



Fall Armyworm Control in Action Newsletter

October, 2020 - Issue #1



Launch of the FAO Global Action for Fall Armyworm Control, December 2019

Foreword

Welcome to the first edition of “Fall Armyworm Control in Action”, the monthly newsletter of the FAO Global Action for Fall Armyworm Control. Through this newsletter, we will inform all FAW key stakeholders about the latest news of the FAO Global Action.

FAW Executive Secretary and NSP Director, Xia Jingyuan

maize worth USD 18 billion per year, affecting about 600 million people in Africa, Asia-Pacific and the Near East.

Challenges in mitigating FAW damage include, among others, lack of the following: coordination at global, regional and national levels; effective monitoring and control techniques; and effective phytosanitary measures and capacity at national level.

Background

Fall armyworm (FAW, *Spodoptera frugiperda*) is a pest originating in the Americas: it can fly over 100 km per day; it feeds on over 80 hosts; and a female moth can deposit 1 000 eggs during its life.

FAW was first detected in Africa in 2016; since then, the pest has rapidly spread to the southern hemisphere and has been reported in more than 70 countries in Africa, Asia-Pacific and the Near East (Fig. 1).

Due to its voracious nature and broad host range, FAW has been designated as one of the ten worst pests and diseases threatening global food security (CABI, 2018) and livelihoods. FAW has the potential to destroy up to 80 million tonnes of

The FAO Global Action for Fall Armyworm Control

The **Global Action for Fall Armyworm Control** (GA, 2020-2022) was launched by FAO Director-General QU Dongyu on 4 December 2019 with a mandate for a strong and coordinated approach to strengthen prevention and sustainable pest control capacities. The GA focuses on Africa, Asia-Pacific and the Near East, where an integrated pest management (IPM) strategy will be implemented in countries with significant pest presence, and a prevention strategy will be conducted in areas with limited or no distribution of the pest.

The GA has three major objectives and three expected outcomes (see next page).



FAW damage

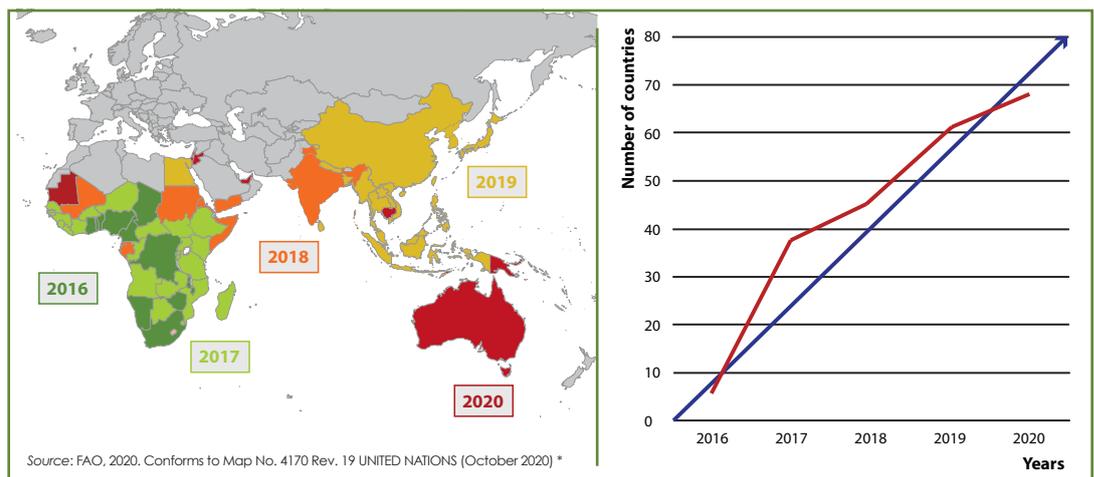


Fig. 1: Distribution of FAW in Africa, Asia-Pacific and the Near East as of October 2020

OBJECTIVES OF THE GLOBAL ACTION

- **Reduce** crop losses due to FAW by 5% in all demonstration countries and 10% in the pilot countries in three years
- **Decrease** risk of further spread and infestation in countries with limited presence of the pest
- **Establish** a coordination mechanism at global, regional and national levels

OUTCOMES OF THE GLOBAL ACTION

- Positive **economic outcomes** supported by reducing crop loss and increasing profit
- **Environmental outcomes** improved by reducing pesticide use and preserving natural enemies through FAW sustainable management
- Positive **social outcomes** spurred by enhancing farmers' IPM capacity and countries' institutional capacities to respond to emerging plant pests

integration and extension, communication and advocacy, and partnership and resource mobilization.

Regional steering groups for Africa, Asia-Pacific and the Near East and National Task Forces are also being established (Fig. 2).



Fig. 3: FAW Secretariat

National Implementation

Eight countries have been identified as demonstration countries for the implementation of the IPM strategy of the GA in Africa, Asia-Pacific and the Near East: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, China, Egypt, India, Kenya, Malawi and the Philippines. Together, they represent eight ecological zones and 50% of maize acreage in the three regions (Fig. 4). Fifty-three pilot countries were also identified across the eight ecological zones.

Each demonstration country will develop and implement a regional IPM package and facilitate outreach to the pilot countries.

In countries where FAW is not yet present or is of limited distribution, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat will form three regional task forces, including representatives of Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs) for the Pacific, Near East and Southern Europe, and representatives from relevant countries in each region.

Global Oversight

An innovative aspect of the GA is the global coordination process that brings together all key partners involved in the fight against this pest (Fig. 2).

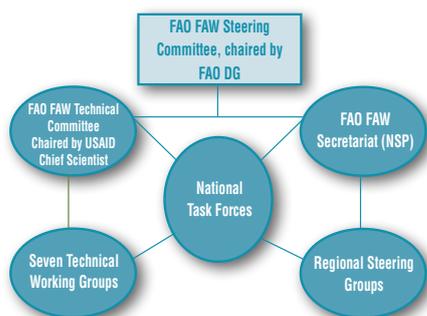


Fig. 2: Global Oversight

The GA Steering Committee (SC) is chaired by the FAO Director-General and is composed of over 20 high-level leaders and decision makers who guide the development and implementation of the GA. To date, the Steering Committee has met twice.

The GA Technical Committee (TC) is chaired by the USAID Chief Scientist and comprises more than 50 members who are technical leaders drawn from research institutes, universities, NGOs, international organizations and development partners. The TC is responsible for providing technical advice to the SC and is supported by seven Technical Working Groups (TWGs). To date the TC has met three times.

Global Coordination

The FAW Secretariat ensures the day-to-day running of activities of the GA (Fig. 3). Its Executive Secretary (ES) is the Director of the Plant Protection and Production Division of FAO (NSP). The ES is directly supported by the NSP Deputy Director and the FAW Coordinator. To implement the main aspects of the GA, four working groups have been established on: coordination and integration, technical

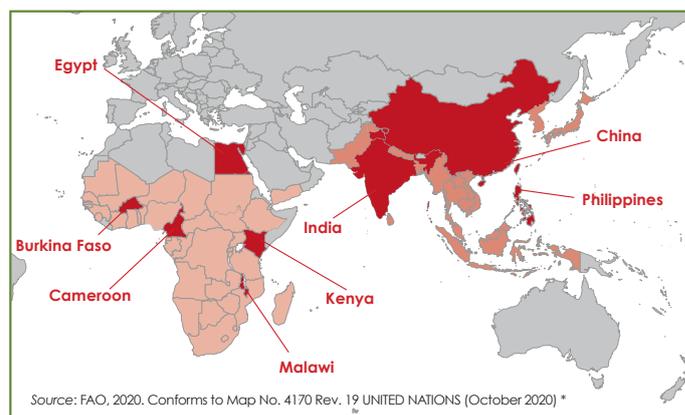


Fig.4: Demonstration and pilot countries

COVID-19

The GA has continued to support countries in managing FAW throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by conducting webinars and virtual trainings on FAW monitoring and management and by implementing activities where possible.

* The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries. Dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

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<https://www.ippc.int/en/the-global-action-for-fall-armyworm-control/>



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