



Report: First meeting of the Technical Committee for the Global Action for Fall Armyworm Control, 18 May 2020, 15.00-17.00 hours (Zoom)

The Chair and Vice-Chair welcomed the participants and thanked them for accepting membership to the Technical Committee (TC), ensuring broad world-renowned expertise relevant to the implementation of the Global Action (GA). The Chair reminded the membership of the TC role in ensuring dispassionate consideration of evidence-based approaches and strategies, in order to inform effective response, elevate awareness of management requirements and need for resources. He further emphasized that the timeline for the work of the TC in the coming months will provide critical input to the Steering Committee (SC) and influence activities undertaken by the GA, all of which are fully aligned with the vision for action from the Chair of the SC, FAO DG Dr. Qu Dongyu. Reference was made to the Agenda (Annex 1) and membership list (Annex 2).

The Fall Armyworm (FAW) Secretariat provided overview of the background for the Global Action as well as the terms of references (ToR) of the TC (Annex 3) and the work of the seven specialized Technical Working Groups (TWGs), explaining that the chairs of the TWGs were members of the TC, and that this would enable feedback to and from the groups to the TC. The TC would interface with the Steering Committee (SC), enabling the SC to guide the Global Action based on science and sound technical advice.

A TWG member active in the Research for Development (R4D) Consortium gave a presentation on the origin and objectives of this partnership which established in 2018 by numerous partners, including FAO. He highlighted various mitigation options that are being explored and their efficacy, cost, safety, availability, accessibility, scalability and sustainability, and informed about the strategic priorities.

The three objectives of the Global Action were introduced: (1) Global, regional, national and farmer-level coordination and collaboration on FAW control enhanced, resulting in implementation of ecosystem-friendly Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices and policies; (2) Reduce crop yield losses caused by FAW; and (3) Prevention of the further spread of FAW to new areas. A series of suggestions and comments were made by TC members in connection with each of the 3 objectives in respect to the role of TC.

Prompt action, more innovation, more investments and increased partnerships were highlighted as crucial to achieving the ambitious but important GA objectives, specifically in terms of building national level capacities. The importance of the TC in providing advice on evidence-based innovations, and compelling quantifications on the real and projected impacts of FAW on food security and livelihoods, particularly for the most vulnerable smallholder farmers, with critical farming systems who may be less resilient to crisis, was also stressed.

COVID-19 has killed thousands and impacted food security and the livelihoods of millions, and this has also affected GA implementation. This was emphasized as the time to strengthen partnerships for innovative solutions and strengthen the information base around negative impacts of FAW on food security.

The TC provided comments and specific suggestions including:

- the importance of keeping the momentum and visibility when addressing FAW in relation to acute food insecurity, and for mechanisms that can address the needs of the most vulnerable groups rapidly;
- focus GA actions on country specific capacity enhancement and direct supports for individuals, farmer groups, extension personnel and institutions in the face of COVID19;
- how to address the competition for funds during the period of Desert Locust and COVID-19 pandemic;

- investigate institutional changes needed to tackle similar outbreaks for other pests in the future;
- policy making on fast tracking and harmonizing regulation for FAW sustainable management, including promoting the use of biopesticides;
- importance of developing systemic approaches through demonstrated impact assessments, including economic impacts and the cost of “no-action”;
- the need to address crop losses through both surveillance and safeguarding livelihoods;
- the need to target advocacy and actions to the country context;
- the need to pay attention to efficacy of communication and dissemination of knowledge and tools to farmers;
- the need to address pesticide risk management;
- the potential of South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the Global Action as a mechanism to share best practices, adapting, replicating and scaling up;
- focus on aspirations and challenges in the field, specifically with regard to Objective 3, where there should be more focus on management options and less on regulatory prevention;
- prevention may also be considered against rice eating FAW; and
- reprioritize activities to mitigate impacts caused by COVID-19.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Preparation of the Technical Committee workplan including role and plans of Technical Working Groups.
2. Briefing note to be prepared by the Chair for advice to the Steering Committee.
3. Based on 1&2 above, suggest contribution by the Technical Committee into the agenda of the next Steering Committee meeting (June 2020).
4. Plan and prepare the Second Technical Committee meeting to be scheduled in July 2020.

ANNEX 1: AGENDA

Time	Topic	Resource Person
15.00-15.05	Opening remarks	Bukar Tijani, Vice Chair
15.05-15.10	Welcome remarks	Robert Bertram, Chair
15.10-15.20	Highlights of the Global Action Framework	Rémi Nono Womdim
15.20-15.25	Highlights of the Terms of reference of the Technical Committee	Elisabetta Tagliati
15.25-15.45	Towards the Technical Committee Workplan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 10' -Highlights on FAW Technical Working Groups ● 10' -FAW R4D Consortium: ongoing activities 	Elisabetta Tagliati Prasanna Boddupalli
15.45-15.50	Overview of Global Action Objective 1: Global, regional, national and farmer-level coordination and collaboration on FAW control are enhanced, resulting in implementation of ecosystem-friendly IPM practices and policies	Bukar Tijani, Vice Chair
15.50-16.10	Brief comments and discussion	
16.10-16.15	Overview of Global Action Objective 2: Reduce crop losses caused by FAW	Robert Bertram, Chair
16.15-16.35	Brief comments and discussion	
16.35-16.40	Overview of Global Action Objective 3: Prevent the further spread of FAW to new areas	Xia Jingyuan
16.40-16.55	Brief comments and discussion	
16.55-17.00	Brief closing comments from the Chair and Vice Chair	Robert Bertram, Chair Bukar Tijani, Vice Chair

ANNEX 2: Membership list*(A ✓ indicates confirmed membership)*

	Name, Last name	Organization name, Address	✓
		International Research Institutes	
1.	Mr Sunday Ekesi Director of Research and Partnerships	International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (<i>icipe</i>), Kenya	✓
2.	Mr Malik Ba Country Representative – Niger, West & Central Africa Program	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Niger	✓
3.	Mr Georg Goergen Entomologist / Biocontrol Specialist	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Benin	✓
4.	Mr BM. Prasanna Director of CIMMYT's Global Maize Program and the CGIAR Research Program on Maize	International Maize and Wheat improvement Center (CIMMYT), Mexico	✓
5.	Mr Robert Day Programme Executive, Action on Invasives	Centre of Agriculture and Bioscience international (CABI), United Kingdom	✓
6.	Mr Julien Godwin Programme Support Manager, Action on Invasives	Centre of Agriculture and Bioscience international (CABI), United Kingdom	✓
7.	Mr Rhett Harrison Tropical Forest Ecologist & Conservation Biologist	International Centre for Agroforestry Research (ICRAF), Zambia	✓
		National Research Institutes	
8.	Mr Ivan Hiltpold Biologist	AgroScope, Switzerland	✓
9.	Mr Syed Nurul Alam Principal Scientific Officer	BARI-Bangladesh, Bangladesh	
10.	Mr Sujay Rakshit, Director	ICAR-Indian Institute of Maize Research, PAU Campus, Ludhiana, Punjab (India)	✓
11.	Mr Wang Zhenying Professor, Department of Agricultural Insects	Chinese Academy of Agriculture Science (CAAS), Beijing, China	✓
12.	Mr Ivan Cruz Senior Researcher (Entomology)	Brazilian Agriculture Research Corporation (EMBRAPA), Brasília, Brazil	✓
13.	Mr Carlos Blanco Senior entomologist	United States Department of Agriculture (USDA/ARS), Washington, D.C., United States of America	✓
		Academia	
14.	Mr Greg Neussly Professor, Director of the Everglades Research and Education Center	University of Florida, Belle Glade, United States of America	✓
15.	Mr Ken Wilson Professor	Lancaster University - Insect & Parasite Ecology Group – iPEG, Lancaster, United Kingdom	✓
16.	Mr Juan Ferre	University of Valencia, Valenica, Spain	✓

	Professor, Genetics		
17.	Mr Johnnie Van Den Berg Professor; Program Manager: Integrated Pest Management	North-West University, South Africa	✓
18.	Mr David Hughes Associate Professor of Entomology and Biology	Penn State University, Pennsylvania, United States of America	✓
19.	Ms Vera Ros Assistant Professor	Wageningen University & Research, Wageningen, Netherlands	✓
20.	Mr Stephan Winter Head of Department Plant viruses	Leibniz-Institut DSMZ, Braunschweig, Germany	
21.	Mr Paul Jepson Director of Technical Operations	Oregon State University, Corvallis, United States of America	✓
		NGOs/Civil Society	
22.	Ms Sheila Willis Head of International Programmes	Pesticide Action Network (PAN UK), Brighton, United Kingdom	✓
23.	Mr Mel Oluoch Regional Director	SASAKAWA Africa Association, Kenya	✓
24.	Mr Emmanuel Okogbenin Director of Technical Operations	African Agricultural Technology Foundation, Nairobi, Kenya	✓
		Private Sector	
25.	Mr Hans Mattaar Technical Director	AgroCare, Brussels, Belgium	
26.	Mr Robert Hunter Executive Director	Crop Life International, Brussels, Belgium	✓
27.	Ms Roma Gwynn Vice-President	IBMA International Bio-pesticides Manufacturers Association, Brussels, Belgium	✓
		Development Partners	
28.	Mr Robert Bertram Chief Scientist, Chair of Technical Committee	United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Washington, D.C., United States of America	✓
29.	Ms May-Guri Sæthre	Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO), residing in Ibadan, Nigeria	✓
30.	Mr Hatem Fellah Principal agronomist	African Development Bank (AfDB), Regional Bureau, Dakar, Senegal	✓
31.	Ms Dorothee André Deputy Head of Unit - Plant health and biotechnology	European Commission (EC), Brussels, Belgium	
		Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Participation	
32.	Mr Bukar Tijani Assistant Director-General	FAO	
33.	Mr Rémi Nono Womdim Deputy Director	Plant Production and Protection Division (AGP)	
34.	Ms Elisabetta Tagliati Chief Technical Advisor	Plant Production and Protection Division (AGP)	
35.	Mr Baogen Gu Senior Agricultural Officer and Team Leader	Plant Production and Protection Division (AGP)	
36.	Mr Jingyuan Xia Secretary	International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat	

37.	Ms Sarah Brunel, Implementation Officer	International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat	
38.	Mr Zhongxin CHEN Senior Information Technology Officer	Information Technology Division (CIO)	
39.	Mr Niccolo Lombardi, Early Warning Early Action Specialist	Agricultural Development Economics Division (ESA)	
40.	Mr Mario Zappacosta Senior Economist	Trade and Markets Division (EST)	
41.	Mr Dominique Burgeon SP5 Leader	Strategic Programme (SP) 5	
42.	Ms Rosanne Marchesich Senior Emergency and Rehabilitation Officer	Emergency and Resilience Division (PSE)	
43.	Mr Neil Marsland Senior Technical Officer	Emergency and Resilience Division (PSE)	
44.	Ms Dongxin Feng, Head, Capacity Development and Academia Unit	Partnerships Division (PSP)	
45.	Mr Kazuki Kitaoka Senior Policy Officer	Business Development and Resource Mobilization Division (PSR)	
46.	Mr Chado Tshering Programme Officer	Office for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Land-locked Developing Countries (LLDCs) (OSL)	
47.	Ms Bruna Takara South-South Cooperation Specialist	Office of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (OSS)	

ANNEX 3: Terms of Reference - Technical Committee of the Global Action for Fall Armyworm Control

The Global Action for Fall Armyworm Control is a pioneering initiative that aims to mobilize USD 500 million over the period 2020–2022 to take radical, direct and coordinated measures to fight Fall Armyworm at a global level. The three key objectives of the Global Action are to:

- Establish a global coordination and regional collaboration on monitoring, early warning, and intelligent pest management of FAW;
- Reduce crop losses caused by FAW;
- Reduce the risk of further spread of FAW to new areas (Europe and South Pacific).

The Global Action connects national ground work directly to the global political level through the establishment of a Global FAW Steering Committee, chaired by the Director-General, FAO. This Committee will bring together high-level decision makers and technical leaders to guide the further development and implementation of the Programme. It will endorse the action plan for 2020–2022 and guide further investment.

The Technical Committee will provide technical advice to the Steering Committee. Specifically, it will:

1. Make recommendations about priorities and gaps in regards to sustainable management of FAW at global and national levels;
2. Monitor and review progress in science and its potential relevance in relation to sustainable management of Fall Armyworm;
3. Provide technical support to the implementation of the action including national plans;
4. Assist in resource mobilization; and
5. Establish an effective communication strategy.

The Technical Committee will consist of world experts in all key thematic areas of FAW sustainable management and control. The Committee will meet every two-four months, as needed.

The Technical Committee will be chaired by the Chief Scientist, USAID. The Vice-chair will be the FAO Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department.



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