

IPM: Fall Armyworm Integrated Pest Management

Prevent—Monitor—Act



The core strategy for effective Fall Armyworm (FAW) control is the "Prevent, Monitor, and Act" approach, which emphasizes **crop resilience** through quality seed, plant diversity (like Push-Pull), and conservation agriculture, while using frequent **monitoring** to enable prompt **action** via physical removal, applying biopesticides from recycled pathogens, and attracting natural predators, reserving limited and carefully applied chemical control only as a last resort.

This technology is **not yet validated**.

7.5 Scaling readiness: idea maturity 7/9; level of use 5/9

Inclusion assessment 3 1

Climate impact 7

Problem

- **Massive Yield Loss:** The pest causes **severe crop damage** and significant economic loss, threatening food security.
- **Hidden, Rapid Spread:** FAW is difficult to control because it **migrates easily** and its larvae **hide inside the plant whorl**.
- **Costly Chemical Dependence:** Farmers rely on **expensive pesticides** that pose health risks and have led to **pest resistance**.
- **Low Crop Resilience:** Poor farming practices result in **weak plants** and a lack of the **natural enemies** needed for biological control.

Solution

- **Guaranteed Crop Resilience:** Build stronger plants using quality seed, proper nutrition, and conservation agriculture to withstand damage, coupled with physical removal to secure the harvest.
- **Chemical Independence:** Replace costly inputs with free biopesticides (pathogen recycling) and effective behavioral control using the Push-Pull system.
- **Active Biological Defense:** Establish a self-sustaining defense by attracting and protecting natural enemies (ants, wasps) through plant diversity and reduced pesticide use.
- **Risk Mitigation:** Ensure control is effective and safe by requiring frequent monitoring and limiting chemicals to 2-3 targeted sprays as a last resort to prevent resistance.

Key points to design your project

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a sustainable, knowledge-based approach that combines cultural, biological, mechanical, and chemical methods to control pests while minimizing environmental and health risks. For effective integration into national agricultural projects—especially for crops like maize and sorghum affected by Fall Armyworm (FAW)—governments should:

1. **Prioritize Key Crops and Pests:** Start with high-impact crops like maize and sorghum, then scale to other crops.
2. **Adopt Holistic IPM Packages:** Promote a full suite of IPM practices adapted to local agroecologies.
3. **Align with Existing Policies:** Embed IPM into national agricultural, food security, and crop protection strategies.
4. **Strengthen Capacity:** Train extension workers and farmers through cascades and Farmer Field Schools using locally adapted materials.
5. **Institutionalize Monitoring:** Establish pest surveillance systems, use digital tools, and deliver early warnings.
6. **Ensure Sustainability:** Secure long-term funding, integrate IPM into curricula, and engage the public through awareness campaigns and feedback systems.

CABI
Claire Palmer

Technology from

ProPAS

Commodities

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+ 2 more

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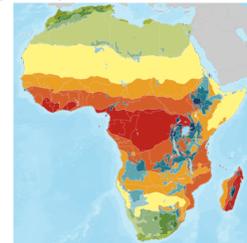
Production, Inputs, Pesticide

Tested/adopted in



Where it can be used

This technology can be used in the colored agro-ecological zones.



Target groups

Farmers



IPM

<https://taat.africa/kah>

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