

## **POST-WEBINAR REPORT**

### **Biosecurity Threats in Agriculture:**

Mitigation, Control, and Management of Fall Armyworm











### MITIGATION, CONTROL, AND MANAGEMENT OF FAW

### INTRODUCTION

The Philippines Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture (PPSA) is a multi-stakeholder partnership platform initiated by Grow Asia, a regional platform for inclusive and sustainable agriculture development in Southeast Asia catalyzed by the World Economic Forum and the ASEAN Secretariat. Grow Asia's goal is to reach smallholder farmers in ASEAN through its Country Partnerships like the PPSA to improve farmer incomes, farm productivity, and environmental sustainability. PPSA was formally launched by Grow Asia together with the Philippine Department of Agriculture and through the collective efforts of various stakeholders.

Today, PPSA has brought together more than 70 organizations, reaching more than 100,000 smallholders through commodity Working Groups focused on Coconut, Coffee, Corn, Vegetables, and Fisheries as well as cross-cutting/thematic Working Group on Agri-financing and the Grow Asia Learning Alliance (GALA) program.

The GALA program aims to connect research institutes to agribusinesses in our network with the objective of increasing the application of valuable research findings in agriculture value chains, to scale their development impact. Under the GALA program, with the support from the IDRC, PPSA is holding its Biosecurity Threats in Agriculture Webinar Series, a four-part webinar series that runs from May to June 2020. This webinar series aims to tackle three of biosecurity threats currently present and is affecting our country's smallholder growers, namely – Fall Armyworm, African Swine Fever, and the Avian Flu.

### **SITUATIONER**

The emergence of FAW challenges the agriculture sector as it creates impact to the livelihood of smallholder farmers and to food security. FAW is a destructive, transboundary pest that affects different crops, especially corn. It arrived in Africa in 2016 and has been affecting East and Southeast Asia since then. In Africa, authorities estimated that FAW has affected 300,000 farmers and lost 17.7 million tons of corn annually. FAW reached the Philippines in 2019 which triggered the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) to develop the National Fall Armyworm Action Plan. The plan includes monitoring, detection, awareness and capacity building measures, including research and development.

### **ABOUT THE WEBINAR**

The second part of the fall armyworm series centered around practical recommendations for handling the pest in the farms. It presented knowledge and findings from the studies that were conducted on the pest as well as sharing of best practices on how to mitigate, control, manage FAW. We invited representatives from the National Crop Protection Center (NCPC) and East-West Seed to achieve the goals of the discussion.

### SPEAKERS' PROFILE

We invited two speakers as we achieved the expected outcome of this webinar.





**Mario V. Navasero** is a Career Scientist II of the National Crop Protection Center, College of Agriculture and Food Science of the University of the Philippines Los Baños. His research interests include insect taxonomy, biological control, pest management, insecticide management, and pest biology

**Teodoro Fortu** is the Group Field Quality Manager of East-West Seed. Among his responsibilities, he is the point of contact for the local field inspection teams in case of major seed production issues affecting quality.

### **ATTENDEES' PROFILE**

The Mitigation, Control, and Management of Fall Armyworm webinar was attended by more than 80 individuals representing different sectors. Majority of these attendees were from the government while private sector, farmer organizations and non-government organizations were well-represented as well.

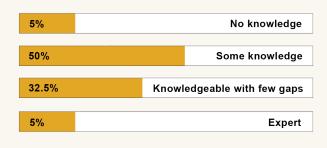
More than half of the participants who attended the webinar are knowledgeable about the pest that made for an interactive, vivid discussion and Q&A session.

See result of poll here:

### Representation

# 31.25% Private Sector 50% Government 3.13% Grower/Farmer Organization NGO/CSO 12.5% Other

### Attendees' Knowledge



### **Q&A DISCUSSION**

• Given that the medium to large instars attack the whorl, and are well protected from most insecticide application, shouldn't spraying of insecticides be stopped after the first few weeks?

### Navasero:

Most of the available insecticides are usually applied as spray. In our next experiment, we will be trying to modify the application by mixing them with some inert carriers such as sand, powdered lahar or ordinary soil. This is especially true for entomopathogens. With regards to synthetic chemicals, as I have recommended, the spraying should be directed to the whorl when the insects are already at their later stage or when they are hidden inside the whorl. Remember, the structure of the plant may help run down the sprayed chemicals into the whorl and eventually reach the larvae inside the whorl.

• Have there been many reports of major damage on sugarcane in the Philippines?

### Navasero:

Sugar cane is one of the crops reported as a host of FAW. But unfortunately, we have gone around here in Luzon and we haven't found it yet in sugarcane. Although, we have received information that in Negros, they already found the infestation of FAW on sugar cane. Meanwhile, in India, infestation report was normally within the range of five percent which is not as serious than in corn.

### Fortu:

I must agree with Dr. Navasero. There is no really heavy damage of FAW in sugarcane.

• The proposal for surveillance on other hosts (eg. Sugarcane), when and where are the surveys likely to take place (if funded)?

### Navasero:

The project has formally started in February. However, our activities were disturbed because of COVID-19. We will be resuming the surveillance and monitoring in June or once the quarantine is lifted.

If you use Bt corn, will you be protected from FAW?

### Navasero:

As far as we know and as far as our observations are concern, FAW attack only non-Bt corn. The heavy usage of pesticides actually occurred on sweet corn as it is a high-value crop. In Cagayan de Oro, one farmer that we interviewed went as far as spraying three times a day because of the expectation that you can gross Php300,000 per hectare with sweet corn. It really justifies the overuse of insecticides on sweet corn. Three times spraying in a day and mixing with different insecticides is a problem in some areas.

### Fortu:

Because Bt corn is infested specifically by helicoverpa, there was a report by Syngenta in India

that it offers some kind of protection against FAW, but not that high. Probably, only around 20 to 30 percent.

• Is nuclear polyhedrosis virus effective for FAW?

### Navasero:

We have been using nuclear polyhedrosis virus (NPV) for cutworm and bit armyworm. We have tested it in the lab against FAW and it is not effective. Although in other countries, there are available nuclear polyhedrosis virus that the government should import. We can import these NPV as the local NPVs that we have is effective for cutworm and bit armyworm and not for FAW.

### Fortu:

I must agree with Sir Navasero. We have to know the effectivity of NPV yet in the Philippines for FAW. There are some species of NPV in India whose effectivity is quite high.

Has FPA approved the entry of pheromone lures for FAW?

### Navasero:

In one of the researches that we have started, we focused on developing sex pheromone. Our experience was that we tried to import three different sources. The first one, instead of catching FAW, it caught corn semilooper. The next one that we imported, the pheromone attracted FAW. My colleagues went in Taiwan and discovered that Taiwanese were developing their own sex pheromone. From there, we thought of the possibility of developing our own experiment to come up with different blend of different components of pheromone, and find out which among those blends will really be effective against FAW under local condition.

### Fortu:

I think we have imported FAW pheromone lures. But we want the government to be less stringent, increase the limit, and expand the purpose other than for research purposes only. We want to import more so that we can help our corn growers.

• It was mentioned by Navasero that FAW does not attack Bt Corn. How about sweet corn and other consumption corn products of East West Seed? Has East West Seed observed significant FAW infestation in the corn varieties being sold in the market?

### Fortu:

We have reported cases in Mindanao and in the Visayas where there was really heavy infestation of FAW. We are asking the government to help us so that we can also help the farmers. The report in Mindanao showed that the damage was almost close to 80-90%.

• Do you recommend drone spraying? Have you tried using multispectral imaging using drone for FAW detection?

### Navasero:

In the last portion of my presentation, in one of our setups, we used that to determine the spectral images and the normalized difference vegetation index that we can derive from drone images. It works in our experiment. It works in our experiment because the difference in terms of efficacy of the different treatments are very remarkable. But I don't know if when damage is not as that

remarkable, if that drone system can really differentiate the health status of the plant based on the damage.

### Fortu:

Yes, I think we can we can use drone but for spraying or taking images. In other countries, they are using drones to spray. This will help us in our integrated pest management (IPM) strategy because if drone is being used to spray, we will minimize the damage, and in terms of safety, for hours of spraying. In other countries be countries like developed countries such as the US, they are already using a drone.

• The results of the Q1 2020 production of corn, both for field corn and consumption has just been issued. It was reported that corn production was significantly reduced compared to previous year's figures. While it is said in the report that the fall in corn production was due to reduction in area planted resulting from low prices in previous cropping seasons. In your opinion, does FAW infestation partly explains the fall in corn production during 1st Q 2020?

### Navasero:

I think FAW has contributed to the decline in production because in terms of yellow corn, only 50% are actually Bt corn while the rest are non-Bt. So, the other 50% may already may also be affected by FAW. Secondly, even BT corn, ten percent of the seeds are actually refuge non-Bt corn. So, for every hectare of BT corn, 1/10 of that can be actually damaged by FAW. The 50% non-Bt, FAW probably has significant contributions in the decline in production

• Do you know of any government support provided to the farmers in countering FAW?

### Navasero

Last year, government agencies, particularly the Department of Agriculture (DA) and Regional Crop Protection Centers (RCPCs) provided free insecticides to farmers who experienced infestation of FAW. Active information campaign was also launched by DA and Bureau of Plan Industry (BPI).

### Fortu:

In terms of information dissemination campaign, I think the government is helping. They are providing some biological control agents in RCPCs. Can you please confirm this, Navasero?

### Navasero:

Yes. They are providing Metarhizium and earwigs. But so far, we have no evidence yet that these biocontrol agents are really working. Well, it may be contributing but in terms of their efficacy, haven't have any information pointing to that direction.

Are there any reports of FAW infesting rice?

### Navasero:

So far there is no report of FAW infestation on rice.

# • Can East-West Seed use any of the insecticides given emergency use permit by the FPA for seed coating?

### Navasero:

My understanding is separate registration application is required for specific use of any particular insecticide. Only the method of application stated in the FPA permit will be allowed. You can ask directly the companies if their product(s) can be can be used for seed dressing but it has to undergo the FPA registration requirements including field bio-efficacy evaluation.

What was the identified name of the 5th FAW parasitoid in the PH?

### Fortu:

Telenomus remus (egg parasitoid)

• Is there a Corn Learning Center in Dipolog-Dapitan-Sergio Osmena?

### Fortu:

None yet

### **CHANNELS**





Watch the full webinar on Youtube here:

https://bit.ly/PPSAYTBFAW2

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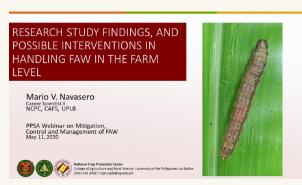
### **PRESENTATION DECK**

Presentation of the speakers can be downloaded through: <a href="https://bit.ly/PPSAFAW2Deck">https://bit.ly/PPSAFAW2Deck</a>.

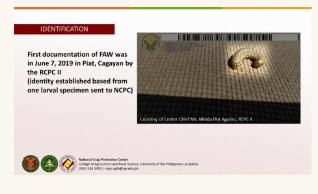




















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### BIOLOGICAL STUDIES

#### Metarhizium rileyi



Natural epizootic of 20% was documented in one site



Laboratory induced infection on larvae of FAW







### **EVALUATION OF ENTOMOPATHOGENS**

Other entomogenous fungi evaluated under laboratory condition



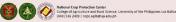


Metarhizium anisopliae

Beauveria bassiana





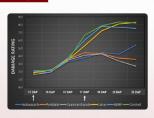


### FIELD EVALUATION OF INSECTICIDES AND BCA, ETC.

- TRENDS

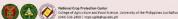
  Better performance of synthetic insecticides

  Improving bioefficacy of B. bassiana

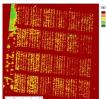








### FIELD EVALUATION OF INSECTICIDES AND BCA, ETC.



Comparison ng NDVI values of treatments.

Comparison of leaf surface

Multispectral aerial image, rendered to represe Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI)







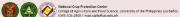
### Insecticides granted emergency use permit by the FPA

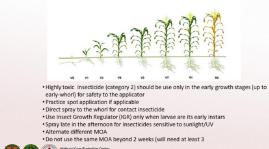
MODE OF ACTION	ACTIVE INGREDIENT	PRODUCT NAME	TOXICITY	MODE OF ENTRY	RECOMMENDED RATE
1A	Carbosulfan	Marshal 200 SC	2	systemic with contact and stomach action	30-40 mL product/16 L
ЗА	Lambdacyhalothrin	ARIBA 2.5 EC	2	contach, stomach and ovicidal action	2 L/16L
5	Spinetoram	EXALT 60 SC	4	contact and ingestion	500 mL product/ha
6	Emamectin benzoate	Proclaim Opti 5 WG	3	ingestion, penetrate leaf, sensitive to sunlight	25g/16L
11A	Bacillus thuringiensis var. aizawai	Aztron WDG	4	ingestion	10-20 g/16L
11A	Bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki	Dipel WP	4	ingestion	50g/16L
15	Chlorfluazuron	Atabron 5 E	4	anti moulting agent	20-40 mL/16L
15	Lufenuron	Match 050 EC	4	anti moulting agent	0.60-0.80 L product/ha
22A	Indoxacarb	Ammate 15 EC	2	contact and stomach	10-15 mL/16 L
22A	Indoxacarb	Steward 30 WDG	3	contact and stomach	4g/16L
28	Tetraniliprole	Yeoval SC 200	3	systemic and contact	6-8 mL/16L
28	Chlorantraniliprole	Prevathon 5 SC	4	primarily by ingestion and secondarily by contact	30-40 mL/16 L
28	Cyantraniliprole	Benevia OD	4	primarily by ingestion and secondarily by contact	67 mL/16 L
				feeding stop a few hrs after exposure but death may take 3-6 d	
28/4A	Chlorantraniliprole + Thiametoxam	Virtako 40 WG	4	contact	150-200 g product/ha
UC	Pvridalyl	Pleo 10 EC	4	contact	40-60 mL product/16 L













### ON-GOING RESEARCHES

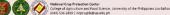
- Biological Control of Fall Armyworm (FAW) Spodoptera frugiperda (J. E. Smith) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) Using Entomopathogens
- Identification and Evaluation of Natural Enemies against Fall Armyworm (FAW) Spodoptera frugiperda (J. E. Smith) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae)
- Insecticide Management and Susceptibility Studies on Fall Armyworm (FAW) Spodoptera frugiperda (J. E. Smith) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae)
- Development of an Early Warning System against Fall Armyworm (FAW) Spodoptera frugiperda through Phenology and Distribution Modelling
- Effect of Temperature and Host Plants on the Life History Traits of Spodoptera frugiperda (J. E. Smith) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae)
- Structure and Morphological Variation Analysis of the Fall Armyworm (FAW)

  Spodoptera frugiperda (J. E. Smith) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) in the









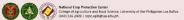
### RESEARCH PROPOSALS UNDER REVIEW

- Surveillance of FAW on Rice, Sugarcane, Turf, and High-Risk Vegetables
- Strain Identification and Genetic Diversity of FAW on Rice, Sugarcane, Turf, and High-Risk Vegetables
- Characterization, mass production, formulation, and utilization of Metarhizium sp. for increased potency against fall armyworm, Spodoptera frugiperda (J.E. Smith)
- Development of pheromone traps for the Monitoring of fall armyworm, Spodoptera frugiperda (I.E. Smith), and onion armyworm, S. exigua (Hübner) (Noctuidae, Lepidoptera)















### Overview

### Issues confronted by farmers based on nationwide survey:

- Lack of Crop Cultural/Production Practices
  Guide
- Pests and Diseases

Corn Learning Centers were established to provide:

- Information on corn production, cultural and pest management
- Hands-on training/workshop on farmers field
- Based on "to see is to believe and to
- implement" concept















Dr. Janny de Vos Strategic Partnerships Director, CABI Netherlands

EWS Entomologist Jedeliza Ferrater in communication with CABI NL Director on Fall Armyworm Updates at the CABI Portal (November 2019) - needs updated into for our farmers

### FAST-WEST SEED

### **Production of FAW Materials in Various Dialects**

English

Tagalog

Bisaya





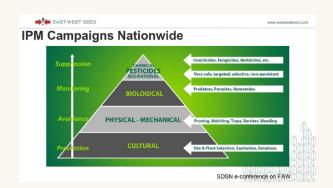
Ilocano

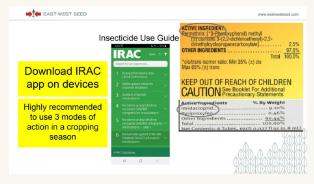
TIP: In order for awareness campaigns to work, and Integrated Pest Management to be implemented by farmers, all materials should be relatable, colorful and animated with live demo during farmers seminars











		EWS Staff Involved	
Surigao City	June 2019	Jedeliza Ferrater	Corn Learning Center
2. Pidigan, Abra	August 2019	Jedeliza Ferrater	Corn Learning Center
3. Diadi, Nueva Vizcaya			
4. Baler, Aurora	September 2019	Jun Ramos	Corn Learning Center
5. Sta. Maria, Pangasinan	September 2019	Jun Ramos	EWS Integrated Event
6. Antique			0,
7. Phil Seed Industry Association, Manila			PSIA Quarterly Meeting
8. Lantapan, Bukidnon	October 2019	Jedeliza Ferrater	LGU Farmers Meeting
9. Tubod, Lanao	October 2019	Nova Corbita	





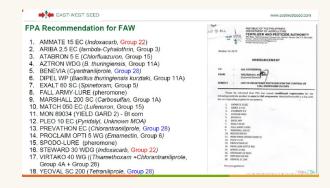


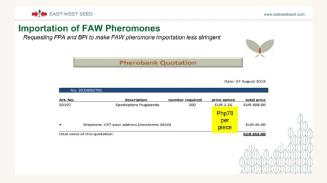
### 1. Cultural Practices

- Ploughing under corn stubbles after harvest
- Strictly follow synchronous planting
- Weed management (sanitation)
- Handpicking
- Biological Control
   Release Trichogramma chilonis for egg masses
- Release Earwigs, Euborella sp (7, 14, 21 DAP)
- Spray Metarhizium sp (14, 21, 28 DAP)

### 3. Chemical Control

 Apply recommended insecticides with contact and stomach activity following the manufacturers recommendation

















### **NEXT IN THE BIOSECURITY THREATS IN AGRICULTURE WEBINAR SERIES**



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Register here: <a href="https://bit.ly/PPSAAvianFlu">https://bit.ly/PPSAAvianFlu</a>

### **About PPSA**



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### **About Grow Asia**



Grow Asia was established by the World Economic Forum in collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat, to convene, facilitate and help scale action-focused partnerships in Southeast Asia. Our goal is to lift smallholder productivity, profitability and environmental sustainability.