



Country-Wide Distribution of Fall Armyworm Traps and Lures Commences

FAO and Ministry of Agriculture joint exercise to combat Fall Army infestation in 116 Districts Zambia

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The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) working jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture through the Technical Cooperation Project “**Emergency Response to the Fall Armyworm Outbreak in Zambia,**” has commenced the country-wide distribution of 1000 Fall Armyworm (FAW) pheromone traps and over 5000 lures and 5000 kill strips to facilitate the management and control of FAW in the affected 116 Districts and ten provinces of Zambia.

In this context, FAO Country Representative in Zambia, Suze Percy Filippini indicated that “*Sustainable Fall Armyworm management and control will preserve the Country’s maize crop and enhance nutrition security.*”

The pheromone traps, lures and kill strips to be distributed and set up at farms in the districts and camps are used to attract and destroy male moths as they are responsible for reproduction. The traps will also serve as an early warning system for the timely actions of FAW management, to define FAW infested area, to track build-up of FAW population, to determine FAW movement patterns and identify areas at high risk.

During the handover of the Pheromone Traps at the Provincial Agriculture Offices in Solwezi, Muyobo Shimabale, a Provincial Agriculture Coordinator of Northwestern Province said that “*The role of the community in particular farmers in the effective management, use and care of the pheromone traps will lead to success in the control of Fall Armyworm and enhance productivity.*”

The FAW Project has so far developed capacity and trained 30 provincial and district subject matter specialists in Integrated Pest Management skills and practices and Early Warning Systems including FAO’s online Fall Armyworm Monitoring and Early Warning System (FAMEWS), a tool used in early detection of the presence of Fall Armyworm on affected farms. The Provincial and District Subject Matter Specialists trained more than 2,000 camp extension officers who have so far sensitized and trained over 100,000 farmers in Integrated Pest Management practices and Early Warning Systems in all the 116 districts as they prepare for the forthcoming planting season. Best Hamulekwa, a Camp Extension Officer in Ichimpe Camp, Kalulushi highlighted that the training has enabled him “*gain hands-on practical skills and experience on how to create FAW surveys, set up traps, collect data and upload online on FAO’s Early Warning virtual portal - FAMEWS more efficiently, support and serve our farmers effectively well.*”

In the last ten (10) years, Zambia has been invaded eight times by migratory pests commonly known as armyworms. All the 10 Provinces and all 116 districts across the country reported the infestation of FAW on the maize crop while two provinces and four districts reported African Armyworm (AAW) affecting both maize and rice crops. FAW and AAW had affected 282,124 farming households covering a total of 157,941.97 hectares in 1,826 agricultural camps with an average infestation rate of 22.2% threatening food insecurity in Zambia. For Kingstone Kasapatu, a Farmer of Solwezi said, “*In the past, farmers have heavily relied on the use of chemicals in controlling Fall Armyworm and without much knowledge about pest management and use of chemicals and less success. The pheromone traps being provided to farmers with FAO and Ministry of Agriculture support will enable us manage and control Fall Armyworm more successfully, in a sustainable and less costly manner.*”

Contact:

National Consultant, FAO Zambia, Mobile: +260763 989 108 E mail: mukaba.mukaba@fao.org [@FAOZambia](https://www.facebook.com/FAOZambia)