

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

Country Visited: Kenya
Dates of Travel: 14-18 Jan 2019
Travelers' Names and Affiliations: Tadele Tefera

Purpose of Trip: The objectives of the trip were:

To identify training activities and training inputs in preparation for the upcoming FAW biocontrol training in Feb 2019.

To travel to Mwea to plant maize to release natural enemies of FAW

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

Identification of training activities and training inputs in preparation for the upcoming FAW biocontrol training in Feb 2019 was conducted with lab assistants. The identified practical training areas include fall armyworm mass rearing using artificial diets, collection and mass rearing the Mediterranean flour moth or mill moth (*Ephestia kuehniella*), mass rearing *Trichogramma* using the Mediterranean flour moth, mass rearing *Telenomus remus*, and collection and mass rearing of *Cotesia icipe*. Laboratory activities and procedures on the above-mentioned areas were mapped out in detail including the time it would take, lab staff were oriented in understanding the details, lab inputs and consumables were identified and listed to be used by the FAW trainees in Feb 2019. Furthermore, lab manuals were identified, and preparation is underway to develop lab manuals for the above topics.

Field trip to Mwea, about 80 km from Nairobi, was made to plant maize under farmer's management condition to be used as a pre-trial to release *Trichogramma* and *Telenomus* against FAW. The trainees will be able to exercise field release of *Trichogramma* and *Cotesia icipe* under field condition.

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

- Standardize lab protocols
- Increase colony population of both FAW, mill moth and *Trichogramma* by exposing them to more natural enemies

- Follow up germination of maize