

## Feed the Future: Innovation Lab for Integrated Pest Management Trip Report



*Photo after the field day*

**Country(s) Visited:** Kenya- Kericho County.

**Dates of Travel:** 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> /10/2018

**Travelers' Names and Affiliations:** Tadele Tefera, icipe

Patrick Kigo- icipe Kenya

**Purpose of Trip:** To hold a field day on push-pull technology in Kipkelion East Sub-County. To sensitize the farmers and other development agents on the need to control stem-borers and FAW to reduce production losses as well as getting feedback from the farmers.

**Sites Visited:** Kedowa location in Ndarugu village.

### **Description of Activities/Observations:**

#### **Field day:**

The activity was planned to involve farmers from different villages and farmer groups in Kipkelion East and was attended by 89 farmers 57 female and 32 male. The first activity on arrival was to visit push-pull technology demo plot of the host farmer. After demo plot visit all the farmers gathered together in a tent and the day's program was explained to

them.

Mrs. Margaret C. Koskei, a farmer in Kimasian village, welcomed the visitors and said she had really seen the difference on milk production and maize yield as well as reduced stem borer infestation since the time she started using this push-pull technology in the year 2017. She thanked Icipe for the dedication and encouraged the farmers to scale it up to enjoy the multiple benefits that the technology offers.

Mr. Caleb Kirui and Mr. Joseph Langat Sub-County Agricultural officers in Kipkelion East and Kipkelion west, respectively, on behalf of the Country director of Agriculture welcomed the farmers for participating in the field day. Mr. Caleb emphasized that IPM is part of good agricultural practices must be observed in all the stages of value chain of an enterprise which includes record keeping, right varieties, site history and site management, soil and substrate management, fertilizer use, crop protection, harvesting and produce handling among others. He asked the farmers to apply recognized integrated pest management practices like push pull technology.

In heavy plot infestation above the threshold, farmers want to use chemicals; they must record the quantity of pesticide used and technical authorization because there are other chemicals that are not recommended.

#### Question by farmers and answers by field day leaders

1. How many times do farmers need to carry out soil sampling for soil nutrient analysis?

Ans: Crops have different nutritional requirements, hence it's advisable to do sampling often depending on the type of crop that needs to be planted.

2. How is the soil sampling done?

Ans: Take the soil between 15 to 30cm below the top soil on different place in the farm, then mix it completely and take a sample from the mixture for analysis.

3. Can farmers add manure on *Bracharia* and *Desmodium*?

Ans: Not necessarily, *Desmodium* fixes nitrogen.

4. Can *Bracharia* and *Desmodium* be preserved?

Ans: Yes, like any other grass, cut it and let it wilt to reduce moisture levels and then store it in a dry place.

5. Can *Desmodium* be propagated using cuttings?

Ans: Yes, like sweet potato vines, cut it into small pieces with at least two nodes and make sure the node or nodes are covered with soil. It will produce roots provided there is enough rain.



*Training session and discussion*

### Survey for Ephestia:

We have sampled Ephestia from grain in Busia, Kenya and we have just started rearing it to support the egg parasite rearing. We are increasing the egg parasites as in table below.

Egg Parasitoid	Number	Host for rearing
Trichogramma	340	<i>Chilo partellus</i>
Telenomus	260	FAW eggs

### Training Activities Conducted:

Program type (workshop, seminar, field day, short course, etc.)	Date	Audience	Number of Participants		Training Provider (US university, host country institution, etc.)	Training Objective
			Men	Women		

### Suggestions, Recommendations, and/or Follow-up Items:

- Collection of Trichogramma from coastal Kenya for infusion to the existing lab population.

- Increase the population of Ephestia.
- Planning meeting for the next season