



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



REPORT

First Meeting of the Working Group on Resource Mobilization for Implementation of FAO Global Action on Fall Armyworm Control

11 March 2021

FAW Secretariat, Global Action for FAW Control

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Summary

The **Working Group on Resource Mobilization (WGRM)** made a number of recommendations to the Global Action that can be grouped under three themes. Firstly, viewing Fall Armyworm (FAW) issues in isolation is too narrow a perspective for resource mobilization. On the contrary, these issues should be approached as a part of a wider group of concerns, including crop losses, food and livelihood insecurity, as well as the need for green job creation.

Subsequently, these must link with larger, global initiatives, such as the UN 2021 Food Systems Summit (FSS) and the One Health approach. In this regard, it has been suggested to convene a donor conference bringing together public and private sector actors.

Secondly, the WGRM emphasized the necessity to mobilize resources in order to achieve **solutions**, rather than to focus on problems. Some solutions may be found through collaboration and strategic partnerships when resource-mobilization efforts are coordinated across partners. Strong collaboration already exists among FAO and research institutions, other leading agencies and governments; this should be better highlighted in communication material. Furthermore, this crucial collaboration may include public-private partnerships.

Thirdly, the WGRM emphasized the importance of liaising closely with government partners with a view to encouraging the identification of FAW issues (and yield loss in general) as government priorities for funding and for escalation to multilateral development banks. The Global Action budget should be reviewed for potential savings that could be reallocated to fund-raising efforts.

Key recommendations

1. The WGRM agreed that a more effective approach for the Global Action would be to **fund-raise in support of solutions rather than problems**.
2. The WGRM recommended that **the focus on fund-raising be broadened well beyond FAW pest management alone**. The story of FAW's full impact should instead be explained and framed within the context of global issues, such as food and nutritional security, and connected with the UN 2021 Food Systems Summit and the One Health approach. The fundamental importance of livelihoods and job creation, and the threats which are posed to these by FAW, should also be emphasized, since they are of particular concern to governments. The WGRM recommended that these broader connections be articulated in resource mobilization efforts.
3. The WGRM recommended that **public-private partnerships be mobilized to fill the resource gaps** in the Global Action, potentially by supporting local small- and medium-sized enterprises. These are critical to job creation, which (as mentioned previously) is of high importance to governments and resource partners.
4. The WGRM recommended that **a donor conference which is broadly framed (e.g. including such issues as yield loss, pest management and food security), and which includes private-sector partners and research institutions, be considered**.

5. The WGRM recommended **a coordinated fund-raising effort between FAO and its strategic partners**, adding that such partnerships are critically important. For that reason, FAO should better articulate its linkages with research institutions, governments, agencies and other actors within FAO's wide range of connections network.
6. The WGRM recommended **a more focused and improved communication campaign that highlights the strategic collaboration among FAO and other organizations and government agencies** around their shared goal of mitigating FAW threats.
7. The WGRM recommended that **FAO work closely with relevant government partners and farmers' organizations, to advocate for making FAW a priority within government spending plans and programmes**. Furthermore, it is the role of governments to articulate immediate funding needs to multilateral development banks.
8. The WGRM recommended that **FAO take stock of savings realized thanks to the new modalities of virtual meetings and reduced travel costs in the time of COVID-19**. The WG recommended that those savings be redirected, at least partially, to resource mobilization at the national level.

1. Opening Remarks

- [1] Ms Beth Bechdol, Deputy Director-General and Chairperson of WGRM, welcomed the 26 participants, urging everyone to share ideas on how to bring synergies across various funding programmes and on how to leverage public-private partnerships to fill the resource gaps in the Global Action (GA). This working group's recommendations will help the Global Action Steering Committee take practical steps to mobilize much-needed resources. To ensure the successful implementation of Integrated Pest Management component of the GA, at least USD 10 million per year is necessary: USD 1 million per demonstration country (of which there are eight) and USD 2 million for regional and global information-sharing and coordination.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

- [2] The agenda was adopted as presented (Annex 1).

3. ToRs of the Working Group on Resource Mobilization

- [3] The Terms of Reference of the WGRM were endorsed, as presented by Mr Rémi Nono Womdim, Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP) Deputy Director, Vice Chairperson of WGRM (Annex 2).

4. Update on Global Action for Fall Armyworm Control

- [4] Mr Jingyuan Xia, NSP Director, Executive Secretary of FAW Secretariat, highlighted technical progress made through the GA. He also noted progress in fund-raising, for a total of USD 9.8 million since 2020 including USD 6.3 million received and an additional USD 3.5 million pledged from traditional donors

and South-South Cooperation partners. These funds will support the GA until 2022 (for an average of USD 3.28 million per year).

5. Funding Situation and Gap Analysis

- [5] Mr Alexander Jones, Resource Mobilization and Private Sector Partnerships Division (PSR) Director and Vice Chairperson of WGRM, outlined the funding landscape.

6. FAW programming and recommendations on resource mobilization for the Global Action by Resource Partners

- [6] This portion of the discussion was conducted under the Chatham House rules and the remarks are noted accordingly.
- [7] Norway is funding research cooperation and has reminded FAO of the importance of continued collaboration with research institutions.
- [8] The European Union is supporting the GA over a two-year programme with a USD 4.7 million contribution; and has urged collaboration between public- and private-sector partners. Under COVID-19 restrictions, travel budgets were reallocated to hire local focal points assigned to fundraise directly with donors and government ministries at the national level. This was cited as a possible example for the GA.
- [9] Within AfDB Group exist three separate funding windows: the African Development Fund (ADF) to support low-income and fragile states via grants/concessional loans; and the African Development Bank (ADB) supporting middle-income countries via non-concessional loans. The third line, with a regional operations window, allows countries to come together to apply for a common topic/need, which might be appropriate for FAW projects. Emergency relief funds (for example, for locusts or drought emergencies) are available for rapid action, but those funds are low and operate on a first-come-first-served basis. Support for FAW control could look beyond the “usual” donors, beginning with governments and public funds. Governments involved in addressing FAW could also be involved in fund-raising efforts; and support must be demand driven.
- [10] The BMGF has not invested in FAW or in any single pest, illness or problem, taking instead a more systemic approach and aiming to build resilient systems. In this regard, the BMGF has supported CIMMYT and Penn State on innovative work to develop a FAW-resistant strain of maize and FAW monitoring system. Epidemiological modelling is ongoing by CABI, University of Cambridge (mostly on cassava and wheat diseases).
- [11] Collaboration with research and development partners is extremely important and, while FAO collaborates extensively, that fact is not always highlighted or well-known. Raising awareness in that regard is important, as is highlighting FAO’s global expertise.
- [12] The WGRM urged the GA to fundraise for solutions, not problems. Donors might better support more research into FAW (its environment and ecology) and potential solutions. It was suggested that FAW fundraising may prove more effective if conducted jointly with technical partners, such as CABI, icipe and the CGIAR agencies.

- [13] The relatively low cost of synthetic pesticides in Africa (prevalent in food and non-food crops) is a major hurdle in biopesticide development and use. Technical or policy assistance in the GA should also take this into account.
- [14] Greater clarity on budgets was urged, including how funds are being used with regards to the eight demonstration countries. A donor conference on pest management, broader than FAW issues only, could be an effective approach to raising funds and USAID may be able to support such a conference. Including the private sector and research centres would increase the impact.
- [15] Awareness-raising and priority issue identification with governments are necessary and should be enhanced. It is also recommended to include farmers' organizations in the resource mobilization efforts, including in the WGRM membership.
- [16] In terms of fundraising strategy, the focus on FAW alone is too narrow. It should instead be framed within high-profile, global issues, such as food and nutritional security. Connecting with broader agendas, such as the UN 2021 Food Systems Summit and the One Health approach could be more powerful. Finding ways to collaborate to develop small- and medium-size enterprises for bio-pesticides development could yield many benefits, particularly contributing to job creation, which is valued by donors and prioritized by governments.
- [17] Partnerships are key, as is understanding how to best support farmers and find ways to demonstrate local innovations to farmers, including through digital training projects. Developing 'partnership incubators' might bring together 'unlikely' or unexpected partnerships; but the question remains: how can third-party demonstration platforms be created?
- [18] In identifying the potential private sector partnership for the initiative, it is important to take into account COVID-19's impact on business. Some sectors, such as pharmaceuticals, are likely to fare better during the pandemic and thought should be given to engaging with these sectors.
- [19] It is necessary to act at the farmers' as well as country and regional levels. Partnerships are critically important, as are efforts to reduce crop losses and waste. Addressing the FAW issue should be positioned within efforts to enhance food security, as well as to increase awareness of how important the FAW issue is to millions of families.

7. Recommendations to the Steering Committee

- [20] Mr Jones concluded by summarizing key points made during the meeting. Those include the strong need to better articulate and raise awareness of FAO's linkages with research institutions; and the need for greater clarity on what savings can be achieved with virtual meetings replacing travel during the COVID-19 situation. Based on the strong recommendation of the donor members of the WGRM, the Steering Committee should seek ways to integrate FAW control efforts into larger programme approaches either ongoing or under development, as the opportunities for funding a stand-alone FAW control program are quite limited by the programmatic approaches of the donors themselves. Efforts should also be focused on advocating for governments to ensure that FAW is made a priority in their national programmes. Greater integration with the private sector would be beneficial.

8. Wrap-up and Way Forward

[21] Mr Jones concluded- the meeting and observed that a first draft of Action Outcomes would be circulated for comments before it is sent to the GA Steering Committee.

[22] DDG Bechdol thanked the WGRM for an insightful, candid and forward-looking conversation. She noted that FAO had been advancing with openness and creativity in finding new types of partnerships and areas of collaboration, including a new engagement strategy for work with the private sector that was adopted last year. She stressed that the discussions of the WGRM during this meeting align well with these recent changes within the Organization.

Appendix 1: Agenda

**First Meeting of the Working Group on Resource Mobilization (WGRM)
for Implementation of FAO Global Action on Fall Armyworm (FAW) Control**

11 March 2021 (14.00–16.00 hours)

Rome time (Central European Time, GMT +1)

AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM/ORGANIZATION		DOCUMENTS	PRESENTER	TIME ALLOTTED
1	Opening of the Meeting		Beth BECHDOL <i>Chair of WGRM, Deputy-Director General of FAO</i>	10 minutes
2	Adoption of the Agenda		Alexander JONES <i>Vice Chair of WGRM, Director, PSR</i>	5 minutes
3	ToRs of the WGRM	Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Resource Mobilization	Rémi NONO WOMDIM <i>Vice Chair of WGRM, Deputy Director, NSP</i>	10 minutes
4	Update on Global Action for Fall Armyworm Control	Presentation (PPT)	Jingyuan XIA <i>Executive Secretary of FAW Secretariat and Director, NSP</i>	15 minutes
5	Funding Situation and Gap Analysis	Presentation (PPT)	Alexander JONES <i>Vice Chair of WGRM, Director, PSR</i>	10 minutes
6	FAW programming and recommendations on resource mobilization for the Global Action by Resource Partners			
	NORAD		May-Guri SÆTHRE <i>Senior Advisor</i>	5 minutes
	EU-DG INTPA		Hanns-Achim KREBS <i>Senior Policy Officer</i>	5 minutes

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	AfDB		Bouchaib BOULANOUAR <i>Central Africa and Nigeria Division Manager</i>	5 minutes
	BMGF		Christina OWEN <i>Senior Programme Officer</i>	5 minutes
	USAID		Michael MICHENER <i>Deputy Assistant Administrator of USAID's Bureau for Resilience and Food Security</i>	5 minutes
	ADB		Matthias LEITNER <i>Agriculture Economist</i>	5 minutes
	World Bank		Melissa WILLIAMS <i>Senior Rural Development Specialist</i>	5 minutes
	CropLife International		Robert HUNTER <i>Chief Operating Officer</i>	5 minutes
7	Recommendations to the Steering Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ToRs of the WGRM • Working mechanism of the WGRM • Public-private partnership to support FAW control • Recommendations on Streamlining Global funding-raising for FAW control 		Alexander JONES <i>Vice Chair of WGRM, Director, PSR</i>	20 minutes
8	Wrap-up and Way Forward		Alexander JONES <i>Vice Chair of WGRM, Director, PSR</i>	10 minutes

Appendix 2: ToRs of the Working Group on Resource Mobilization

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).

List of Members of the Working Group on Resource Mobilization (WGRM)

1.	Ms Beth Bechdol	Deputy Director-General	Chairperson	FAO
2.	Mr Alexander Jones	PSR Director	Vice Chairperson	FAO
3.	Mr Rémi Nono Womdim	NSP Deputy Director	Vice Chairperson	FAO
4.	Mr Hanns-Achim Krebs	Senior Policy Officer Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG INTPA) European Commission	Member	SC
5.	Dr Bouchaib Boulanouar	Central Africa and Nigeria Division Manager Agriculture and Agro-Industry African Development Bank Group (AfDB)	Member	SC
6.	Dr Christina Owen	Senior Programme Officer Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	Member	SC

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7.	Mr Robert Hunter	Chief Operating Officer CropLife International	Member	TC
8.	Ms May-Guri Sæthre	Senior Adviser NORAD	Member	TC
9.	Mr Michael Michener	Deputy Assistant Administrator of USAID's Bureau for Resilience and Food Security	Member	(External)
10.	Ms Melissa Williams	Senior Rural Development Specialist, Agriculture and Food Practice Group World Bank	Member	(External)
11.	TBD	Islamic Development Bank	Member	(External)
12.	Mr Matthias Leitner	Agriculture Economist 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 Ye Anping	Director South-South and Triangular Cooperation Division (PST)	Member	FAO

Appendix 3: List of Participants

	Name, Last name	Organization name, Address
		WGRM Members
1.	Ms Beth Bechdol WGRM Chairperson	FAO Deputy Director-General
2.	Mr Alexander Jones WGRM Vice Chairperson	Director, FAO Resource Mobilization and Private Sector Partnerships Division (PSR)
3.	Mr Rémi Nono Womdim WGRM Vice Chairperson	Deputy Director, FAO Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)
4.	Mr Hanns-Achim Krebs Senior Policy Officer	Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG INTPA) European Commission
5.	Dr Bouchaib Boulanouar Central Africa and Nigeria Division Manager	Agriculture and Agro-Industry African Development Bank Group (AfDB)
6.	Dr Christina Owen Senior Programme Officer	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
7.	Mr Robert Hunter Chief Operating Officer	CropLife International
8.	Ms May-Guri Sæthre Senior Adviser	NORAD
9.	Mr Michael Michener Deputy Assistant Administrator	USAID's Bureau for Resilience and Food Security
10.	Ms Melissa Williams Senior Rural Development Specialist	Agriculture and Food Practice Group World Bank
11.	Mr Matthias Leitner Agriculture Economist	Asian Development Bank

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12.	Mr Mohamed Manssouri Director	FAO Investment Center (CFI)
13.	Mr Ye Anping Director	FAO South-South and Triangular Cooperation Division (PST)
		Observers
14.	Mr Jingyuan Xia Director	FAO Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)
15.	Ms Aruna Gujra Programme Officer	FAO Office of Deputy Directors-General (DDC)
16.	Mr Kim Haekoo Technical Adviser	FAO Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)
17.	Mr Buyung Hadi Agriculture Officer	FAO Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)
18.	Mr Kazuki Kitaoka Senior Policy Officer	FAO Resource Mobilization and Private Sector Partnerships Division (PSR)
19.	Mr Daniele Donati Deputy Director	FAO Emergency and Resilience Division (OER)
20.	Ms Rosanne Marchesich Senior Emergency and Rehabilitation Officer	FAO Emergency and Resilience Division (OER)
21.	Ms Johanna Erhardt Programme Officer	FAO Emergency and Resilience Division (OER)
22.	Ms Bruna Takara South-South Cooperation Specialist	FAO South-South and Triangular Cooperation Division (PST)
23.	Ms Alexandra Sokolova Programme Officer	FAO Office of Deputy Directors-General (DDC)
24.	Ms Sandra Cordon Rapporteur, Communication Consultant	FAO Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)

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25.	Ms Verena Wilke Programme Specialist	FAO Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)
26.	Ms Svetlana Velmeskina Office Assistant	FAO Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)