Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Summary of Discussions

RESOURCE PARTNERS CONSULTATIVE MEETING

28 November 2017

Pests on the March

BUILDING ALLIANCES TO FIGHT ANIMAL AND PLANT PESTS AND DISEASES - SECURING OUR FOOD FUTURE

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This summary was prepared by the Marketing, Outreach and Reporting Team (TCR2) of the Resource Mobilization Division, FAO

INTRODUCTION

On Tuesday, 28 November 2017, FAO held a Resource Partners consultative meeting on three fast-spreading animal and plant pests and diseases: Fall armyworm (FAW), *Peste des petits ruminants* (PPR – also known as sheep and goat plague), and banana fusarium wilt (FW) disease.

The meeting assessed the impact of the rapid spread of the diseases, indicating efficient and sustainable means to prevent, manage and, in the case of PPR, eradicate them. Representatives from more than 30 countries and partner organizations called for the intensification of synergies to stand together and combat these global threats through resource mobilization, greater attention and support.

This document summarizes the presentations, interventions and discussions during the consultative meeting. It is not intended to provide a verbatim record of the proceedings, but a concise summary of key issues raised and main take-aways, which should serve as a reference for future cooperation on the matter.

RESOURCE PARTNERS CONSULTATIVE MEETING

AGENDA

VENUE: **FAO headquarters, King Faisal Room (D 263)**
DATE: **28 november 2017**

09.00-09.30	*Welcome and registration*
09.30-09.45	**Opening remarks: Combatting animal and plant pests and diseases for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** – Mr Ren Wang, Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department, FAO
09.45-10.00	**FAO framework for preventing, preparing and responding to transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases** – Ms Mona Chaya, Senior Coordinator for Food Chain Crises, FAO
10.00-11.20	**Partners Meeting: Sustainable Management of the Fall Armyworm (FAW)** Chair: Mr Gustavo Gonzalez, Director, Resource Mobilization Division, FAO Introductory remarks by Mr Hans Dryer, Director, Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO — Presentation of FAO Programme for Action for the Sustainable Management of the Fall Armyworm in Africa – Mr Allan Hruska, FAO Senior Agricultural Officer — Interventions by Ms Khadija Iddrisu, Alternate Permanent Representative of Ghana, and Mr Kayoya Masuhwa, Alternate Permanent Representative of Zambia — Questions and answers
11.20-11.30	*Coffee and tea*
11.30-12.30	**Sustainable Management of the Fall Armyworm (FAW) – session continued** — Statements, comments and inputs by Resource Partners — Conclusions
12.30-14.00	*Lunch Break*
14.00-15.20	**Preparatory consultation: Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) Donors Meeting 2018** Chair: Mr Kazuki Kitaoka, Team Leader, Marketing, Outreach and Reporting Team, FAO — Presentation of the PPR Global Eradication Programme – Mr Bouna Diop, Secretary, FAO - OIE PPR GEPS Secretariat — Intervention by H.E. Ms Delphine Borione, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of France — Intervention by H.E. Dr Halimatou Kone Traore, Alternate Permanent Representative of Mali — Statement by H.E. Mr Jan Tombiński, Ambassador, Head of Delegation of the European Union — Partner statement by Ms Emily Tagliaro, Head of the World Fund Unit, World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) — Questions and answers, and closing remarks
15.20-15.30	*Coffee and Tea*
15.30-16.30	**Briefing: Rapid spread of the Banana Fusarium Wilt Disease** Chair: Mr Gustavo Gonzalez, Director, Resource Mobilization Division, FAO — Presentation of the Global Programme on Banana Fusarium Wilt Disease – Mr Fazil Dusunceli, FAO Agriculture Officer — Intervention by Mr Robert Sabiiti, Alternate Permanent Representative of Uganda — Partner statements by Ms Ann Tutwiler, Director General of Bioversity International; and Mr Pascal Liu, Coordinator General, World Banana Forum (WBF) and on behalf of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) — Questions and answers, and closing remarks

▶ OPENING SESSION

Mr Ren Wang, Assistant Director-General, FAO Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department, outlined the threat posed by invasive pests and diseases due to their severe and cross-cutting impact, particularly on plant, human and animal health and economies in affected countries, as well as on the livelihoods and food security of many of the poorest communities. He informed participants that the outbreaks of transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases have been on the rise in intensity and scope over the past years, due to interrelated factors including globalized trade and climate change. FAO has acquired great experience in addressing these threats with multidisciplinary partners in an integrated manner through the framework of Food Chain Crisis Management (FCC). Mr Wang noted that the subject consultative meeting should help in forming a common understanding of challenges and solutions, and in sharpening common priorities, which should then be solidified in two pledging meetings, one for FAW and another one for PPR, in early 2018.

> *...invasive pests and disease are considered the second most important threat to nature...*

Following these introductory remarks, **FAO** presented in more detail its integrated framework for preventing, preparing and responding to transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases. The framework spans animal and plant health, as well as food safety, and incorporates mechanisms for prevention and early warning as well as response – the FCC operational arm. Finally, strong coordination was noted as the basis for work in all these areas. FAO referred participants to the FAO FCC page fao.org/food-chain-crisis for more information.

▶ SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF THE FALL ARMYWORM (FAW)

Presentations and interventions

After an introductory video on the disease, **FAO** outlined the threat posed by FAW to food security, livelihoods and economies, as well as possible responses. FAW is spreading extremely fast, and will likely continue to spread beyond Africa; it can neither be eradicated nor contained. It feeds on 80 different crops, but most strongly affects smallholder maize farmers, who represent the vast majority of maize farmers in sub-Saharan Africa. FAW responses thus need to help farmers become more resilient. Practices for the sustainable management of FAW could be adopted from other regions, however, the magnitude of the FAW challenge called for a comprehensive response by a broad alliance of partners. In this context, integrated and sustainable management was in the centre of efforts for FAO. FAO's Programme for Action on the Sustainable Management of FAW in Africa also provided an opportunity for innovation and innovative partnerships.

FAO subsequently presented the work carried out by FAO and partners on FAW during the last year, and explained the key elements of the FAO Programme of Action for the Sustainable Management of FAW in Africa, including: i) immediate recommendations, and support to farmers; ii) validation and adaptation of FAW management practices from other regions and short-term research; iii) training of farmers through

Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and communication campaigns; iv) policy and regulatory support to phase out highly hazardous pesticides and quickly introduce effective and environmentally sustainable ones; v) finalizing and starting to use the FAW monitoring and early warning system; and vi) strengthened coordination.

Ghana gave an account of the impact of the FAW outbreak in the country. In Ghana the disease has caused up to 100 percent yield loss in heavily infested maize fields. Intensive pesticide use has increased crop production cost, and some smallholder farmers have abandoned their fields. Ultimately, FAW has increased food and seed insecurity and has had a negative impact on family incomes. There were several uncertainties around FAW management in Ghana, such as the prediction of infestation patterns, identification of natural enemies and alternative host plants, and pesticide efficacy. The biggest risk currently associated with FAW was that heavy use of pesticides could lead to great damage to nature and human health, and that important export products could get rejected on the international market.

According to **Zambia**, FAW had been reported in all provinces of the country by February 2017. Its presence has had negative impacts on food security, farmers' income and livelihoods, poverty reduction and rural economies. As a response, the government had spent more than USD 3 million on chemicals and seeds, accompanied by some support rendered by FAO with the African Solidarity Trust Fund (ASTF) related to monitoring, farmers' training initiatives, and raising awareness. The use of chemicals, however, had proven not to be sustainable: inadequate knowledge about locally available bio pesticides and natural enemies, and confusion among farmers about how to manage the pests, appeared to be main obstacles in the management of the disease.

Both countries thus noted that the way forward should include a multisectoral approach, early warning and monitoring, more research into locally available bio pesticides and natural enemies, integrated pest management (IPM), and extension programmes such as FFS.

Clarifying questions about the disease and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Management of FAW in Africa were raised by Canada, Egypt, Hungary, Indonesia, Norway, the United Kingdom (UK), the United States of America, and the World Bank (WB).

Statements by Resource Partners in view of the FAW Donor Meeting in early 2018

The **Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO)** underlined the need for long-term research on FAW. As eradication of the disease is not possible, it was critical to research and understand the threat in order to be able to manage it sustainably in the long term. In a second intervention NIBIO called upon the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU), as well as the African Development Bank, to join the partnership necessary to confront the FAW challenge.

The **United States of America** expressed its appreciation of FAO taking a leading role in convening a dialogue on and pro-actively coordinating the pan-African FAW response. The United States of America was ready to work hand-in-hand with FAO, as well as with other stakeholders. However, a common framework should be developed that all partners can align with. In October, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) had declared FAW a priority and tasked the missions with coordinating the response. Moving forward with the coordinated FAW response, priorities of the United States included: i) a deepening of the current FAW response strategy, with particular focus on food security and alignment with the 2030 Agenda – in this context, the US was providing USD 450 million to help 3.3 million farmers; ii) evidence-based FAW practices, including the full range of potential interventions available and appropriate; iii) responses centred around African smallholder farmers; iv) a strengthening of policy frameworks; v) the leveraging of knowledge through strategic partnerships, including civil society, African counterparts and donors, who often possess deep technical expertise and experience through

presence on the ground; and vi) learning from the full range of options successfully applied in the Americas, including short-term protection through pesticides and long-term responses through genetically modified crops.

The **EU** informed participants that the European Commission (EC), Member States, and relevant technical committees had taken note of the FAW outbreak, and that the EC was monitoring its evolution through EU delegations and FAO. Furthermore, the EU laid out the its several measures and initiatives in response to FAW: i) the pest is included in the annexes of Council Directive 2000/29/EC specifying protective measures against an FAW introduction in the EU; ii) in the frame of the 11th European Development Fund (EDF), the EU was supporting a programme on the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Agriculture Policy, covering pests in a comprehensive and holistic manner; iii) the EC was about to launch a new € 7 million EU-funded programme developed in consultation with governments and stakeholders to counter FAW in East Africa, which would be implemented by the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE). The focus was on building farmers' resilience, and the environmentally sustainable, cost-effective long-term management of FAW. In this context, a ''climate-adapted version of the push and pull technique" would be further researched and applied. ICIPE was expected to disseminate the technology as widely as possible across Africa while better understanding the scientific basis of its effectiveness against FAW; and iv) FAW's impacts on food shortages were covered by the EC's global response strategy to food crises, based on the Global Network Against Food Crises, of which UN organizations and African regional economic organizations were a part.

Japan highlighted the importance of the humanitarian-development nexus, with regard to which FAO should play an important role, particularly in collaboration with the other Rome-based agencies. Japan confirmed its appreciation of and support to FAO's role in providing technical backstopping along with coordination and training of relevant stakeholders in the response to FAW. Japan also mentioned the USD 11 million emergency grant aid extended to four famine-affected countries in the Middle East and Africa through UNICEF, WFP, WHO, UNHCR and FAO in September 2017. This included USD 1 million provided through FAO to South Sudan, including for the management of FAW.

> *...the Fall armyworm feeds on 80 different crops, but most strongly affects smallholder maize farmers*

Switzerland noted that although the country did not currently support any FAW-related development programme, its development agency (the Swiss Development Cooperation, or SDC) was closely following developments regarding the pest. Moreover, Switzerland was actively conducting research, for example, a project with ICIPE on invasive species had been launched not long ago, and the Swiss national agricultural research centre (Agroscope) was working on insect pests and climate change and their impact on food crops.

The **United Kingdom (UK)** expressed its concern about the impact of FAW on food security, particularly when compounded by other challenges to rural communities, such as adverse weather phenomena. Although losses caused by FAW were not yet confirmed, the UK advocated for a "no regrets approach". The UK had encouraged further research on FAW, through partners like the Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI). Sharing feedback from country offices, the UK furthermore noted the following: i) differing views about the science behind and the approach to FAW responses persisted, and closer collaboration was necessary to get to a unified view; ii) capacities to respond to FAW differed between countries, thus FAW responses needed to be planned and implemented country by country; and iii) a strong coordination function and the gathering of evidence was crucial before anything else, and it was important that the FAO Programme for Action specified measures in this regard, as well as how exactly cooperation with partners such as WFP was envisaged.

Egypt underlined the importance of a strong network between African countries to manage FAW and protect other countries to the extent possible. Egypt advocated for an international survey to draw up a map of the pest in Africa; early warning and monitoring was key. It also raised the idea of establishing a trust fund for plant and animal diseases.

The **World Bank (WB)** noted that an active role played by FAO in coordinating ongoing Africa-wide actions in response to FAW was very important. Besides stronger coordination, prioritization of response measures and the building of a stronger evidence base, e.g. a better understanding of FAW's impact on yields and economies, should be key outcomes of the consultative meeting. The bank was working with several partners – countries, FAO, research centres, other development partners – on three integrated FAW projects in South, West, and East and Central Africa. Moreover, several countries were reallocating funds provided by WB to the FAW response: a crisis response window established after the recent El Niño phenomenon allowed eligible countries to reallocate any existing WB funds to address an imminent crisis. Looking ahead, FAW required an immediate and an intermediate response, as well as longer-term research.

Hungary held that FAO should have a central role in coordinating the response to FAW, and requested regular briefings to Member States on the evolving situation. As key elements of a response to FAW Hungary mentioned long-term research and research partnerships, the use of experiences from other countries, for example, through South-South cooperation and a regular, institutionalized exchange, as well as sustainable solutions and IPM.

Germany gave an insight into the country's involvement in the process of elaborating an FAW response from the beginning, particularly through participation in expert meetings and the contribution of research on the topic. Germany strongly supported an IPM approach being taken when addressing FAW; the pest also represented an opportunity to develop and apply alternative approaches such as bio pesticides, an issue with regard to which Germany had supported a study of CABI.

▶ PESTE DES PETITS RUMINANTS (PPR) – GLOBAL ERADICATION PROGRAMME (GEP)

After an introductory video on PPR, the **FAO-OIE PPR GEP Secretariat** provided more information about the disease. PPR was presented as a highly contagious and deadly disease which spreads rapidly, and was now present in more than 70 countries throughout Africa, Asia, Europe and Middle East. It could spread further due to animal movements. PPR causes annual global losses estimated at USD 1.4 to 2.1 billion. However, eradicating PPR was possible and would contribute to fighting rural poverty, tackling hunger and malnutrition, empowering women, increasing resilience, and growing GDP – supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Secretariat introduced both the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of PPR by 2030, and the initial five-year GEP, jointly elaborated by FAO and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) through a consultative process involving key partners and stakeholders. He noted that the total investment needed for the GEP was close to USD 1 billion, however the actual funding gap could be slightly lower considering that several PPR activities are ongoing at country level. He gave an account of progress made on the PPR GEP implementation to date and informed participants about the pledging conference on PPR convened by FAO, OIE and the EU in Brussels to be held during the first semester of 2018, which has the aim of solidifying political and financial commitment and facilitating knowledge exchange.

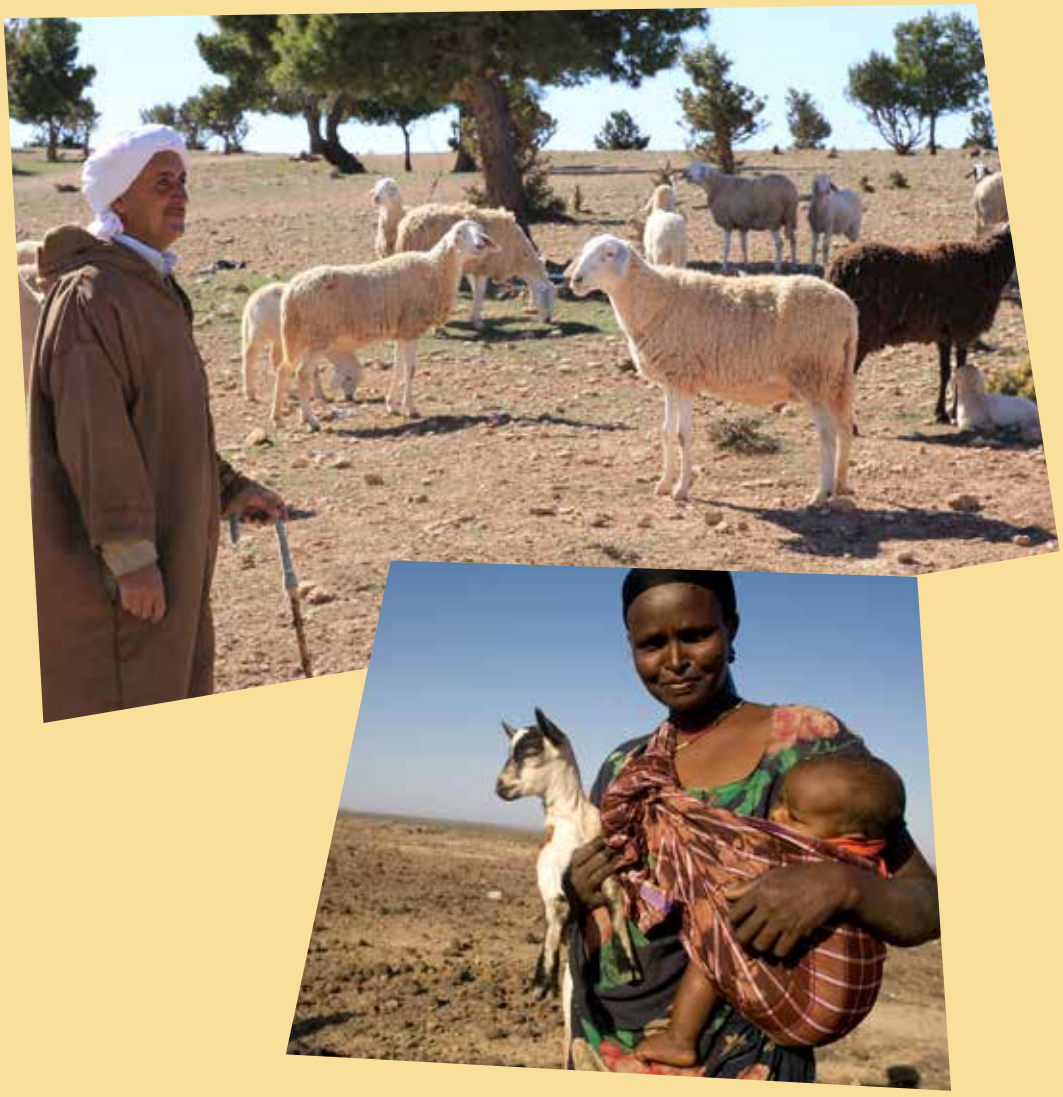
France said that sheep and goats were extremely important for agricultural systems in many countries: they constituted an essential source of livelihoods and resilience, nutrition, food security, and income; they created value chains and exports; and constituted living capital for their herders. Therefore the GEP was not only about eradicating a disease, but also about making a vital contribution to the achievement of the SDGs. France highlighted that a very effective and affordable vaccine existed, so that the eradication of PPR now depended on the mobilization of resources and their coordination at global, regional and national level. As with rinderpest and avian influenza, France had been a strong supporter of the fight against PPR from the outset, taking an active part in several governing mechanisms, as well as contributing in-kind and financially to the joint FAO-OIE PPR Secretariat. Moreover, one of the main research centres relevant for PPR is located in France – *Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (Cirad)* in Montpellier – as well as OIE headquarters, in Paris. The OIE and FAO mandates in the area of animal health complemented each other; and the FAO-OIE partnership was thus crucial for the coordination of efforts to eradicate PPR. Finally, France urged the participants to establish a strong coalition of donors; the pledging conference announced by Neven Mimica, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, for the first semester of 2018 would be an excellent opportunity to bundle all efforts and commitments towards the eradication of PPR.

> *...GEP is not only about eradicating a disease, but about making a vital contribution to the achievement of the SDGs....*

Mali echoed these points, outlining the crucial role livestock, particularly sheep and goats, played for people and the economy in the country. Small ruminants were the main source of subsistence for 30 percent of the population. Adding to the points made by France, Mali noted that particularly women and youth depended on sheep and goats and that the animals also played an important cultural role in the country. PPR caused impoverishment and loss of opportunities for women and youth, contributing to migration and exposure to Islamist extremists. Mali's efforts to control PPR included: implementation of an annual vaccination programme financed by the government and supported by partners such as the WB; and participation in sub-regional coordination meetings. However, the country faced several challenges, including: i) the high mobility of herders and their resistance to vaccination; ii) limited capacities of veterinary services and vaccination production facilities; and iii) persisting gaps in regional coordination efforts considering of PPR's transboundary nature.

OIE reiterated its commitment to the joint work with FAO on the eradication of PPR, including participation in the upcoming pledging event in Brussels announced by Commissioner Mimica. OIE also noted that the previous cooperation with FAO on the eradication of rinderpest in 2011 – the first animal disease ever eradicated – was a 'proof of concept' which formed a stable basis for the efforts to eradicate PPR. Concurring with previous speakers, she underlined the technical feasibility of the PPR GEP, as well as its importance to livelihoods, more resilient national communities and the achievement of the SDGs. She noted that additional political and financial support was necessary, and urged participants to report to their capitals and advocate for the GEP.

The **European Union (EU)** noted that it was committed to supporting all partners involved in the PPR GEP, not least because the EU believed in an open world, including the free movement of goods, and due to the migratory pressures caused by food shortages and threats to livelihoods. The EU noted some elements that were important in this context, including: i) the one-health approach of FAO and OIE, which encompassed human and animal health; and ii) the allocation not only of financial but also scientific resources. The first partner in the fight against PPR, and against food insecurity, for the EU was Africa: the EU and African partners were at that moment preparing for the Africa-EU Summit in Abidjan. The EU had allocated billions (Euro) to agrifood projects, and was supporting PPR-related projects as well. Finally, the EU noted that the upcoming PPR conference in Brussels should not only be a traditional pledging conference, but should also allow a strategic exchange about the right alliances, approaches and coordination mechanisms.



▶ BRIEFING: RAPID SPREAD OF THE BANANA FUSARIUM WILT (FW) DISEASE

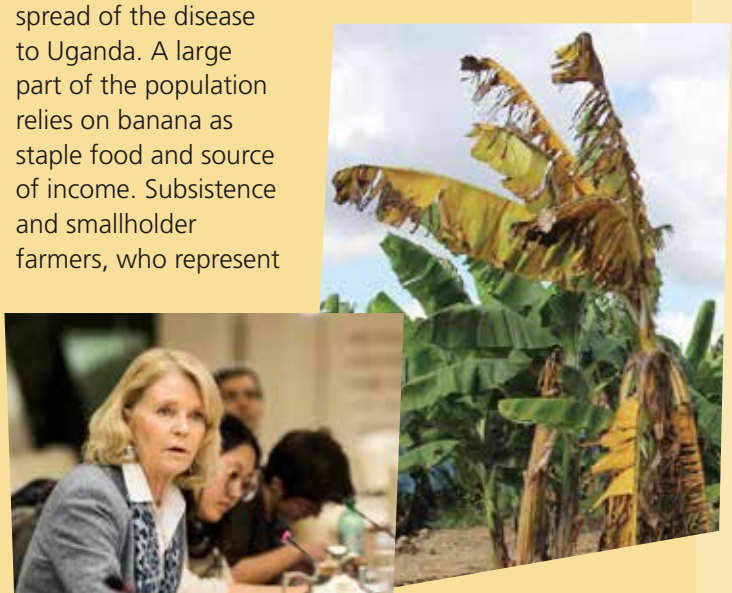
The session kicked off with a presentation of the Global Programme on Banana Fusarium Wilt (FW) disease by **FAO**. FW disease is one of the most destructive diseases of banana worldwide, and its new race, Tropical Race 4 (TR4), is extremely aggressive. It has caused serious losses in Southeast Asia, recently spread to the Middle East, Africa and South Asia, and is very likely to continue. Banana, together with plantains, is the most exported fruit in the world and the most produced food crop in least-developed countries. There is no real chemical control option for the disease; containment is difficult as well and no resistant varieties exist at the moment. Prevention is therefore the best and most cost-effective solution. In light of this, the programme was based on a multidisciplinary partnership between FAO and Bioversity International, the World Banana Forum (WBF), and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA). FAO explained measures needed and activities carried out by the partnership, and highlighted the key elements of the programme going forward: i) a strong multidisciplinary alliance with the focus on prevention; ii) integrated management and biodiversity; and iii) enhanced synergies, capacities, policy environments and coordination.

Bioversity International, speaking also on behalf of IITA stated that the disease is a serious concern for the research community as well. In a recent visit to China, the board of Bioversity International witnessed how devastating the disease could be for smallholder producers as well as commercial producers: in many cases it resulted in the abandonment of infested fields. Estimations of Bioversity International's scientists indicated that the disease might spread to up to 1.6 million hectares globally by 2040, making up 17 percent of all banana production areas, the fruit of which is worth USD 10 billion. Thus, there was a need for immediate action to close knowledge gaps and technology needs regarding prevention and management. Research efforts needed to be intensified to develop and deploy innovative technologies and approaches. In this respect, Bioversity International and IITA were supporting research on the conservation and utilization of genetic resources, as well as the employment of integrated disease management practices, in their function also as research centres of CGIAR (formerly the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research). As only integrated and multiple-stakeholder approaches could address the FW disease challenge, they strongly supported the joint Global Programme presented.

> *...The Banana Fusarium Wilt Disease is one of the most destructive diseases of banana worldwide....*

The **World Banana Forum (WBF)** stated that they aimed to facilitate dialogue and collaboration globally among all the different stakeholder groups of the banana sector including private sector, NGOs, scientists and public institutions. The disease, its spread and potential consequences are worrying for WBF and the banana industry. Therefore, the forum had established a task force to facilitate collaboration among the members and scientists for prevention of the disease. Moreover, at the third conference of WBF in Geneva, with over 240 persons from diverse backgrounds participating, the challenge of the disease was discussed in detail. This was reflected clearly in the declaration of the conference, which also indicated unanimous support for FAO's Global Programme on Banana Fusarium Wilt (FW) disease, on the topic. WBF reiterated that the industry was aware of the challenge and willing to support the initiative, and the forum as a whole was looking forward to the partnership and implementation of the programme.

Uganda gave an account of how the country perceived the threat of TR4. Considering that the disease has caused complete yield loss in affected fields in other countries, that the fungus stays in the fields for decades, and that control and containment measures are costly or not effective, the country was very worried about a potential spread of the disease to Uganda. A large part of the population relies on banana as staple food and source of income. Subsistence and smallholder farmers, who represent



the biggest share of banana producers in the country, have the least capacities to deal with a potential outbreak or to switch to other crops or businesses. Consequently, the disease could become an additional factor for people to abandon their fields and look for opportunities elsewhere. Additionally, banana exports made an important contribution to the national economy. Uganda expressed its eagerness to take all measures to prevent the spread of the disease in the first place, and called for support to build the necessary capacities to prevent and manage the impact of TR4.

Cameroon, also representing the Africa region, added that FW disease could affect the entire region, for which banana production was vital. For example, Cameroon exports 300 000 tonnes of bananas to the EU. Cameroon appreciated ongoing efforts in raising awareness and conducting research, but noted that there was still a missing link. In that context, Cameroon suggested that the FAO Intergovernmental Group (IGG) on Bananas and Tropical Fruits could be made fully operational and serve as a key platform for advocacy related to the disease.

Egypt, representing the Near East region, noted that there was a great need for a global strategy to help affected countries and prevent the further spread of the disease. Urgent measures should include agricultural quarantine, developing disease-resistant varieties, raising awareness, active networking between all stakeholders, and the production and dissemination of pathogen-free planting materials.

▶ CONCLUSIONS

In the concluding remarks, FAO reiterated that FAW, PPR and FW disease all represent a serious threat to global food security. Currently, more than 800 million people suffer from food insecurity. If the threats are not confronted, the number of food insecure would likely increase further, putting the achievement of zero hunger (SDG 2) and other SDGs in question.

FAO recapped some of the key elements necessary to fight the pests and diseases, including: i) investment in research to apply evidence-based solutions; ii) strong partnerships not just for funds, but also know-how; iii) a strong and proactive coordination role played by FAO; iv) reliance on national capacities; v) necessity of surveillance and early intervention; and vi) emphasis on prevention and urgent response.

Finally, FAO announced that a media release about the event would be provided, and urged all participants to discuss with their capitals and coordinate among themselves to find the best way of allocating limited resources in support of the framework to fight FAW, PPR and FW disease, in view of the upcoming pledging conferences.

COUNTRIES		
Angola	Ms Maria Esperança Pires dos Santos	Alternate Permanent Representative
Cameroon (Africa Regional Group)	Mr Médi Moungui	Deputy Permanent Representative
Canada	Ms Mi Nguyen	Deputy Permanent Representative
Canada	Ms Jennifer Fellows	Alternate Permanent Representative
China	Mr Xie Jianmin	Deputy Permanent Representative
China	Ms Tang Liyue	Alternate Permanent Representative
Egypt	Mr Abdelbaset Ahmed Aly Shalaby	Deputy Permanent Representative
European Union	H.E. Mr Jan Tombinski	Ambassador
European Union	Ms Victoria Zicos	Alternate Permanent Representative
France	H.E. Ms Delphine Borione	Ambassador
France	Ms Isabelle Mialet Serra	Alternate Permanent Representative
Germany	Ms Ute Rieckmann	Advisor
Ghana	Ms Khadija Iddrisu	Alternate Permanent Representative
Hungary	H. E. Mr Zoltán Kálmán	Ambassador
Indonesia	Mr Yusral Tahir	Alternate Permanent Representative
Japan	Mr Takaaki Umeda	Alternate Permanent Representative
Mali	Mr Traore Halimatou Kone	Deputy Permanent Representative
Montenegro (Europe Regional Group)	Mr Miroslav Šćepanović	Deputy Permanent Representative
Netherlands	Ms Anne Stolk	Junior Professional Officer
Norway	H.E. Ms Inge Nordang	Ambassador
Spain	Mr Antonio Flores Lorenzo	Deputy Permanent Representative
Sweden	Ms Clara Axblad	Programme and Policy Officer
Switzerland	Mr Patrick Mink	Senior Policy Officer
Uganda	Mr Robert Sabiiti	Alternate Permanent Representative
United Kingdom (DFID)	Mr Paul Healey	Head, West Africa and Sahel
United States of America	Ms Daleya Uddin	Alternate Permanent Representative
United States of America (USAID)	Mr Jason Fraser	Fall Army Worm Coordinator
United States of America (USDA)	Mr Pesach Lubinsky	Advisor
United States of America (USDA)	Ms Candice Bruce	Senior Policy Advisor for Multilateral Affairs
Zambia	Mr Kayoya Masuhwa	Alternate Permanent Representative
Zambia	Mr Manako Chipumbu Siakakole	Alternate Permanent Representative
PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS		
Bioveristy International	Ms Ann Tutwiler	Director
Bioversity International	Mr Richard China	Director, Partnerships
Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO)	Mr Belachew Gizachew	Researcher
Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO)	Mr Karl H. Thunes	Researcher
World Banana Forum	Mr Pascal Liu	Director
World Bank	Ms Sarah Simons	Senior Agriculture Specialist
World Health Organization (OIE)	Ms Emily Tagliaro	Head, OIE World Fund

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Urgent need to step up efforts to fight fast-spreading pests and diseases

Three major animal and plant pests and diseases put global food security at risk

A fall armyworm inside a maize stem.

30 November 2017, Rome – There is an urgent need to step up collective efforts to fight fast-spreading, cross-border animal and plant pests and diseases that could threaten global food security.

This was the core message of representatives of more than 20 countries, assessing the impact of three major pests and diseases. The meeting was organized by FAO, World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), Bioversity International, World Banana Forum and donors to mobilize more support to effectively and sustainably prevent, manage, and – if feasible - eradicate the major pests and diseases.

Fall Armyworm (FAW), Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) also called Sheep and Goat Plague, and Banana Fusarium Wilt (FW) are rapidly-spreading, cross-border animal and plant pests and diseases that put the food security and livelihoods of millions of smallholder farmers at risk; stymie the economic prospects of entire countries and regions; and have the potential to spread to new areas.

"Invasive pests and diseases are the second most important threat to nature due to their severe impact on populations' livelihoods; on the health of people, animal and plants; and on the economy. They are affecting those most vulnerable – the poorest farmers, and can ultimately threaten food security on a global scale," said Ren Wang, Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department of FAO.

"Outbreaks of cross-border animal and plant pests and diseases have been on the rise over the past years. This is due to a range of interlinked factors, including global trade and climate change. Complex issues need complex and timely solutions," added Wang.

The event paved the way for a more robust and targeted commitment from major resource partners to address the three pests and diseases, with fully-fledged donor meetings to take place early next year.

The three major animal and plant pests and diseases up-close

Fall Armyworm is an insect native to tropical and sub-tropical America. It arrived in Africa in early 2016, and has since spread across all of Sub-Saharan Africa, with North Africa now also at risk.

It can feed on over 80 crops, but it is affecting most strongly smallholder maize farmers with no experience of the pest, and few resources to manage it.

If left unchecked, FAW could significantly impact the primary food source of more than 200 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa, and lead to annual economic losses of up to $4.8 billion from maize production alone.

Representatives of over 20 countries during the event at FAO on major pests and diseases.

Find out more

- FAO on Fall Armyworm
- FAO on Peste des petits ruminants
- FAO on Banana Fusarium Wilt

How to manage FAW in Africa?

Peste des petits ruminants is a viral disease that kills up to 90 percent of the infected sheep and goats.

Joining hands against PPR

Today, over 80 percent of the world's sheep and goat populations are at risk. PPR causes annual economic losses of up to $2.1 billion, and is severely impacting 300 million poor households and their communities as they depend on the animals for their very survival.

Banana Fusarium Wilt is one of the most destructive banana diseases worldwide. Its new race - Tropical Race 4 (TR4) - has been causing serious losses in Southeast Asia, leading to thousands of hectares of abandoned land.

It has recently spread to the Middle East, Mozambique, and South Asia and is likely to spread further.

Banana, together with plantains, is the most exported fruit in the world and the most produced food crop in least-developed countries. Some 400 million people rely on banana as staple food and source of income.

FW can cause 100 percent yield loss in infested fields, jeopardizing the food security and livelihoods of rural communities, and the banana value chain.

FAO's fight against FAW, PPR and FW

FAO has recently developed a five-year programme to support farmers and governments sustainably manage FAW in Africa. For its implementation, FAO urgently requires $87 million.

FAO has just launched a five-year global programme to prevent and manage FW Disease, in partnership with Bioversity International, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture and World Banana Forum, requiring $98 million.

To eradicate PPR, FAO and OIE launched a five-year global programme last October.

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A banana plant infected with Fusarium Wilt.

Related links

- Bioversity International
- World Organisation for Animal Health
- World Banana Forum

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PRESS RELEASE: http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1070276/icode/

PHOTOS: https://www.flickr.com/photos/faonews/sets/72157663101927798/

VIDEOS: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aoFBumTRB_g (Fall Armyworm)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mp3iIZiJHXc (Peste des petits ruminants – PPR)

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