



REPORT: SECOND MEETING (Virtual) of the STEERING COMMITTEE of the GLOBAL ACTION FOR FALL ARMYWORM CONTROL, 20 JULY 2020, 13.00-15.00 CET

In his opening remarks, Mr QU Dongyu, the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), emphasized that while meetings are necessary to find consensus and to develop work plans, action happens on the ground. Reinforcing the importance of partnership and joint action, he stated that if “we want to go far, we have to go together”.

Main conclusions

A brief report was presented on the outcome of the first meeting of the Global Action Technical Committee (TC), as well as the follow-up actions resulting from the TC meeting. Seven technical working groups (TWGs) were established – all chairs of the TWGs are also members of the TC, ensuring there is full alignment between the TC and TWGs. One of the main tasks of the TC is to assess the strengths and weaknesses of various fall armyworm (FAW) management options, while taking into consideration the diversity of bio-physical and socio-economic contexts of countries invaded by FAW. Various integrated pest management options will be assessed for their efficacy, affordability, safety, availability, accessibility, sustainability and scalability.

Steering Committee (SC) members responded to the report with a number of key points. They highlighted the need for urgency in finalizing the assessment and moving towards the scaling up of effective and sustainable solutions. They reaffirmed the need for both innovative and traditional solutions to be assessed critically, such as ‘which options will work best and where?’. They stressed the need to look critically at the role of “business-as-usual” in agriculture, for example to examine whether large scale mono-cropping may be facilitating the spread of the pest (while acknowledging that it is the prerogative of countries, and eventually farmers, to decide which options work best for them). Finally, the SC underlined the importance of developing new and leveraging existing effective communication channels to accelerate technology dissemination to end users. Currently, available communication channels include multi-location demonstration trials done by partners, private sector engagement and use of digital technology.

Discussion also focused on the regional nature of the Global Action work required, especially in light of FAW’s migratory potential. The pest will soon establish a seasonal migration pattern in its newly invaded range, thus developing a strong and reliable monitoring and early warning system in and between regions is of strategic importance.

A review of the implementation of the Global Action between January and June 2020 was presented. The Global Action has initiated a baseline study to understand the status of and response to FAW in the priority countries. Training and virtual webinars on topics such as monitoring and early warning, management strategies, and preparedness against FAW invasion have been organized, and a number of new knowledge products have been published online on the FAO FAW website.

An update was provided on the High-Level Conference (HLC) on Fall Armyworm Control, being organized in collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB). The HLC is now tentatively planned as a virtual meeting on 6 October 2020.

In closing, Mr QU related some of the challenges faced by the Global Action, including field implementation and resource mobilization in the context of COVID-19, as well as the desert locust emergency. He stressed that the Global Action will nonetheless continue its efforts in a more pragmatic direction, and re-emphasized the importance of the Global Action to global food security, feed, biofuel and the fibre industry, calling for a holistic and action-oriented approach towards FAW control. A countdown plan of key outputs and activities for 2020 has been prepared to answer this call. This plan is meant to be a living document that clarifies the direction of actions for the next five months, while maintaining some agility and flexibility.

The TC will now gather evidence regarding sustainable solutions for FAW control, which will be reported on during the next SC meeting and subsequently offered to countries as recommendations.

The next SC meeting is due to be held immediately before or after the HLC.

(Revised 11 August 2020)

ANNEX 1: Agenda

TIME	AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTER
13.00-13.05	1. Opening of the meeting	Director-General
13.05-13.10	2. Adoption of the Agenda (SC-FAW _2ndMeeting_01_Agenda)	Director-General
13.10-13.25	3. Report of the First meeting of the Technical Committee (TC) and update on the development of TC workplan (SC-FAW _2ndMeeting_02_Report of the First meeting of the Technical Committee)	Mr Robert Bertram, Vice-Chair
13.25-13.50	4. Comments/Questions from members	Ms Maria Helena Semedo
13.50-14.00	5. Review of the implementation plan of Global Action Global Action Progress Report (SC-FAW _2ndMeeting_03_ProgressReport)	Mr Rémi Nono Womdim
14.00-14.15	6 Comments/Questions from members	Ms Maria Helena Semedo
14.15-14.25	7. Updates on the High-level Conference on Fall Armyworm Control Draft Concept Note for the High-level Conference on Fall Armyworm Control (SC-FAW _2nd Meeting _04_HLC_DraftCN)	Mr Rémi Nono Womdim
14.25-14.40	8. Comments/Questions from members	Ms Maria Helena Semedo
14.40-14.50	9. Date for next meeting	Ms Maria Helena Semedo
14.50-15.00	10. Closure	Director-General

ANNEX 2: List of participants

	NAME	TITLE	ORGANIZATION	ROLE	EMAIL	CITY, COUNTRY
1.	Mr QU Dongyu	Director-General	FAO	Chair	DG@fao.org	Rome, Italy
2.	Ms Maria Helena Semedo	Deputy Director-General	FAO	Co-chair	DDN@fao.org	Rome, Italy
3.	Mr Robert Bertram	Chief Scientist	United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	Vice Chair/ Chair of the Technical Committee	rbertram@usaid.gov	Washington DC, USA
4.	Ms Ismahane Elouafi	Director- General	International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA)	Vice Chair	I.Elouafi@biosaline.org.ae	Dubai, United Arab Emirates
5.	Ms Segenet Kelemu	Director- General	International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe)	Vice Chair	dg@icipe.org	Nairobi, Kenya
6.	Mr WU Kongming	Professor and Vice President	Chinese Academy of Agriculture Science (CAAS)	Vice Chair	wukongming@caas.cn	Beijing, P.R. China
7.	Mr Martin Fregene	Director, Agriculture and Agro-Industry	Africa Development Bank Group (AfDB)	Member	m.fregene@AFDB.ORG	Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
8.	H.E Aslak Brun	Ambassador	Permanent Representative of Norway to FAO	Member	mission.rome@mfa.no	Rome, Italy
9.	Dr Andrew Ward (on behalf of Ms Giulia Di Tommaso)	Stewardship Director	CropLife International	Member	andrew.ward@croplife.org	Brussels, Belgium
10.	H.E. Mohammad Hossein Emadi	Ambassador COAG Chair	Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to FAO	Member	secretary1@iranfao.org	Rome, Italy

11.	Mr Fernando Hercos Valicente	Senior Scientist, Embrapa Maize and Sorghum	Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA)	Member	fernando.valicente@embrapa.br	Brasília, Brazil
12.	Mr Hanns-Achim Krebs	Senior Policy Officer	Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), European Commission	TBC	Hanns-Achim.KREBS@ec.europa.eu	Brussels, Belgium
13.	Mr Martin Kropff	Director-General	International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)	Member	M.KROPFF@cgiar.org	Texcoco, Mexico
14.	Mr Neil Fourie (on behalf of Ambassador Marie-Therese Sarch)	First Secretary and Agriculture Attaché	Permanent Representation of the United Kingdom to FAO	Member	N-Fourie@dfid.gov.uk	Rome, Italy
15.	H.E. Kip Tom	Ambassador	United States Mission to the United Nations Agencies	Member	USUNRome@State.Gov	Rome, Italy
16.	Mr Keith Tyrell	Executive Director	Pesticides Action Network UK	Member	Keith@pan-uk.org	Brighton, UK
17.	Ms Christiane Wolff	Head, SPS section	World Trade Organization (WTO)	Member	Christiane.Wolff@wto.org CC: isabel.calderon@wto.org	Geneva, Switzerland
18.	Mr Bukar Tijani	Assistant Director- General	FAO	Secretariat	ADG-AG@fao.org	Rome, Italy
19.	Mr Rémi Nono Womdim	Deputy Director	FAO, Plant Production and Protection Division	Secretariat	Remi.Nonowomdim@fao.org	Rome, Italy
20.	Mr XIA Jingyuan	Secretary	International Plant Protection Convention Secretariat	Secretariat	Jingyuan.Xia@fao.org	Rome, Italy

OBSERVERS						
21.	Ms Regina Eddy	Coordinator for FAW Taskforce	USAID	Observer	reddy@usaid.gov	Washington DC, USA
22.	Mr Gary Jahn	Agricultural development officer	USAID	Observer	Gjahn@usaid.gov	Washington DC, USA
23.	Ms Shavonn Whiten	International research advisor	USAID	Observer	swhiten@usaid.gov	Washington DC, USA
24.	Mr B.M. Prasanna	Director of Maize Program	CYMMIT	Observer	b.m.prasanna@cgiar.org	Nairobi, Kenya
25.	Mr William Berger	Senior humanitarian advisor	US embassy	Observer	BergerWS@state.gov	Rome, Italy
26.	Ms Isabel Calderon	Economic affairs advisor	WTO	Observer	Isabel.calderon@WTO.org	Geneva, Switzerland
27.	Mr Godfrey Magwenzy	Directeur de cabinet	FAO	Observer	Godfrey.Magwenzi@fao.org	Rome, Italy
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37.	Mr Buyung Hadi	Agricultural Officer	FAO	Secretariat	Buyung.Hadi@fao.org	Rome, Italy



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