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The U.S. Government's Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative



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Regional Training-of-Trainers and Awareness Generation Workshop on Fall Armyworm Pest Management in Southern Africa

Technical Session 6: Developing an effective FAW response in MALAWI

Oct 30 – Nov 1, 2017
Holiday Inn, Harare, Zimbabwe



Goal:

Develop an effective FAW pest management response that protects food security, livelihoods, and overall health by aligning key actors around a shared set of priorities



Step 1: Country context for MALAWI

What are the important characteristics of your country's context related to FAW outbreak and response?

Consider land area under maize cultivation; prevalence and impact to date; coordination among key actors; ability to reach smallholder farmers with information; policy and enabling environment to support new management actions, coordination etc.

- Area susceptible to FAW: 138,344 ha maize affected under smallholder cultivation; 621,875 households affected = approx. 3 million people (1/6th of pop); sorghum also affected
- Approximately 10% was damaged by FAW last year out of total area under maize
- FAW Task Force: 6 Min of Agric Depts; major priv sector and farmer associations; NGO consortia, international research centers, Donors, etc.
- Guidance from Pesticide Control Board and other regulatory frameworks (Acts, regulations), etc.



Step 2: SWOT Analysis

What are the strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats to an effective FAW response in country? *(After brainstorming a list for all areas, poll the group to select the top 2-3 most significant per prompt)*

Strengths influencing effective response

- Strong FAW Task Force that is multidisciplinary; strong political will
- Strong existing framework to respond followed by quick action
- Research and learning experiences; having expertise in country; having structures to provide national training

Weaknesses

- Limitations of how organizations could respond
- Limited facilities, infrastructure, investment to respond quickly in the beginning and continuing

Opportunities

- information from international organizations like EMBRAPA from Brazil
- Ability to take advantage of rain fall from south to north gives ability to react in other areas

Threats

- Inaccurate and mixed messages



Step 3: Key Interventions

Brainstorm: based on the information presented Days 1 & 2, what are the key interventions — policy, technologies, management practices — that would be effective in managing FAW in the next 1-2 crop cycles?

- Improve on existing extension message especially better pesticide mix/rotation for farmers and agro-dealers; create special cautionary use messaging
- Encourage spray gangs and group spraying along with proper education and training
- further encourage crop diversification
- Improve feedback from farmers and communities building on existing mechanisms
- Improve monitoring and scouting techniques and Area Stakeholder Centers, Farmer Schools, etc.
- Surveillance using Crop Watch approach with traps



Step 4: Mapping Existing Investments

Given the actors present, map the interventions, both currently underway or planned, in the short/medium term

(consider key areas such as policy, training, technology dissemination; this can be either generated via group brainstorm, or, for large groups, divide topics onto flip charts and allow group to circulate and fill in; re-convene and present)

- See Malawi FAW national strategy



Step 5: Analysis of Critical Gaps

Identify 3-5 critical gaps that, if addressed, would contribute to a more effective response in the short term; brainstorm how these gaps can be addressed

- Filling the training gap with better, more accurate information
- Need for portal to house a resource center
- Need to update IPM information and material for experts and farmers
- Need for continued research such as finding natural enemies and culturing these finds
- Domestic lessons and research from other areas
- Strengthen control and regulation of fake pesticides, especially most harmful ones
- Pesticide Board is a good resource to improve training and information
- Use Crop Watch as a resource, e.g. for information, training, regulatory control, etc.