



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



REPORT

Third Meeting of the Steering Committee of the FAO Global Action for Fall Armyworm (FAW) Control

21 December 2020

FAW Secretariat, Global Action for FAW Control

Contents

1.	Opening Remarks	3
2.	Adoption of the Agenda.....	3
3.	Update from the FAW Secretariat	3
4.	Updates from the Technical Committee	4
5.	Endorsement of the Generic IPM Package	4
6.	Establishment of Working Group for Resource Mobilization.....	4
7.	General Discussion	5
8.	Closing Remarks	6
	<i>Appendix 1: Agenda.....</i>	<i>7</i>
	<i>Appendix 2: ToRs of the Working Group on Resource Mobilization</i>	<i>8</i>
	<i>Appendix 3: List of Participants</i>	<i>11</i>

1. Opening Remarks

- [1] Mr QU Dongyu, FAO Director-General and Chairperson of the Global Steering Committee (SC), opened the meeting, welcomed all the participants and expressed his gratitude for their commitment to participating in the SC. He emphasized the importance of their work, overseeing the Global Action (GA) for Fall Armyworm (FAW) Control, and announced that Deputy Director-General, Ms Beth Bechdol, would henceforth act as Co-Chairperson of the SC, replacing Deputy Director-General, Ms Maria Helena Semedo.
- [2] The Director-General noted that since the previous SC meeting held in July 2020, FAW has been reported in four additional countries, namely Israel, Jordan, Sudan and Syria. He observed that, however, a significant progress has been made, including the establishment of the FAO FAW Secretariat under FAO's Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP) with its Director, Mr Jingyuan Xia, acting as the Executive Secretary; and eight demonstration countries representing 50 percent of maize production in Asia and the Pacific, the Near East and North Africa, and Africa regions have been identified for the implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) component of the GA. The Director-General also urged greater mobilization of financial resources for FAW control.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

- [3] DDG Bechdol outlined the Agenda with minor adjustments to the order of the Agenda items, which was fully adopted by the SC.

3. Update from the FAW Secretariat

- [4] Mr Xia provided an update from the FAW Secretariat on the progress made and the way forward for the GA. He highlighted three significant challenges: (i) lack of coordination; (ii) lack of both effective IPM technologies and practical phytosanitary measures; and (iii) lack of awareness worldwide; and three major objectives of the GA: (i) reduce crop-yield losses by 5 to 10 percent through IPM measures; (ii) prevent further spread to new areas through phytosanitary measures; and (iii) conduct global coordination. Worldwide coordination involves three key characteristics of GA work: (i) major geographic coverage over three main FAO regions; (ii) major interdisciplinary coverage from pest management and digital agriculture to policy and farmer education; and (iii) major coverage of stakeholders, including research institutions, policy-makers, donors, farmers' organizations and the private sector in order to break down silos.
- [5] Mr Xia thanked the Director-General for his support and interest in FAW, noting it was unique in FAO's 75-year history for a Director-General to take such a deep interest in such a down-to-earth problem as an insect pest.
- [6] Mr Xia emphasized the fact that major progress had been made in the way forward through the work of the SC, supported by the FAW Secretariat, which is hosted by NSP; the Technical Committee (TC); seven Technical Working Groups (TWG) and Regional Steering Groups. All of those, he explained, support the eight National Task Forces (NTF), eight focal points and eight technical team leaders assigned by the Secretariat in the eight demonstration countries: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, China, Egypt, India, Kenya, Malawi and the Philippines.
- [7] Mr Xia described progress made in global oversight, as well as in global coordination via the FAW Secretariat. Progress in implementation has been made through identification of the eight demonstration countries and 53 pilot countries in Africa, Asia and the Near East. Progress has also

been made in prevention, as over 20 countries have been identified to implement prevention strategies in South Europe, South Pacific and the Near East regions. In Resource Mobilization, the Secretariat received USD 1.2 million in 2020 and USD 7.54 million has been pledged to fund FAW works.

- [8] Mr Xia explained that the TC would follow two separate lines of work: Line A –providing technical oversight and mainstreaming knowledge from seven TWGs; and Line B –providing technical guidance to the eight demonstration countries and possibly providing support to certain pilot countries as well.
- [9] Mr Xia recommended that the SC endorse the General Guidelines for Developing and Implementing the Regional IPM Package in the Demonstration Countries (Generic IPM Package). Each region can then start work on developing its own tailored IPM package based on these guidelines.
- [10] Mr Xia also recommended the establishment of a Resource Mobilization Working Group (RMWG) that was approved by the SC. The RMWG will hold its first meeting in January 2021, and begin to prepare for the High-Level FAW Conference in March 2021. USD 8 million are immediately needed for the demonstration countries and USD 2 million for overall coordination.
- [11] Going forward, outreach should include a FAW monitoring and alert system with support from CSI (FAO's Information Technology Services Division), as well as an information-sharing platform.

4. Updates from the Technical Committee

- [12] The SC Vice Chairperson, Mr Robert Bertram, Chief Scientist of USAID and Technical Committee (TC) Chairperson, reviewed the process undertaken by the TC to collect, review and synthesize scientific evidence for FAW management from hundreds of credible sources (mostly peer-reviewed papers contributed and curated by TC members) from around the world. The findings were integrated in the Generic IPM Package.

5. Endorsement of the Generic IPM Package

- [13] Mr Bertram explained the two main parts of the Generic IPM Package: 1) The main body with guidelines on developing regional IPM package and a synthesis table that distils findings on effectiveness, cost, environmental and human health and safety, as well as scalability of various IPM interventions against FAW. The table includes agroecological methods, resistant varieties, biological control, and pesticides. 2) The Annex that narratively outlines different IPM interventions, illustrates a way to package them and further fleshes out various considerations in using each intervention.
- [14] Mr Bertram observed that the TC's ongoing work could be useful around the world, including informing Plant Protection Officers, farmer organizations, and extension groups in both demonstration and pilot countries. He noted that this evidence-based distillation should be considered a valuable tool.
- [15] Mr Bertram also thanked the dozens of research organizations and other technical partners that have contributed to the research.

6. Establishment of Working Group for Resource Mobilization

- [16] Mr Rémi Nono Womdim, NSP Deputy Director, proposed that the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the RMWG be endorsed by the SC to support the GA against FAW and provide guidance for the Secretariat in RM (Appendix 2).
- [17] DDG Bechdol will serve as the Chairperson of the RMWG, supported by two Vice Chairpersons: Mr Nono Womdim, NSP Deputy Director, and Mr Alexander Jones, Director of the Resource Mobilization

and Private Sector Partnerships Division. Mr Nono Womdim observed that the WG's first set of recommendations were due by the next (fourth) SC meeting. Priorities will include: review and sharpen roles and functions of the WG; assess funding gaps and needs; conduct a global assessment for potential funding sources; highlight sustainable business models; organize resource partners' briefings, meetings and pledging events; and identify champions for soliciting support from state and non-state actors.

[18] DDG Bechdol, who oversees FAO's Resource Mobilization and Private Sector Partnerships Division, pledged to ensure that coordination continues with donors, partners and other stakeholders (including the private sector), to support FAW control priorities defined by the SC. She praised the coordination and open communications fostered by NSP and requested the SC's full endorsement of the IPM package and the ToRs for the RMWG.

7. General Discussion

[19] Chief Scientist, Ms Ismahane Elouafi, opened the General Discussion. Mr Kongming WU, SC Vice Chairperson, suggested that more monitoring work be done to understand better FAW migratory patterns. Mr Xia responded that this is included in the Secretariat's work plan, through the proposed, new FAW monitoring and alert system and information-sharing platform which is to be produced by FAO's Information Technology Services Division (CSI).

[20] Committee members reminded the SC of the importance of healthy seeds for better crop resistance to FAW, and suggested chemical pesticides be used as a last resort, for application only when all other FAW control practices fail.

[21] Some Committee members noted that pesticides are often not economically affordable or are unsustainable due to health and environmental issues. SC member, Mr Martin Kropff, Director-General of CIMMYT, reported that three hybrid varieties of maize that could offer FAW resistance would soon be available.

[22] Mr Bertram noted that cost concerns and knowledge challenges are significant with regard to regional IPM packages and 'one size does not fit all' – that is, differentiated (tailor-made) strategies are needed for different environments and different farmers. He added that IPM is not a single bullet, but involves integration of multiple approaches.

[23] Mr Xia thanked donors, particularly the Government of Norway and the EU for their recent contributions and added that the FAO FAW Secretariat would be discussing opportunities to tap the technical resources available within the FAW R4D consortium.

[24] Questions were raised by Mr Keith Tyrell, Executive Director, Pesticides Action Network (PAN), UK, with regard to whether all TC members had had the opportunity to review the final elements of the Generic IPM Package that were presented during the SC meeting. Mr Tyrell noted the importance of bearing in mind costs of interventions that are borne by farmers, many of whom are smallholders. Mr Bertram replied that both of those issues are priorities for the TC, and DDG Bechdol noted that some fine-tuning of the Generic IPM Package by the TC, according to the mechanism agreed at the third TC meeting, would be a condition for full SC approval, adding that this was work in progress that would be shaped and fine-tuned over time.

[25] Subsequently, the SC conditionally endorsed the Generic IPM Package and endorsed the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the RMWG.

[26] DDG Bechdol called this a very significant milestone that outlines a new direction and a new shared commitment to the FAW GA work which will also be valuable in controlling other transboundary

pests. It also provides much needed clarity on next steps by FAO and partners on the implementation of GA.

8. Closing Remarks

[27] The Director-General closed the SC meeting by expressing his appreciation for the SC's endorsement of the IPM package and ToRs for the RMWG. DDG Bechdol added that FAO Regional Offices are strongly encouraged to reinforce their own regional steering groups to facilitate implementation of the GA; and work of this Global SC would continue to provide global oversight in 2021.

Appendix 1: Agenda

THIRD MEETING
GLOBAL ACTION FOR FALL ARMYWORM CONTROL STEERING COMMITTEE
21 December 2020
13.00–15.00 (Rome time, GMT +1)

Agenda

ITEMS	DOCUMENTS	PRESENTER	PROPOSED TIME
1. Opening of the Meeting		QU Dongyu, Director-General	15 minutes
2. Adoption of the Agenda		Beth Bechdol, Deputy Director-General	5 minutes
3. Update from the FAW Secretariat		Jingyuan Xia, NSP Director	20 minutes
4. Updates from the Technical Committee		Robert Bertram, Vice Chair	10 minutes
5. Endorsement of the Generic IPM Package		Robert Bertram, Vice Chair	15 minutes
6. Establishment of Working Group for Resource Mobilization		Rémi Nono Womdim, NSP Deputy Director	15 minutes
7. General Discussion		Ismahane Elouafi, Chief Scientist	30 minutes
8. Closing Remarks		QU Dongyu, Director-General Beth Bechdol, Deputy Director-General	10 minutes

Appendix 2: ToRs of the Working Group on Resource Mobilization

Draft Terms of Reference (ToRs) Working Group on Resource Mobilization (RM) under the Steering Committee of the Global Action for Fall Armyworm Control

Context

Fall Armyworm (FAW), a major pest of maize and other economically important crops, invaded Africa in 2016. Since then, the pest has continued to spread across Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and the Near East. FAO launched the Global Action (GA) for Fall Armyworm Control in December 2019 to provide a global coordination mechanism to mitigate the impacts of this invasive pest. A Steering Committee (SC), chaired by FAO Director-General, oversees the GA with the technical support from a Technical Committee (TC) chaired by USAID Chief Scientist. The GA will develop capacity in validating, implementing and scaling up Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques and technologies to control FAW in three regions: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and in the Near East. Specifically, eight demonstration countries have been identified for validation and large-scale demonstration of comprehensive and contextualized IPM packages that will then be disseminated to 53 pilot countries in the regions. It has been estimated that USD 10 million are needed for immediate mobilization to support action on the ground in these regions. The 3rd meeting of the Steering Committee (SC) to the Global Action for Fall Armyworm Control proposes the establishment of a Working Group on Resource Mobilization (RM).

The decision to establish an RM Working Group is based on the need for joint efforts to mobilize funds for Fall Armyworm (FAW) control in a time of competing needs such as Desert Locust and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Objective of the Working Group

The overall objective of this Working Group is to provide guidance and support the efforts of the FAW Secretariat for resource mobilization, including identifying and implementing innovative financing initiatives with a focus on both traditional and non-traditional funding sources for the implementation of the GA for 2021-2022.

Major responsibilities

The major responsibilities of the Working Group include:

1. Review and further sharpen the role and function of RM Working Group.
2. Assess funding gaps and needs for the successful implementation of the Global Action strategy (2021-2022) in eight demonstration countries and 53 pilot countries.
3. Conduct a global assessment for potential funding sources, including the private sector.
4. Highlight sustainable business models to engage the private sector investment in mainstreaming IPM techniques and technologies for FAW.
5. Support the identification of new funding sources and opportunities, including through the organization of Resource Partners' briefings, meetings and pledging events.
6. Identify champions for soliciting support from States and Non-State Actors.

Working mechanism

The Chairperson will lead the work of the Working Group, in consultation with the Vice Chairpersons, and with the support of the FAW Secretariat. Convened by the Chairperson, the Working Group will meet (virtually) at least once a quarter (and as and when required by the Chairperson of the Group) and communicate via dedicated channels. As an immediate output, the Working Group will prepare recommendations to be submitted to the 4th Steering Committee meeting (tentatively scheduled in the first quarter of 2021) and presented to the High-Level Conference expected in early March 2021.

Composition and Chairpersonship

The membership of the Working Group will include representatives of the FAW Steering and Technical Committees, and of selected external resource partners, as well as FAO staff from the relevant divisions (Centres, and units).

The Deputy Director-General of FAO with oversight role A over the Plant Production and Protection Division will act as the Chairperson, supported by two Vice Chairpersons: the Director of Resource Mobilization and Private Sector Partnerships Division (PSR) and the Deputy Director of Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP).

Annex 1- List of Members of the Working Group on Resource Mobilization (RM)

1.	Ms Beth Bechdol	Deputy Director-General	Chairperson	FAO
2.	Mr Alexander Jones	PSR Director	Vice Chair	FAO
3.	Mr Rémi Nono Womdim	NSP Deputy Director	Vice Chair	FAO
4.	Mr Hanns-Achim Krebs	Senior Policy Officer Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) European Commission Brussels, Belgium	Member	SC
5.	Mr Martin Fregene	Director, Agriculture and Agro-Industry African Development Bank Group (AfDB) Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire	Member	SC
6.	Dr Christina Owen	Senior Programme Officer, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Seattle, USA	Member	SC
7.	Mr Robert Hunter	CropLife International	Member	TC
8.	Mr Odd Eirik Arnesen	Senior Adviser, NORAD	Member	(External)
9.	TBD	USAID	Member	(External)
10.	TBD	World Bank	Member	(External)
11.	TBD	Islamic Development Bank	Member	(External)
12.	TBD	Asian Development Bank	Member	(External)
13.	Mr Dominique Burgeon	Director, Office of Emergency and Resilience (OER)	Member	FAO
14.	Mr Mohamed Manssouri	Director, FAO Investment Center (CFI)	Member	FAO
15.	Mr Anping Ye	Director, Office of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (PST)	Member	FAO

Appendix 3: List of Participants

	Name, Last name	Organization name, Address
		Steering Committee (SC) Members
1.	Mr QU Dongyu, SC Chair	FAO Director-General
2.	Ms Beth Bechdol, SC Co-Chair	FAO Deputy Director-General
3.	Mr Kongming WU, SC Vice Chair	Professor, Institute of Plant Protection (IPP) of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS)
4.	Mr Robert Bertram, SC Vice Chair, Chair of the Technical Committee	Chief Scientist, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Washington, D.C., United States of America United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
5.	Ms Tarifa Al Zaabi, SC Vice Chair	Deputy Director-General, International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA)
6.	Ms Ismahane Elouafi, SC Member	FAO Chief Scientist
7.	Ms Panagiota Mylona, SC Member	Policy Officer Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), European Commission
8.	Mr Hanns-Achim Krebs, SC Member	Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), European Commission
9.	Ms Christina Owen, SC Member	Senior Programme Officer, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
10.	Ms Giulia Di Tommaso, SC Member	President and CEO CropLife International
11.	Mr Keith Tyrell, SC Member	Executive Director Pesticides Action Network UK
12.	Mr Bouchaib Boulanouar, (participated on behalf of Mr Martin Fregene, SC Member)	Africa Development Bank Group (AfDB)
13.	Mr Martin Kropff, SC Member	Director-General, International Maize and Wheat improvement Center (CIMMYT)

14.	Mr Fernando Hercos Valicente, SC Member	Senior Scientist, Embrapa Maize and Sorghum Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA)
15.	H.E. Kip Tom, SC Member	Ambassador, United States Mission to the United Nations Agencies
16.	H.E. Morten Von Hanno Aasland, SC Member	Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Norway to FAO
17.	Mr Bommakanti Rajender, SC Member	COAG Chairperson, Alternate Permanent Representative of the Republic of India to FAO, Embassy of the Republic of India
18.	Ms Isabel Calderón (participated on behalf of Ms Christiane Wolff, Head, SPS section, SC Member)	World Trade Organization (WTO)
19.	Mr Kevin McGlothlin - Observer	Humanitarian and Development Counselor, U.S. Mission to the UN Agencies in Rome
20.	Mr Jack Myer - Observer	U.S. Mission to the UN Agencies in Rome
21.	Mr Boddupalli Prasanna - Observer	Director, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)
22.	Ms Regina Eddy - Observer	Coordinator, Interagency Task Force on FAW, USAID
		Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
23.	Mr Guangzhou QU	Director, FAO Liaison Office in New York
24.	Ms Dina Rahman	Investment Support Officer, ODG
25.	Mr Raschad Al Khafaji	Special Assistant to the Director-General
26.	Ms Aruna Gujral	Programme Officer, DDCB
27.	Ms Yasaman Matinroshan	Programme Officer, ODG
28.	Mr Jingyuan Xia, SC Secretariat	Director Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)

29.	Mr Rémi Nono Womdim, SC Secretariat	Deputy Director Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)
30.	Mr Baogen Gu	Senior Agricultural Officer and Team Leader, Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)
31.	Mr Buyung Hadi	Agricultural Officer Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)
32.	Ms Svetlana Velmeskina	Office Assistant Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)
33.	Ms Verena Wilke, Rapporteur	Programme Specialist Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)
34.	Ms Giovanna Ortiz Fermin	Office Assistant Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)
35.	Ms Sandra Cordon, Rapporteur	Communications Consultant Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)
36.	Ms Rosanne Marchesich	Senior Emergency and Rehabilitation Officer, Emergency and Resilience Division (OER)
37.	Mr Alexander Jones	Director, Resource Mobilization and Private Sector Partnerships Division (PSR)
38.	Mr Hak Fan Lau	Director, Office of Communications (OCC)
39.	Mr George Phiri	Assistant FAO Representative, FAO Malawi
40.	Mr GC Yubak	Senior Agriculture Officer, FAORAP
41.	Mr Rong Fu	Programme Officer, FAO China
42.	Ms Jasmine Magtibay	Programme Assistant, FAO Philippines
43.	Ms Denis Isabel	Liaison Officer, FAO Liaison Office in Brussels
44.	Mr Giuseppe Carotenuto	Photographer, OCC
45.	Ms Josephine Mckenna	OCC Communication Specialist, OCC
46.	Ms Veronica Younes	CSGM Meeting Services

47.	Mr Andrew Taylor	Communication Specialist, OCC
48.	Ms Alexandra Spinelli	Communication Specialist, OCC
49.	Mr Giovanni Loffredi	CSGM - Audiovisual Services GL