

## **FALL ARMYWORM INFORMATION**

### **PREVENTION**

- Plant early, with the first rains as Fall Armyworm (FAW) populations build up later in the crop season
- Avoid planting at different times as this provides a continuous source of food for FAW.
- Consider planting maize varieties with short maturity periods.
- Keep the area around the field free of weeds.
- Intercrop maize with compatible and less susceptible crops like beans and cassava
- Ensure optimum use of fertilizer for healthy and vigorous maize plants so that they can compensate for pest damage.

### **SCOUTING**

- Start scouting as soon as maize seedlings emerge.
- Scout 10 – 20 consecutive plants in 5 different locations in the field.
- Look for signs of FAW feeding
  - FAW easier to control when larvae are very small
  - FAW larvae are extremely hard to find when the larvae are very small
  - Look for FAW feeding signs in the central emerging leaves (whorl)
  - Look for accumulation of FAW excreta in the whorl.

#### **Decision Points;**

- At early whorl stage (Knee high), take action if greater 20% of plants are damaged.
- At late whorl stage (shoulder high), take action if greater 40% of whorls are freshly damaged.
- At tassel and silk stage, do not spray pesticides

### **DIRECT CONTROL**

- On small scale farms, handpick and destroy the egg masses and larvae.

- On large scale farms, use FAW recommended synthetic pesticides to avoid killing beneficial insects or harm the applicator.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be worn to minimize exposure to insecticides. PPE includes coveralls. Gloves, respirators and boots.
- Observe pre-harvest interval (PHI) values on the pesticides label. (PHI is the time between the application of a pesticide and when that crop can be harvested)
- Observe at least 1 day restricted entry level (REI) after applying the crop/ field. (REI is the period of time after spraying before anyone should re-enter the field.

#### RECOMMENDED SYNTHETIC PESTICIDES.

Item No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Company
1.	Emma	<i>Emamectin benzoate</i>	Arysta Life Science
2.	Steward 150 EC	<i>Indoxacarb</i>	DuPoint de Nemours
3.	Judge	<i>Lufenuron</i>	Arysta Life Science
4.	Ampligo	<i>Chlorantraniliprole/lambdacyhalothrin</i>	Syngenta
5.	Belt	<i>Flubendiamide</i>	Bayer