



Emergency response to improving food and nutrition security caused by poor rains and fall armyworm

Project code: OSRO/BOT/901/JPN

Donor: Japan

Contribution: USD 500 000

Implementation: 31/03/2019 – 30/03/2020

Target areas: Botswana



Contact

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Objective:	Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition; make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable; and increase the resilience of livelihoods from disasters.
Key partners:	The Government of Botswana through the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Food Security (MADFS).
Beneficiaries reached:	The project reached 2 076 farmers, 192 extension workers and 40 trainers of trainers (ToT). The national authority, MADFS, also benefitted from strengthened capacity to cope with rapidly spreading outbreaks of transboundary pests, such as fall armyworm (FAW). Newspaper articles produced through the project ran in three publications with an average circulation of 42 000 and a readership of approximately 168 000. Awareness-raising programmes were also broadcasted on four radio stations with an average listenership of around 800 000. Viewers of the national television station Botswana TV were also reached.
Activities implemented:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established a system based on the FAO FAW Early Warning System (FAMEWS) mobile application, conducted related training for ToT and extension workers, and procured monitoring and surveillance equipment. Developed and distributed awareness-raising materials for MADFS such as 3 000 posters, 3 000 brochures, 400 handbooks and 50 ToT training manuals. Directed a day and a half of intensive training on FAW identification and management for 456 farmers and ensured 1 620 farmers received communication, information and educational materials and training during seven agricultural shows and events. Organized a study tour to Malawi for members of farmer field schools, as well as representatives from academia and government bodies. Carried out six sessions of media training on FAW, facilitated coverage and awareness raising through the national print and broadcast media, and supported a text message campaign that reached more than 21 000 farmers nationwide. Conducted 225 socioeconomic household surveys to assess the damage caused by FAW.
Results:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The data collected through the FAMEWS app has enabled the Government to produce an extensive national FAW database, which will feed into the global FAW platform. It has also enabled farmers to take appropriate action to manage and control FAW damage, prompted by the application's decision support system. Built the capacity of MADFS to support farmers with FAW response and management. Strengthened farmers' capacities to identify and control FAW. Promoted experience sharing on FAW and management methods. Assessed the damage caused by FAW.