

# **FAO PROGRAMS IN AFRICA ON FALL ARMYWORM (FAW)**

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## Scale of the problem

After 18 months of first report in Africa about 1.5million ha of maize is currently affected in only six (6) out of 25 affected countries:

Nigeria (700,000ha)

Ghana (125,654ha)

Kenya (250,000ha)

Ethiopia (52,962ha during minor season)

Zambia (225,000ha)

Zimbabwe (130,000ha)



# Scale of the problem

Unprecedented High economic and environmental cost to governments and farmers using cocktail of pesticides:

- Government of Zambia, allocated \$3m to provide pesticides to smallholder farmers in 2017, including provision for replanting 90,000 hectares affected.
- Government of Ghana provided about \$4m as an emergency measure to procure pesticides.
- Government of Rwanda mobilized the armed forces to treat fields with pesticides and engage in mechanical control, crushing egg masses,

# Scale of the problem

Majority of Smallholder maize farmers in Africa, who often make marginal profits, do not spray their crops.

Unguided use of pesticides is a challenge to sustainable and profitable production of the maize:

- It results in environmental contamination and increased cost of production through frequent costly (and often ineffective) spraying.
- Risk of heightened pesticide residues in the production environment and in consumed produce. An increased demand on pesticide application to protect the crop from the FAW will translate into more pesticide exposure for humans, livestock, and other non-target organisms and objects.



# STATUS OF BIOSECURITY IN AFRICA

Threats to food security, livelihoods, and national economies, posed by invasive pests such as the Orient fruit fly (*Bactrocera dorsalis*), the tomato borer (*Tuta absoluta*), and the **Fall armyworm** (*Spodoptera frugiperda*), are on the increase; a situation which to a large extent reveals **weak biosecurity systems** across sub-Saharan Africa.

What are the capabilities of countries to prevent and mitigate the impact of disasters and crises due to pests and diseases? Are they able to anticipate, detect, absorb, accommodate and/or recover and adapt such shocks impacting agriculture, food security and nutrition, food safety and specific related public health risks in a timely, efficient and sustainable manner?

# FAO AFRICA SOLIDARITY TRUST FUND PROJECT FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

NOVEMBER 2014 – NOVEMBER 2017

Strengthening controls of food safety threats, **plant** and animal **pests and diseases** for agricultural productivity and trade in Southern Africa

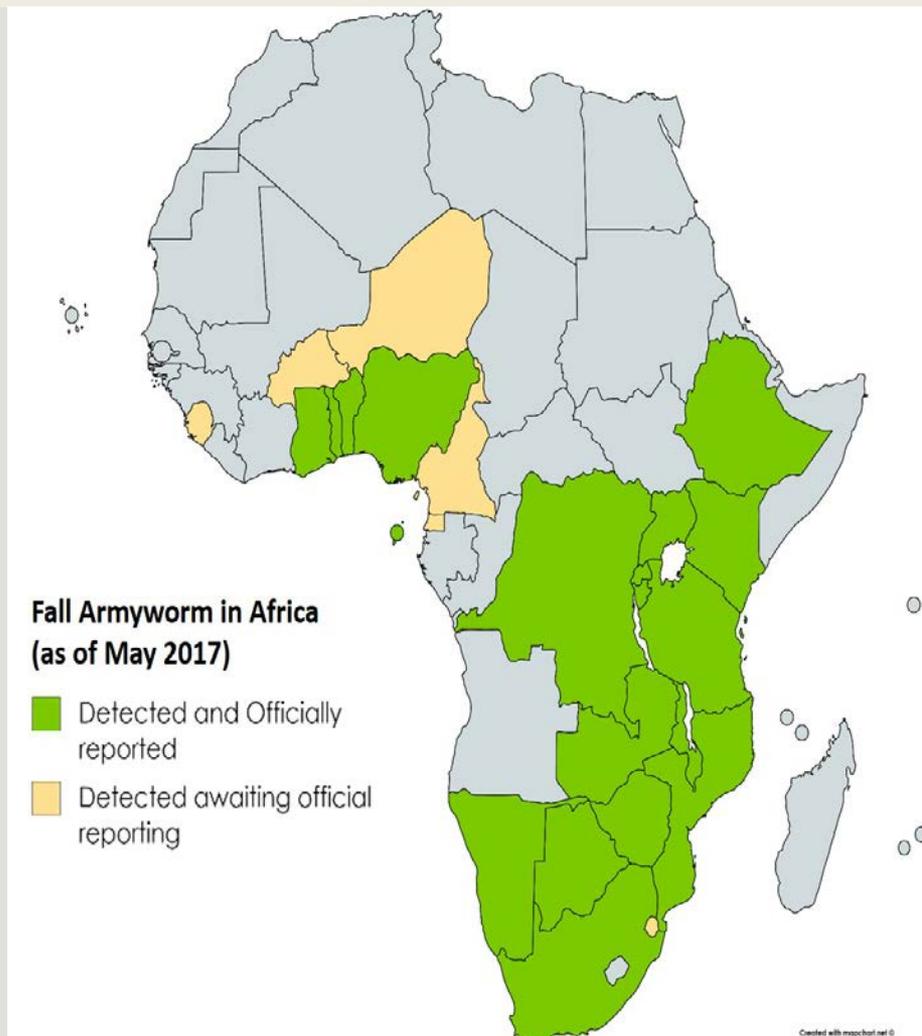


# Priority Activity Areas include:

- **Pest surveillance, Early warning, Early detection, and rapid response,**
- **Official reporting and information sharing**
- **Awareness creation at all levels**
- **Harmonization policy and legislation including Pesticide Risk Reduction**
- **PRA Strengthening**
- **Capacity in pest identification**
- **Bi – literal Forum ( Trade Facilitation)**

# RESPONSE TO FAW IN AFRICA

- The activities of ASTF project assisted most of the southern Africa countries to detect the presence of FAW, conducted rapid assessments, and reported the incidence, all within 2 – 3 months
  - With the objective to avoid fragmentation and develop a more coordinated comprehensive response
- FAO then organized the first FAW consultative meeting in Harare (February 14 – 16, 2017)



# FAW REGIONAL RESPONSE

- The Harare workshop was followed by a more inclusive one in Nairobi on April 25 – 26, 2017 and then the
- The Africa – wide meeting (April 27 – 28, 2017), jointly organized by AGRA, CIMMYT, and FAO



# FAW REGIONAL RESPONSE

- The Africa – wide meeting (April 27 – 28, 2017), jointly organized by AGRA, CIMMYT, and FAO, and attended by 160 participants from the Americas, Europe and Africa.
- An Action Plan was developed and FAO was requested to coordinate this multi-stakeholders initiative.



# FAW REGIONAL RESPONSE

- Based on an Nairobi Action plan FAO has developed a framework for a coordinated response to FAW.
- This framework is guiding the development of projects and programmes by the various stakeholders in the areas of their expertise, capacities and mandate.
- **The theory of change which underpins this framework is that for farmers to reduce their vulnerability and improve their livelihoods, in a situation where FAW is a widespread threat, they need to develop the capacity to manage their farms sustainably, to observe early signs of pest attack and to take management action to protect their crop in a cost effective and environmentally-sound manner.**



# FAW REGIONAL PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK

- The framework consists of four main components
- **Surveillance and early warning:** collecting data at field level, stored in a database, providing tools to undertake spatial and other analysis and should be geared towards helping farmers take early action to respond to a possible upsurge in FAW
- **Impact assessment:** to establish a baseline and perform subsequent in-season monitoring and assessment of the impact of FAW in terms of damage and loss.
- **Sustainable Management:** beginning with immediate understanding and actions, based on best-known practices, while further developing sound management options in the longer term
- **Coordination:** at national, sub-regional, and continental-wide



# FAW REGIONAL PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK

**Coordination** is needed at three main levels –

- National coordination through task forces or committees at the operational level;
- Regional/sub-regional level, sharing information on experiences of control, and early warning, between countries; and
- Africa-wide, sharing information on a broader basis, mobilizing resources and monitoring the overall results of projects and programmes

# FAW REGIONAL PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK

## Africa-wide Coordination

- FAO, based on strong network of sub-regional and country offices equipped with technical teams to provide direct support and implement country programmes, its global mandate that helps to link Africa with other continents, particularly the North and South America where the FAW originates, as well as being a repository of knowledge in agriculture and related disciplines.
- African Union Commission's (AUC) strong links with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) that serve as the building blocks for the former, its specialized agency, the Inter African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC) that is the Regional Plant Protection Organization for Africa, and its advocacy role and convening power for African Heads of state and Ministers, the AUC is considered the natural partner to jointly coordinate the FAW response in Africa.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION

