



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



REPORT

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

16 April 2021

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.	Case study on FAW Migration Monitoring and Early Warning System in China	5
6.	Recommendations of the Working Group on Resource Mobilization	5
7.	General Discussion	6
8.	Closing Remarks	6
	<i>Appendix 1: Agenda</i>	<i>7</i>
	<i>Appendix 2: List of Participants</i>	<i>9</i>

1. Opening Remarks

- [1] Mr QU Dongyu, FAO Director-General and Chairperson of the Steering Committee (SC), opened the meeting and welcomed the 58 participants and observers, expressing his gratitude for their commitment to the work of the SC. He emphasized the importance of their contribution, overseeing the Global Action (GA) for Fall Armyworm (FAW) Control. Over 70 countries across Africa, Asia, the Near East, and Oceania are now affected by the pest and food security for over 26 million people is at risk.
- [2] The Director-General outlined a series of successes since the SC last met in December 2020. Eight geographic zone meetings had been organized to link each demonstration country with pilot countries from Northeast Asia to West Africa. More than 50 countries had attended geographic zone coordination meetings to date, and technical training workshops on integrated pest management (IPM) and monitoring had been held in all target regions, said the Director-General. In Africa in 2020, for example, 1.4 million farmers were trained in scouting, monitoring, using bio-pesticides and pesticides, as well as nature-based solutions for FAW management. In the Near East and North Africa (NENA) region, over 1 500 experts were trained on identification, monitoring, biocontrol and mass rearing of natural enemies. In China, 14 000 professional technicians and 3.8 million farmer technicians were trained on various technical topics, including monitoring and control.
- [3] Furthermore, a new [Working Group on Resource Mobilization \(WGRM\)](#) was established to support the GA, with members from multilateral development banks, national and regional development cooperation agencies, philanthropic foundations, and private-sector representatives, as well as FAO. However, the Director-General stressed the need for more work to be carried out, including strengthening of national and regional monitoring and early warning capacities, as well as intensification of effective technology transfer and capacity development in demonstration and pilot countries.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

- [4] Deputy Director-General (DDG) Beth Bechdol outlined the agenda (*Appendix 1*), which was fully adopted by the SC after addressing comments raised by two SC members.

3. Update from the FAW Secretariat

- [5] Mr Jingyuan Xia, Director of the Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP) and Executive Secretary of the FAW Secretariat, provided an update on progress made since December 2020 and the way forward for the GA. He set the stage for the meeting by identifying three main challenges for FAW control. The first was the fast spread and wide distribution of FAW, with over 70 countries affected between 2016 and 2021. The second challenge involved several host crops and related yield losses, resulting in FAW adding dramatically to acute food insecurity. Approximately 80 million tonnes of maize, worth USD 18 billion per year, were at risk in Africa, Asia, and the Near East. The third challenge involved the large dependence of some countries on chemical pesticides, he said.
- [6] Mr Xia reminded the SC of the three major objectives of the GA: reducing crop-yield losses by 5 to 10 percent through IPM measures in target countries; preventing the further spread of FAW to new areas through phytosanitary measures; and conducting global coordination at three levels.
- [7] The major progress in global coordination included: four SC meetings, four Technical Committee (TC) meetings, and one WGRM meeting. A fully functional FAW Secretariat had been established, with

key support provided by the different units and divisions of FAO dealing with partnership, resource mobilization and communication, he said.

- [8] Major successes in the GA, although preliminary, were being reported for 2020 compared with 2019, said Mr Xia. An average of 20 percent reduction in FAW infestations in maize planted in six countries – India, Kenya, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam – had been recorded. Furthermore, Sri Lanka saw a yield loss of just two percent due to effective FAW control in 2020.
- [9] Mr Xia summarized fund-raising results, which had reached USD 9.8 million since 2020, including USD 6.3 million received and an additional USD 3.5 million pledged.
- [10] The guidelines on FAW Quarantine and Phytosanitary Measures had been prepared, and include some 500 comments from target countries, he said. A questionnaire had been issued to target countries on FAW prevention for a better understanding of target countries' needs.
- [11] The way forward includes four important measures: country work plans finalized, and IPM strategies to be demonstrated, reaching farmers on the ground; the proposed Fall Armyworm Migration Monitoring and Early Warning System to be piloted starting from Asia; communications, visibility and knowledge-sharing to be scaled up; and USD 10-12 million annually to be mobilized.
- [12] The key tasks of this meeting, he said, were to reach consensus and endorse three items: the renewed working mechanisms for TC members; the concept note for development of FAW Migration Monitoring and Early Warning System in Asia; and the initial WGRM recommendations.

4. Updates from the Technical Committee

- [12] The SC Vice Chairperson, Mr Robert Bertram, Chief Scientist of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and TC Chairperson, [reviewed work undertaken by the TC](#) and described information collected from specialists, such as Mr Boddupalli M. Prasanna, Director of the Global Maize Program, at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT). Mr Prasanna had told the TC at its 2 April 2021 meeting that estimates from 12 maize-producing countries in sub-Saharan Africa suggested that FAW had the potential to cause maize losses between 4.1 million and 17.7 million tonnes annually, valued at USD 1.1 billion. Given such serious warnings, everyone, from researchers to plant protection experts, was urged to work together to fight FAW. Mr Bertram emphasized the importance of phytosanitary measures to prevent the further spread of FAW to countries that were still free of the pest. However, FAW's characteristic as a very strong flier presented a major challenge addressed with actions beyond the usual quarantine measures.
- [13] Mr Bertram congratulated the TC for its commitment to the GA and noted that the proposed FAW Migration Monitoring and Early Warning System in Asia was outlined to the TC at its 2 April 2021 meeting. Members of the TC were given a week following that meeting to comment on the concept note for the migration and early warning system, and their inputs were incorporated into the concept note presented to the SC. Mr Bertram said this system would provide benefits for regions by facilitating implementation of an area-wide IPM strategy.
- [14] He noted that at the 3rd SC meeting in December 2020 general IPM guidelines had been presented, and the TC received instructions on how to better emphasize the integrated approach. IPM guidelines were then finalized.
- [15] SC members were also asked to approve a [renewed working mechanism](#) that would connect TC members with National Task Forces to help with IPM technology evaluations and demonstrations, as well as the [capacity development in national and regional forecasting and early warning systems \(as outlined in the concept note\)](#). Mr Bertram noted that the TC members represented a valuable

resource that must be used and, through the renewed working mechanism, they would be linked to some on-the-ground efforts in the demonstration countries. He said TC members included scientists from around the world contributing to a global knowledge sharing mechanism.

5. Case study on FAW Migration Monitoring and Early Warning System in China

- [16] Mr Kongming Wu, Steering Committee Vice-Chair and Vice-President, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), described work that had been done in China with regard to FAW migration monitoring and early warning systems. He explained that light trap monitoring had been used to monitor migratory insects since late 2018, and in early September 2019, an aerial light trap caught the first FAW moths. A migration monitoring system was then established, with elements including radar observation that tracked FAW behaviour, such as wingbeat frequency, body weight and size, movement direction and flight data. All information collected was analysed as part of the monitoring process.
- [17] Mr Wu also illustrated the FAW migration routes identified. An adult FAW management strategy had been designed to target the pest at its origins and track its migration. This national monitoring network had been established in 23 of China's provinces, involving 2 000 professional technicians, some 1 882 aerial light traps, 870 000 pheromone traps and 15 insect radars. It covered four defense lines in three major eco-zones.
- [18] China's FAW strategy included a Fall Armyworm Management Information System, which includes a sub-system sending over 8 000 early warning reports annually. That early warning sub-system included application, data resource systems and support that provided information to farmers about what to expect in terms of FAW populations and guided the appropriate responses. It also included a regional joint prevention and control strategy, population prediction, field investigation and control guidance. These systems helped to hold the yield loss and FAW damage in maize to under three percent. Mr Wu suggested that the GA consider developing a global monitoring and early warning platform that could include early warning systems in Asia, the Near East, and Africa.

6. Recommendations of the Working Group on Resource Mobilization

- [19] Mr Alexander Jones, Director FAO Resource Mobilization and Private Sector Partnerships Division (PSR), and Vice Chairperson of the WGRM, outlined the development of, and recommendations from, [the first meeting of the WGRM](#) for the implementation of the GA held on 11 March 2021. He described the Terms of Reference of the working group, updated information on funding of the GA, and the initial recommendations from the 11 March 2021 meeting. He emphasized the recommendation that resource mobilization efforts should focus on solutions, rather than problems. Furthermore, it was recommended that efforts be framed more broadly than FAW alone, adopting frameworks, such as transboundary pest management in general, and food security. Mr Jones said the WGRM deemed the mobilization of public-private partnerships to fill resource gaps in the GA as very important, together with support of local small and medium sized enterprises.
- [20] He highlighted the need for a coordinated fund-raising effort between FAO and strategic partners, including research institutions providing solutions, and government partners. A focused and strategic communications campaign to highlight collaborations between FAO and its many partners around the shared goal of FAW mitigation was recommended. As well, a review should be made of what savings had been accrued, due to the new modalities of virtual meetings and reduced travel costs in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

7. General Discussion

- [21] During discussions led by Ms Ismahane Elouafi, Chief Scientist of FAO, several SC members applauded the TC's work, noting the importance of a proactive approach – not only for FAW, but in general, while bearing in mind that capacity for phytosanitary measures was limited in many parts of Africa.
- [22] Discussions then focused on the choice of the proposed FAW Migration Monitoring and Early Warning System in Asia as a pilot project, given that there was serious FAW damage in other regions, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, where crop losses could reach billions of dollars. Some SC members asked if low-cost and low-tech options for data collection were considered, mindful of the fact that smallholder farmers were often resource-poor. In response to questions, Mr Bertram said that the proposed system was the first available model presented to the TC. Mr Xia noted Asia's ten-year record of experience with previous migratory pests (e.g., brown planthopper on rice) and urged the SC to approve in principle the Asia model (as presented in paragraph 15) so it could be tested and validated in Asia, before scaling out in the Near East and Africa.
- [23] The SC recommended that the TC and the FAW Secretariat expand on the existing work in FAW migration monitoring and early warning systems. The SC also recommended that further consideration be given to identifying what regions have had the most pressing needs, what those needs were, and how to prioritize the demands. The FAW Secretariat and the TC were tasked with collecting supplementary information, as well as consideration of the cost-effectiveness of various data collection methodologies and of the value added from early warning in IPM implementation at the farm level. Information gathered would be discussed, either informally through email exchanges or through a special session of the SC to be held before its next scheduled meeting during the third or fourth quarter of 2021.
- [24] The SC also agreed on the modified TC working mechanism, and the initial recommendations of the WGRM, with an emphasis on a solutions-oriented approach and embedding the fight against FAW within wider, global food security and nutrition strategies – for example, connecting with the UN 2021 Food Systems Summit and the One Health approach.
- [25] Other discussions involved the importance of pro-active support for prevention, early detection and control of FAW, described as essential and cost-effective. Ensuring that solutions to FAW be integrated into broader pest management programmes was discussed. Related to this, SC members said that FAW-related research should be integrated with other national and international research agendas.

8. Closing Remarks

- [26] Ms Bechdol applauded the strong support provided by the SC to the work of the TC and welcomed the proposed mechanism for TC members to contribute to GA activities at the national level. She noted that the positive decisions that were reached by the SC would be pointing the fight against FAW in the right direction and thanked the SC for its continuing work and commitment.
- [27] She recognized the SC's support for the new resource mobilization strategy, ensuring connectivity to broader critical topics with a comprehensive and forward-looking approach. She summarized concerns and comments raised by SC members on the FAW Migration Monitoring and Early Warning System in Asia and proposed a way forward for the TC and FAW Secretariat to conduct additional assessment and present the findings to the SC (paragraph 23 above).

Appendix 1: Agenda

FOURTH MEETING
GLOBAL ACTION FOR FALL ARMYWORM CONTROL STEERING COMMITTEE
16 April 2021
13.00–15.00 (Rome time, GMT +1)
AGENDA

AGENDA ITEMS		DOCUMENTS	PRESENTER	PROPOSED TIME
1	Opening Remarks		QU Dongyu, FAO Director-General, SC Chairperson	10 minutes
2	Adoption of the Agenda	01_GA-4th SC_Apr2021	Beth BECHDOL, FAO Deputy-Director General	5 minutes
3	Update from the FAW Secretariat	Presentation (PPT)	Jingyuan XIA, NSP Director and Executive Secretary of the FAW Secretariat	15 minutes
4	Updates from the Technical Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of the fourth TC meeting; • TC members' contributions to demo countries; • FAW Migration Monitoring and Early Warning System 	02_GA-4th SC_Apr2021	Robert BERTRAM, SC Vice-Chair	15 minutes
5	Case study on FAW Migration Monitoring and Early Warning System in China	Presentation (PPT)	Kongming WU, SC Vice-Chair	10 minutes

Report - Fourth Meeting of the Steering Committee of the FAO Global Action
for Fall Armyworm Control

6	Recommendations of the Working Group on Resource Mobilization	03_GA-4th SC_ Apr2021	Alexander JONES, Director PSR	15 minutes
7	General Discussion		Ismahane ELOUAFI, FAO Chief Scientist	50 minutes
8	Closing Remarks		Beth BECHDOL, FAO Deputy Director- General	10 minutes

Appendix 2: 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
5.	Ms Ismahane Elouafi, SC Member	FAO Chief Scientist
6.	Ms Panagiota Mylona, SC Member	Policy Officer, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), European Commission
7.	Mr Hanns-Achim Krebs, SC Member	Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), European Commission
8.	Ms Giulia Di Tommaso, SC Member	President and CEO CropLife International
9.	Mr Keith Tyrell, SC Member	Executive Director, Pesticides Action Network, United Kingdom
10.	Mr Martin Kropff, SC Member	Director-General, International Maize and Wheat improvement Center (CIMMYT)
11.	Mr Fernando Hercos Valicente, SC Member	Senior Scientist, Embrapa Maize and Sorghum Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA)
12.	Ms Jennifer Harhigh	Deputy Permanent Representative and Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Mission to the UN Agencies in Rome
13.	H.E. Morten Von Hanno Aasland, SC Member	Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Norway to FAO

14.	Mr Bommakanti Rajender, SC Member	COAG Chairperson, Alternate Permanent Representative of the Republic of India to FAO, Embassy of the Republic of India
15.	Mr Andy Ward	Stewardship Director, Crop Life International, Brussels, Belgium
16.	Ms Regina Eddy - Observer	Coordinator, Interagency Task Force on FAW, USAID
		Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
17.	Mr Mohamed Manssouri	Director, FAO Investment Center (CFID)
18.	Ms Dina Rahman	Senior Coordinator, Office of Director- General (ODG)
19.	Mr Raschad Al Khafaji	Special Assistant to the Director-General
20.	Mr Anping Ye	Director, South-South and Triangular Cooperation Division (PST)
21.	Ms Yasaman Matinroshan	Programme Officer, Office of Director-General (ODG)
22.	Mr Jingyuan Xia, SC Secretariat	Director, Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP) and Executive Secretary of the FAW Secretariat
23.	Mr Rémi Nono Womdim, SC Secretariat	Deputy Director, Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP) and Deputy Secretary of the FAW Secretariat
24.	Mr Baogen Gu	Senior Agricultural Officer and Team Leader, Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)
25.	Mr Buyung Hadi	Agricultural Officer, FAW Secretariat Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)
26.	Ms Svetlana Velmeskina	Office Assistant, FAW Secretariat Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)
27.	Ms Verena Wilke, Rapporteur	Programme Specialist, FAW Secretariat Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)

28.	Ms Giovanna Ortiz Fermin	Office Assistant, FAW Secretariat Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)
29.	Ms Sandra Cordon, Rapporteur	Communications Consultant, FAW Secretariat Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)
30.	Ms Rosanne Marchesich	Senior Emergency and Rehabilitation Officer, Emergency and Resilience Division (OER)
31.	Mr Alexander Jones	Director, Resource Mobilization and Private Sector Partnerships Division (PSR)
32.	Mr Hak Fan Lau	Director, Office of Communications (OCC)
33.	Ms Elisabetta Tagliati	Chief Technical Adviser, Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)
34.	Mr GC Yubak	Senior Agriculture Officer, RAP
35.	Mr Dejan Jakovljevic	Chief Information Officer, CSI
36.	Ms Shari Desanctis	CSGM Meeting Services
37.	Mr Selvaraju Ramasamy	Senior Agriculture Officer, OINR
38.	Mr Giuseppe Carotenuto	Photographer, OCC
39.	Ms Lindsey Hook	Marketing Specialist, Resource Mobilization and Private SectorPartnerships Division (PSR)
40.	Ms Gabriella Achille	CSGM Meeting Services
41.	Mr Ibuki Takanishi	Agricultural Officer, RAP
42.	Ms Ariella Glinni	Senior Technical Officer, Office of Deputy Director- General (DDCB)
43.	Mr Abebe HaileGabriel	ADG/Regional Representative RAF
44.	Ms Xiaoruo Jiang	Coordinator, Office of Director-General (ODG)
45.	Ms Gabrielle Piacentini	Communication Coordinator, Office of Director- General (ODG)
46.	Mr Kim Jongjin	ADG/Regional Representative, RAP

Report - Fourth Meeting of the Steering Committee of the FAO Global Action
for Fall Armyworm Control

47.	Mr Kim Haekoo	Technical Adviser, Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)
48.	Ms Marcella Villarreal	Director, Partnerships and UN Collaboration (PSU)
49.	Mr Shoki AlDobai	Senior Agricultural Officer, Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)
50.	Mr Qingpo Yang	Associate Professional Officer, Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)
51.	Mr Jean Bahama	Plant Production and Protection Officer, FAW RAF
52.	Mr Kris Wyckhuys	Plant Production and Protection Officer, FAW RAP
53.	Mr Andrew Taylor	Communication Specialist, OCC
54.	Mr Raffaele Papitto	CSGM - Audiovisual Services GL
55.	Mr Giovanni Loffredi	CSGM - Audiovisual Services GL
56.	Mr Andre Vornic	Communication Specialist, OCC