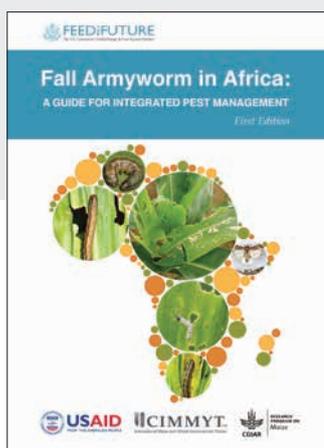


# FIGHTING THE FALL ARMYWORM THROUGH COLLECTIVE ACTION

## FALL ARMYWORM

The Fall Armyworm (FAW; *Spodoptera frugiperda*), a highly destructive insect-pest indigenous to the Americas, has been reported in Africa since January 2016. FAW is capable of attacking more than 80 different plant species, but has major preference for maize, an important staple food in sub-Saharan Africa on which more than 200 million people depend. In July 2018, the insect pest was found in India for the first time.

Without appropriate action, the pest is projected to cause billions of dollars of maize crop losses in Africa, affecting the food security and incomes of millions of smallholders.



## INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) is playing a key role with national and global partners in the response against the pest, focusing on integrated pest management (IPM). An effective IPM strategy for control of FAW will employ host plant resistance, biological control, cultural control, and safer pesticides to protect the crop from economic injury while minimizing negative impacts on people, animals, and the environment. USAID Feed-the-Future and CIMMYT jointly released *Fall Armyworm in Africa: A Guide for Integrated Pest Management*, in January 2018. A French version of the FAW IPM Guide is also now available.

An electronic copy of the manual can be accessed at: <http://bit.ly/FallArmywormAfrica>



# COLLECTIVE ACTION TO TACKLE THE PEST

In 2018, Michigan State University, in partnership with USAID, CIMMYT and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), released an animation video on how to identify and scout for Fall Armyworm. The Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI), USAID and CIMMYT published FAW Pest Management Decision Guides for several countries in Africa, including Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. The CIMMYT team is also intensively screening maize germplasm for native genetic resistance to FAW under artificial infestation under screen houses in Kiboko, Kenya.

Many organizations, from both the public and private sector, have been intensively working on identifying, validating and developing technologies and management practices that can help manage the pest in Africa, as well as creating awareness among the stakeholders on monitoring, surveillance and IPM-based FAW control in Africa. It is indeed clear that there is no single solution for sustainable management of FAW in Africa, and we need to have a science-based, inclusive and well-balanced IPM strategy.

## DID YOU KNOW?

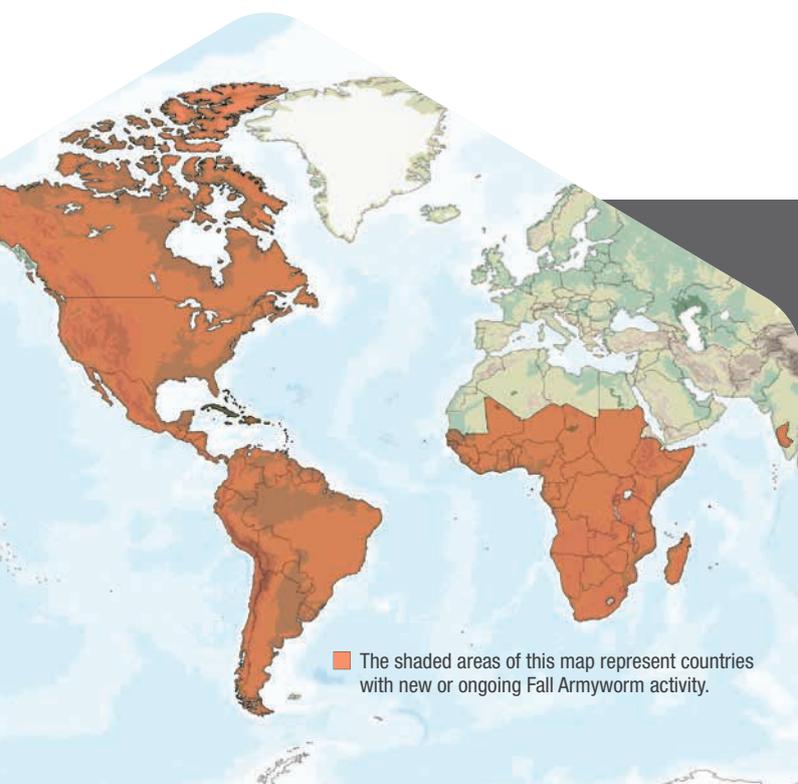
CIMMYT scientists have a history of working on breeding strategies to fight insect-pests, including stem borers, FAW, and post-harvest insect-pests. The Insect Resistant Maize for Africa (IRMA) project has released several hybrids and improved open-pollinated maize varieties.

The CGIAR Research Program on Maize (MAIZE) works with research and development partners, including farmers, worldwide to sustainably intensify maize-based cropping systems in sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and Asia, including ways to combat pathogens and insect-pests using both conservation agriculture and breeding strategies.

CIMMYT and IITA, under the CGIAR Research Program on Maize (MAIZE), have invited international research organizations for a collective and synergistic R4D action through a FAW R4D International Consortium. The Consortium aims to bring together diverse institutions in public and private sectors to explore ways to synergistically work on short-, medium- and long-term solutions to tackle the challenge of FAW in Africa, and in other parts of the world where the pest is prevalent.

The FAW R4D International Consortium is envisioned to serve as a dynamic platform to form strong partnerships to:

- a) develop a shared vision on FAW R4D for sustainable management of the pest in Africa (and other parts of the developing world in due course) expressed via a set of common objectives;
- b) leverage the technical expertise and knowledge of relevant research institutions in the public and private sectors to identify and address important technical gaps;
- c) propose a means to address identified gaps by formulating high-value project proposals on relevant thematic areas with clear work plans, milestones and deliverables for resource mobilization and assess progress toward results; and
- d) develop/validate and deploy IPM-based technologies and management practices in effective interface with FAO and other development partners.



### For more information, contact:

B.M. Prasanna, Director of MAIZE and the Global Maize Program, CIMMYT  
([b.m.prasanna@cgiar.org](mailto:b.m.prasanna@cgiar.org))

or

Geneviève Renard, Head of Communications, CIMMYT  
([g.renard@cgiar.org](mailto:g.renard@cgiar.org))

### CIMMYT Headquarters

Apdo. Postal 6-641 CDMX, Mexico 06600

Email: [cimmyt@cgiar.org](mailto:cimmyt@cgiar.org)

[www.cimmyt.org](http://www.cimmyt.org)