, and wished success to all participants in this very important discussion. Overall, moderation of the program was made by Sridhar Dharmapuri, FAO Regional Office, Bangkok.

### **Adoption of the agenda**

Mr Buyung Hadi, Agricultural Officer, FAO presented the items of the agenda, which was adopted by the participants (Appendix 2).

### **Overview of the Global Action and its implementation plan**

Elisabetta Tagliati, CTA of FAW Global Action, FAO updated on the status of FAW global distribution and gave the presentation on the overview of the Global Action and its implementation plan.

She stressed that FAW causes considerable yield losses in maize and, potentially, in other key staple cereal crops, increasing global food insecurity, malnutrition, and poverty among smallholder farmers and local communities. In response to FAW emergency, FAO proposes a bold, transformative and coordinated Global Action for FAW control at country level, which is based on the three main objectives:

- Establish global, regional, national and farmer-level coordination and collaboration on FAW control;
- Reduce crop yield losses caused by FAW;
- Prevent further introduction and spread of the FAW to new areas.

The Global Action will target the three regions that have experienced fall armyworm invasion in recent years – Africa, the Near East and Asia. It will align with FAO’s new data-driven hand-in-hand initiative, which aims to support achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals by pairing the most developed countries with those with the highest poverty and hunger rates.

The coordination system comprises of the Global Steering Committee, chaired by the FAO Director-General, Technical Committee providing advises for the Global SC, chaired by Mr Robert Bertram, USAID Chief Scientist. The technical committee consists of seven Technical Working Groups (TWG) established on the different aspects of FAW management. The Regional Steering Committees and the National Task Forces oversees the implementation of the action on the field in each country.

In conclusion, Ms Tagliati emphasized the next steps to follow:

- Reinforce National Task Forces
- Identify national partners/stakeholders
- Plan inception workshops
- Discuss work plans, plan activities
- Collect data on FAW prevalence, use FAMEWS
- Connect to the FAW Secretariat
- Resource Mobilization, national and international level.

Mr Yubak Dhoj GC, Secretariat, APPPC, FAO, welcomed the participants and gave the presentation covering regional overview on the status of implementation, ToRs of Regional Steering Committee, status of baseline data, status of focal points and National Task Forces, inception workshop and FAW Plan, FAW national budgets and communication strategies.

He stressed that baseline document was circulated in the region and received back only from nine countries: Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Bhutan, Thailand, Cambodia, Philippines, North Korea and Papua New Guinea and that the process is challenging.

Common challenges: inadequate knowledge and research; monitoring and early warning; variation in monitoring mechanism; relatively expensive and laborious current control methods; data collection, analysis and reporting system; monitoring on FAW migration data.

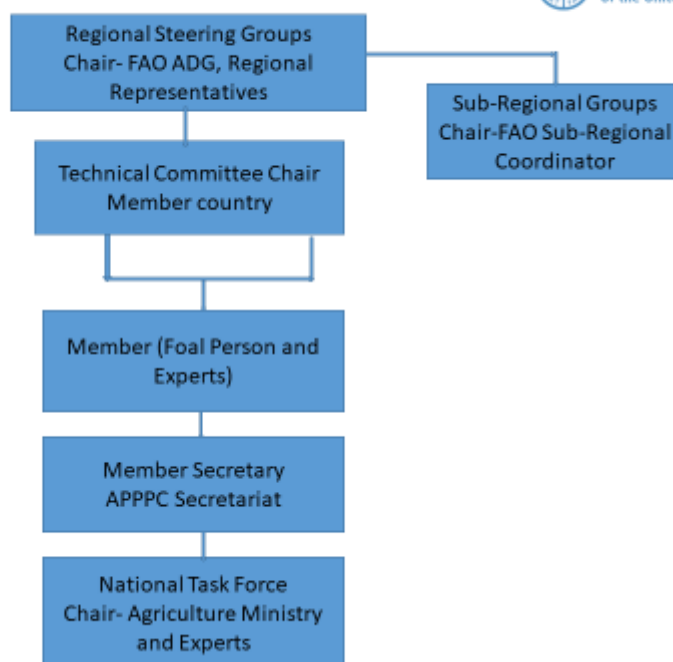
Management challenges: insufficient information on locally validated control options; capacity building on effective control measures; access of IPM products.

Coordination challenges: lack of resources and personnel.

Referring to the Technical Cooperation Programmes (TCPs) and country support programmes, Mr Yubak underscored that for the time being there is an ongoing two year project “Support for Developing and Implementing Management Strategies in response to FAW incursion in Asian countries” with the funding of USD 500 000, aimed to support Cambodia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Nepal and the Philippines. Another one-year TCP in India “Time-critical measures to support the sustainable management of the FAW” with a budget of USD 300 000 as well as other ongoing projects in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Papua New Guinea.

Mr Yubak also presented the proposal of the structure for Regional Steering Committee, that is chaired by the FAO ADG, Regional Representative:

## Proposed Structure- Regional Steering Committee



In addition, he also presented the draft of the Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the Regional Steering committee (Appendix 3)

Mr Zhongwei Liu, FAO Senior Programme Officer, Business Development and Resource Mobilization Division (PSR), gave a presentation on the funding gap analysis for the FAW control, providing some background information. In order to implement the Global Action, FAO is seeking to mobilize USD 500 million over the next three years to control the FAW. To reach the funding objective it is essential to understand the funding gap. In this connection, members and partners were surveyed on the current funding status. Taking into account country budgets and funds committed by all partners (e.g. USAID, AfDB, EU, FAO, etc.), the survey results showed a gap of USD 71.4 million.

During the discussion, participants from countries such as China and India pointed out that technical and experience exchange, both among Asia-Pacific countries and from outside the region, is paramount to cut the learning curve for FAW control. Early occurrence information is especially important for countries along the migratory pathways. The steering committee is expected to serve as a platform to coordinate regular technical and experience exchange, leveraging virtual meetings and training events, and to reduce duplication of efforts among research and development partners. Grahame Dixie, Grow Asia highlighted the importance of facilitating communication to the farmer level by leveraging existing and novel conduits, including use of mobile technology.

Participants from countries like Pakistan pointed out that while FAW has not been detected within their territories, there is a need to shore up preparedness through training and monitoring. Papua New Guinea also reported facing problem about surveillance and monitoring for FAW. From Bangladesh it was noted that based on request for a custom monitoring application and time-series FAW monitoring system was extensively used throughout the country during winter 2019-20 maize crop by Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) with development assistance from CIMMYT. The unique feature of the system is that any stakeholder can observe the FAW population fluctuation and crop damage pattern at the sub-district level over the course of the season with data taken weekly. There remains as strong interest to integrate this work with FAMEWS and data have been given to FAO for this reason.

The TOR for Regional SC was accepted. The next meeting will be decided in the coming week in coordination with the NFPs in the region.

Appendix 1: List of the invitees and members of the Regional Steering Committee

1	Jong-Jin Kim	Chair, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
2	Habib ur Rahman Ghorbandi	Member- Afghanistan
3	Md. Abdur, Rouf	Member- Bangladesh
4	Kiran Mahat	Member- Bhutan
5	So Thavrith	Member- Cambodia
6	Zhu Enlin (represented)	Member- China
7	Ami Chand	Member- Fiji
8	N Sathyanarayanan	Member- India
9	Ir Suwandi	Member- Indonesia
10	Mahdi Ghaemian	Member- Iran
11	Kim Ryong-	Member- Korea DPR
12	Siriphonh Phithasoun	Member - Lao, PDR
13	Ni Ni Htain	Member- Myanmar
14	Hari Bahadur KC	Member- Nepal
15	Syad Waseem-ul-Hassan	Member- Pakistan
16	Heai Steven Hoko	Member- Papua New Guinea
17	Gerald Glenn F Panganiban	Member- Philippines
18	Wijetunge Anura	Member- Sri Lanka
19	Pruetthichat Punyawattoe	Member - Thailand
20	Nguyen Quang Hieu	Member- Vietnam
21	Mamta Sharma	Member- ICRISAT
22	Feng Zhang	Member- CABI
23	Tim Krupnik	Member- CIMMYT
24	Grahame Dixie	Member- Grow Asia
25	Sridhar Dharmapuri	Group Leader, Agriculture and Food Systems, FAORAP
26	Elisabetta Tagliati	CTA of FAW Global Action, FAO
27	Buyung Hadi	IPM Officer, FAO
28	George Phiri	Assistant Representative, FAO Malawi



**Appendix 3.** Terms of reference for regional steering committee (Asia Pacific) for the Global action for fall armyworm control

- establish a regional and sub-regional collaboration platforms on the sustainable management of FAW;
- coordinate the development of improved policies, standards and measures to reduce the risk of further introduction and spread of FAW to non-affected areas and countries;
- coordinate and support APPPC FAW Management efforts, including with relevant working groups established as part of the Steering Committees on IPM and Pesticides;
- involve key partners, such as regional and sub-regional economic organizations (e.g. ASEAN, SAARC);
- support the establishment of National Task Forces and preparation of work plans;
- discuss technical solutions validated at national level;
- ensure the information flow with the FAW Secretariat at Headquarters;
- network between national and global FAW global action plan; and
- prepare a regional data base on FAW.