




Fall Armyworm (FAW) on Sorghum

Rwanda

Spodoptera frugiperda

	Prevention	Scouting	Direct control	Direct control	Restrictions
 <p>Fall armyworm egg mass (Desiree van Heerden, Syngenta)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant early with the first rains, as Fall Armyworm (FAW) populations build up later in the cropping season. Avoid planting at different times as this provides a continuous source of food for FAW. If available, plant sorghum varieties developed with tolerance or resistance to FAW. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start scouting as soon as the sorghum emerges. FAW attacks sorghum from early leaf stage (whorl) to hard seed head stage. Scout 10-20 consecutive plants in 5 different locations of the field and calculate % of infestation (See Scouting form). 	<p><i>This Green Column describes control options that are safest for small holder farmers</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On small-scale farms, handpick and destroy the egg masses and larvae. 	<p><i>This Yellow Column describes control options that require additional safety precautions for small holder farmers</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid spraying broad spectrum synthetic insecticides which might kill beneficial insects or harm the applicator. Only select products with proven success in controlling FAW, such as those listed below. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be worn to minimize exposure to insecticides. PPE includes coveralls, gloves, respirators and boots.
 <p>Fall Armyworm caterpillar. Look for the inverted 'Y' on the head or the cluster of four dots on the rear (Russ Ottens, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider planting short maturity sorghum varieties with uniform heads to escape the pest infestation that might occur later in the season. Use sorghum hybrids with loose panicles. Ensure optimum use of fertilizer for healthy and vigorous sorghum plants, so that they can compensate for pest damage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for signs of FAW feeding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FAW are easiest to control when they are small. FAW are extremely hard to find when they are small. During the vegetative stages you may see a few FAW larvae causing shot-holes in the leaves - this damage is usually just cosmetic - FAW is mostly a grain pest in sorghum. Egg masses are deposited on the underside of leaves or in panicles. Small larvae will feed on sorghum flowers and large larvae on developing seeds. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Pre-Harvest Interval (PHI) is the time between the application of a pesticide and when that crop can be harvested. The PHI values below were determined with a precautionary approach, but if the PHI value on the pesticide label is higher, observe the longer period. The Restricted Entry Interval (REI) is the period of time after spraying before anyone should re-enter the field. The REI values provided apply to situations in which PPE is not available. If the REI printed on the pesticide label is longer than the value given below, please observe the longer period. 	<p>For more information, please consult: Fall Armyworm in Africa: A Guide for Integrated Pest Management (USAID & CIMMYT), WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides (WHO), Pesticide Risk Assessment (Jepson et al., DOI: 10.1098/rstb.2013.0491)</p>
 <p>Whorl damage on sorghum (Z.M. Kinyua, KALRO)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intercrop sorghum with pest-repellent plant species (e.g. <i>Desmodium</i> spp.) Conserve wildlife shelters and flowering plants on the edges for beneficial insects. 	<p>Decision Point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At early whorl stage (pre-bloom), take action if >50% of plants are infested at the whorl stage. At flowering head stage, take action if 20% (range of 10–30%) of the plants are infested or have damage. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Malathion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> REI 3 days; PHI 30 days WHO Class III Slightly Hazardous

Scouting Form

Planting Date:	District:	Location:	Your name:																			
	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3																			
Sampling Date																						
Sorghum Growth Stage:																						
Dates of rainfall/intensity:																						
Insecticides Applied/Rates/Dates:																						
Pheromone Trap Data	Raise the trap as the sorghum grows taller. Keep the bottom of the trap 30 cm above the plants.																					
Number of FAW moths:																						
Number of AAW moths:																						
Early/Late Whorl Stage (0-5)	Examine two to four (2-4) newest leaves emerging from the whorl.																					
Five Stops	1	2	3	4	5	Sum	%	1	2	3	4	5	Sum	%	1	2	3	4	5	Sum	%	
#Plants with fresh shot-holes/Total																						
#Plants with infested whorls/ Total																						
Flowering and Soft Dough Stage (6-7)	Examine head(s) plus leaves and leaf axils at, above, and below the heads.																					
Five Stops	1	2	3	4	5	Sum	%	1	2	3	4	5	Sum	%	1	2	3	4	5	Sum	%	
#Plants with any fresh damage/Total																						
#Plants with worms/Total																						
#Plants with damaged heads/Total																						