



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



# **REPORT**

## **Second Meeting of the Working Group on Resource Mobilization of the FAO Global Action for Fall Armyworm (FAW) Control**

**29 March 2022**

**FAW Secretariat, Global Action for FAW Control**

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## 1. Opening of the Meeting

- [1] The Executive Secretary of the Fall Armyworm (FAW) Secretariat and Director of the Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP) **Mr Jingyuan Xia**, moderator of the meeting, noted that the four major objectives of the meeting were: (i) to review progress on resource mobilization of the Global Action (GA) for Fall Armyworm Control; (ii) receive updates on actions concerning recommendations from the previous meeting of the Working Group on Resource Mobilization (WGRM), held in March 2021; (iii) review the progress and outputs of the GA implementation; and finally (iv) to discuss the potential to extend the timeline and expand the scope of the GA beyond 2022. The latter is particularly important as a consequence of the time lost in implementing the GA due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr Xia observed that it is clear that FAW is predictable and controllable. It is important to allow more time through the GA to scale up Integrated Pest Management (IPM) technologies in order to reduce losses due to FAW and improve food security. Additionally, the One Health approach will be an important pillar for future work, including broader plant health and transboundary pest issues.
- [2] **Deputy Director-General Beth Bechdol**, Chairperson of the WGRM, welcomed the 10 members of the Working Group (WG) and 11 observers. She expressed appreciation for their commitment and emphasized the importance of continued work against FAW currently reported in 78 countries, up from the six African countries initially reported in 2016. FAW's negative impacts include yield losses worth an estimated USD 9.4 billion per year in Africa alone and thus, FAW poses enormous threats to food security, household incomes and the well-being of over 600 million vulnerable people. She underscored that its spread is also driving intensified pesticide use, with the associated threats to human and environmental security.
- [3] In response, through the GA, work is being coordinated across Africa, the Near East and Asia, in eight demonstration countries, as well as 54 pilot countries, resulting in positive outcomes – with the effective coordination mechanism for GA, in itself, representing a significant achievement.
- [4] A number of IPM tactics have been tested with good results in some demonstration countries. In the People's Republic of China, biopesticides, biological control and the use of sex pheromones for mating disruption demonstrated field control efficacies ranging from 50 to 90 percent. In Egypt, field trials with intercropping maize with other cultures, such as soybeans or cowpea showed that FAW incidences could be reduced by up to 16 percent, and the yield losses decreased by up to 30 percent.
- [5] In another example, Burkina Faso reported that yield losses due to FAW dropped from 5 percent in 2020 to 3 percent in 2021; and in Nepal, from 17 percent to under 10 percent. Still, DDG Bechdol reiterated that multiple challenges remain: FAW continues to spread to new locations, exposing more farmers; COVID-19 hinders large-scale gatherings and leaves gaps in the dissemination of IPM technologies; and the level of IPM adoption and yield-loss reduction is uneven among countries.
- [6] DDG Bechdol emphasized that at the 6th Technical Committee Meeting, held on 15 March 2022, members supported extending the GA beyond 2022 to allow time for activities including mainstreaming of validated IPM tactics. Technical Committee

members also supported the idea of using the time extension to expand the scope of the GA to tackle broader invasive plant pests. All this would be done through the One Health approach.

- [7] Input and guidance from this WG would be welcomed concerning mobilization of adequate resources to extend the timeline and expand the scope of the GA beyond 2022.

## 2. Adoption of the Agenda

- [8] Mr Xia presented the Agenda that was adopted.

## 3. Presentation on Resource Mobilization and report on implementation of WGRM recommendations

- [9] **Mr Alexander Jones**, Director of the Resource Mobilization and Private Sector Partnerships Division (PSR) and Vice-Chairperson of the WGRM, outlined the status of FAW resource mobilization in the context of the recommendations from the WGRM meeting held in March 2021, including milestones achieved as of the first quarter of 2022. He noted that the GA has mobilized USD 17.03 million in funding for global work and demonstration countries, from donors including the European Union, Belgium, Ireland, Japan and other multilateral donors. He said that one year ago, the WGRM had set recommendations grouped under three themes, firstly that **FAW should not be seen as a problem in isolation** and must be approached as part of a wider body of concerns, including crop loss, food and livelihood insecurity, as well as the need for green job creation. Secondly, **resources must be mobilized around proven solutions**, rather than focusing on problems. Some solutions may be found through collaborations and strategic partnerships when resource-mobilization efforts are coordinated across partners. Thirdly, **liaising closely with government partners was of great importance**, with a view of encouraging the identification of FAW issues (and yield loss in general) as government priorities for funding and for escalating to multilateral development banks. In other works, governments must be the driving force behind such actions.

- [10] Mr Jones reviewed the plan of action developed in March 2021 that included continuous identification of wider programmes, within FAO and among donors and partners, and then linking with larger programmes. It also included identifying potential private sector partners, building support and developing relations with partners at regional and national levels, and preparations for stock-taking and donor intelligence at global, regional and national levels, especially in the eight demonstration countries. A 15-page donor analysis and research document was developed, and an extensive [Resource Mobilization Guide](#) was produced including practical advice, tools, case studies and resources offering guidance on how to approach existing and potential resource partners.

- [11] Work for 2022 includes ongoing **identification of broader programmes** in which the FAW work can be embedded; **brainstorming and development of Concept Notes** with broader lens; further expansion of **capacity development actions around resource mobilization**, including specific capacity development activities tailored for both regional and technical demand.

#### 4. Update on Global Action for Fall Armyworm Control

[12] **Mr Buyung Hadi**, Coordinator of the Global Action for Fall Armyworm Control Secretariat, provided an update on the GA, describing how the pest is continuing to move across the Asia Pacific region and in Africa, and appropriate actions that are being taken. Solutions being developed include monitoring and early warning tools, particularly through the Fall Armyworm Monitoring and Early Warning System (FAMEWS) app, downloaded more than 5 000 times. Some 64 countries are using the app with total records of over 63 000 FAW scouting and traps data, visualized on both FAW and Hand-in-Hand (HiH) platforms in real time. FAMEWS datasets are applied by the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (*icipe*) to validate a model to predict spatio-temporal FAW density using climatic variables and availability of host plants. China as a demonstration country is showing success with its FAW monitoring and early warning system, based on sentinel light trapping and other data sources. It involves 27 provinces and is incorporating FAW population monitoring, forecasts and management with weekly risk predictions that are actionable at field level.

[13] IPM capacity development is ongoing through trainings, including global webinars attracting 2 657 participants; geo-zone training webinars attracting 271 participants across eight geo-zones; and 140 021 individuals, including farmers trained during events held with national governments. Progress is also apparent in success with application and validation of IPM technologies: for example, in Egypt maize-soybeans and maize-cowpea intercropping has reduced FAW incidence by five to 16 percent and increased maize yield by 20 to 29 percent, compared to maize monocropping. In China, the efficacy of biopesticides, natural enemies and sex pheromones in controlling FAW has been documented.

[14] Among the positive impacts, the GA raised awareness worldwide of the importance of fighting FAW through discussions at the global level in the FAO Council; Committee on Agriculture (COAG); and FAO's Committee on Commodity Problems. In addition, FAO Senior Management recognized the FAW Secretariat as an outstanding team in 2022. Regional awareness raising included discussions at the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC) and the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East (NERC). At national level, National Task Forces on FAW control were established in over 30 countries, and FAO was recognized with an award from the Bureau of Plant Industry of the Philippines for its support to the Government in mitigating damage from FAW.

[15] Impacts in terms of FAW damage reduction are seen in demonstration countries (Burkina Faso and China) where the percentage of maize area seriously affected by FAW has been reduced; and in pilot countries (Indonesia and Viet Nam). Estimated yield losses have also been reduced in Burkina Faso, China, Indonesia and Nepal. Impacts are seen in improvements in farmers' livelihoods in China, with IPM practices contributing to improved yields and incomes.

[16] Mr Hadi said that Secretariat core activities at the national level in 2022 will include: effective **coordination and organization** by convening National Task Forces; **technology evaluation/adaptation** with national agricultural research extension systems (NARES), regional and global research organizations; **farmer training** using farmer field schools (FFS) and other approaches for validated/adapted technologies; **large-scale field**

**demonstrations** of validated IPM technologies; and **field days/field visits** to expose broader community members to IPM technologies.

[17] Core activities at regional and geo-zone level in 2022 will include: **geo-zone and regional resource mobilization; technical training and extension conferences; coordination between the regions and FAW Secretariat; and work with regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) to adapt and implement prevention and preparedness guidelines.**

[18] Core activities at the global level in 2022 will include: **globally-standardized protocols and data collection** for technical evaluation; **GA impact assessment; global technical webinars; resource mobilization and partnerships; and communications and outreach.**

[19] Mr Hadi emphasized the importance of ensuring that governments are the driving forces behind GA efforts, and the need to make up for lost time in the work of the GA due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related travel restrictions. He also emphasized the importance of extending and expanding the GA for another year, outlining the rationale, activities and outcomes of extending the GA to 2023. That includes: **filling gaps in FAW IPM dissemination and adoption** due to COVID-19 and **capitalizing on opportunities to extract lessons learned from FAW** to be applied to manage other invasive pests.

[20] Activities in 2023 under an extended GA would include **concentration on capacity building** in regulation, adaptation and use of FAW IPM technologies, **capturing processes that have worked under the GA; stock-taking and priority-setting with regard to invasive pests, tools and target regions.** Outcomes would include; increased adoption of locally-adapted IPM techniques and technologies in 2023 with the GA poised to tackle broader invasive plant pest challenges beyond 2023; and organizing a global conference on FAW.

## 5. Discussion (possibility of extension of the GA to 2023)

[21] **The possibility to extend the timeline of the GA into 2023 and potentially expand its scope to include other invasive pests and diseases has received wide support.** Mr Xia noted the importance of making up for time lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the field. He observed that with such an expanded and extended approach, it would be possible to address more than a single pest and instead confront multiple emerging threats within the umbrella of One Health approach. In that regard, 2022 could be a stock-taking period for reflection on what has been achieved thus far, and what aspects of the GA could be further built on, in a structural and systemic way, to help manage a significant list of emerging threats worldwide.

[22] That point was supported by **Mr Mohamed Manssouri**, Director of the FAO Investment Centre, who emphasized the value of developing systems to respond to the many threats to plant health and food security.

[23] **Mr Michael Michener**, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Resilience and Food Security at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), said that his Agency supported the extension of the GA for year in general, and welcomed its proposed expansion to include other invasive pests in principle, but added that he would also like to read the details of such a proposal. Mr Michener also described the importance of a newly granted Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Current and Emerging Threats to Crops at Pennsylvania State University. He said that the lab would serve as a venue for a broad

coalition of experts from around the world to collaborate on novel approaches to monitor, predict and combat current and emerging threats to crops.

[24] **Ms Melissa Williams**, Senior Rural Development Specialist, Agriculture and Food Practice Group World Bank, agreed that extending the GA for another year and expanding its remit made sense, noting that because so many countries must deal with multiple pests at any one time, it was sensible to develop and apply a multipest approach. She said that the World Bank was considering financing for resilience and longer-term programmes that would have the plant health and plant protection component. She added that **the related topics of biopesticide development and better pesticide management**, which are included in the GA discussions, **are significant concerns for many countries, particularly in the Horn of Africa**.

[25] **Mr Robert Hunter**, Chief Operating Officer of CropLife International, said that his organization would approve a more holistic approach by the GA, which would fit with the approach by CropLife in the past year – that is, promoting more sustainable pesticide management, including a USD 13 million investment in key countries, to help reduce crop losses and reduce pesticide use. CropLife is also considering how to increase the number of technologies, innovations, and enabling systems for smallholder farmers, he said.

[26] **Mr Jones** observed that the research described during the discussions was extremely helpful in donor mobilization by providing hard data and evidence that demonstrate programme efforts, successes and lessons learned.

[27] **Mr Hadi** noted that work is beginning on many of the areas described during discussions, including an early warning system and a mobile app, as well as bio-pesticide registration.

[28] **Mr Bouchaib Boulanouar**, Central Africa and Nigeria Division Manager, Agriculture and Agro-Industry African Development Bank Group, emphasized the importance of ensuring that governments are the driving forces behind resource mobilization and in requesting essential new technologies – comments that drew broad support.

[29] **Mr Rein Paulsen**, Director of the Office of Emergencies and Resilience (OER), noted that funding and resources have been provided for FAW-related emergencies since 2018 through various projects that could be built upon in future, possibly through the One Health approach. He suggested that a donor conference might also be re-considered in the planning for future resource mobilization.

## 6. Wrap-up and Way Forward

[30] **DDG Bechdol** noted that she was very pleased with the broad support from the meeting for the extension and expansion of the Global Action beyond 2022, with a key focus on a comprehensive and cross-cutting One Health initiative. She said she was also pleased to hear the focus on supporting efforts to promote food security and livelihoods; and emphasized the need to move away from reacting to emergency crises and providing support, to instead move towards longer-term resilience building and early warning actions.

[31] She said that the next steps will be to develop the ideas from this meeting into actionable measures and proposals, and to recast the GA mission and mandate of the WGRM, to broaden the scope beyond a single pest.

**Appendix 1: Meeting Agenda**

AGENDA ITEM/ ORGANIZATION		DOCUMENTS	PRESENTER	PROPOSED TIME (MINUTES)
1	<b>Opening of the Meeting</b>		Beth BECHDOL <i>Chairperson, WGRM and Deputy-Director General, FAO</i>	10
2	<b>Adoption of the Agenda</b>	Agenda	Jingyuan XIA <i>Executive Secretary, FAW Secretariat and Director, NSP</i>	5
3	<b>Presentation on Resource Mobilization and report on Implementation of WGRM recommendations</b>	Presentation (PPT)	Alexander JONES <i>Vice-Chairperson, WGRM Director, PSR</i>	15
4	<b>Update on Global Action for Fall Armyworm Control</b>	PPT	Buyung HADI <i>Team Leader, FAW Secretariat, NSP</i>	15
5	<b>Discussion (possibility of extension of the GA to 2023)</b>		Jingyuan XIA	40
6	<b>Wrap-up and Way Forward</b>		Beth BECHDOL	5

Note: The meeting was moderated by Mr Jingyuan XIA

**Appendix 2: List of participants**

	<b>Name, Last name</b>	<b>Organization name, Address</b>
		<b>WGRM Members</b>
1.	Ms Beth Bechdol Deputy Director-General	Chairperson, Working Group on Resource Mobilization (WGRM)
2.	Mr Alexander Jones Director	Vice-Chairperson, WGRM FAO Private-Sector Partnerships Division (PSR)
3.	Mr Michael Michener Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Resilience and Food Security	United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Washington, D.C., United States of America
4.	Ms Melissa Williams Senior Rural Development Specialist, Agriculture and Food Practice Group	World Bank
5.	Mr Neil Hausmann Senior Advisor	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
6.	Mr Robert Hunter Chief Operation Officer	CropLife International, Brussels
7.	Mr Bouchaib Boulanouar Central Africa and Nigeria Division Manager, Agriculture and Agro-Industry	African Development Bank Group
8.	Mr Jingyuan Xia Director NSP	FAO Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)
9.	Mr Rein Paulsen Director	FAO Office of Emergencies and Resilience (OER)
10.	Mr Mohamed Manssouri Director	FAO Investment Center (CFI)
		<b>Observers</b>
11.	Ms Aruna Gujral Advisor	FAO Office of Deputy Director-General
12.	Ms Mary Kozhaya Programme Officer	FAO Private-Sector Partnerships Division (PSR)
13.	Mr Nafis Khan Senior Programme Officer	South-South and Triangular Cooperation Division (PST)
14.	Mr Kazuki Kitaoka Senior Policy Officer	FAO Private-Sector Partnerships Division (PSR)
15.	Ms Ariella Glinni Senior Technical Officer	Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)
16.	Mr Buyung Hadi Agricultural Officer	FAO Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)
17.	Mr Haekoo Kim Programme Officer	Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)
18.	Mr Gianni Palmerio Office Assistant	Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)

19.	Ms Verena Wilke Programme Specialist	Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)
20.	Ms Sandra Cordon Information Management Specialist	Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)
21.	Ms Svetlana Velmeskina Office Assistant	Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)