



Project Name	Establishing an Emergency Community–based Fall Armyworm Monitoring, Forecasting, Early Warning and Management System (CBFAMFEW) in Eastern Africa
Ref	FAO/SFE/ LOA# 3603711
Duration	January, 2018 – June, 2019
Project area	Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania
Funded by	USAID through FAO-SFE

### **Project Brief**

The Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO- EA), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Sub regional Office for Eastern Africa (SFE) and the Ministries of Agriculture of implementing Countries: Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania jointly implemented an USAID funded project titled ***“Establishing an Emergency Community–based Fall armyworm Monitoring forecasting, Early Warning and Management System (CBFAMFEWS) in Eastern Africa”***

The project was largely based on the experiences and lessons learnt from a previous successful USAID funded DLCO-EA project on the Community Based African armyworm Monitoring, Forecasting and Early warning (**CBFAMFEW**).

The **CBFAMFEWS** was started in 5 high risk districts of the fall armyworm outbreak in each of the above indicated three countries. In each District, 10 villages were selected for the implementation of the program, which brought the total number of the participating villages to 50 per Country.

### **Project Objective**

This project on community–based Fall Armyworm monitoring, forecasting, early warning and management system (**CBFAMFEW**) in eastern Africa contributed to the following organizational objectives:

- 1) To increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises through strengthening community-based Fall Armyworm monitoring and reporting system.
- 2) To enhance capacity building of the National Fall Armyworm Task Forces and Management Programs in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania.
- 3) To ensure a functional early warning systems for Fall Armyworm Management as well as improve information sharing and management in the three target countries.

- 4) To promote awareness among the Fall Armyworm prone communities on effective reporting of Fall Armyworm through continuous situation monitoring and data gathering.

### **Key Project Output**

The overall output was effective prevention of the build-up of the Fall Armyworm in the Eastern African sub-region and avert production losses

### **Specific deliverables**

- (i) A sound community-based Fall Armyworm monitoring and reporting system is developed.
- (ii) Effective and reliable community based early warning system for the Fall Armyworm developed and maintained.
- (iii) Capacity building done and technical personnel, scouts and community members trained.

### **Lessons learnt**

#### ***I. Element of success***

- a. The introduction of this project in the region further enhanced the sustainability of the prevention strategies and safe control methods, and as a result ensure food security of the communities.
- b. This project has improved the collaboration and activities of communities, the Ministry of Agriculture, regional organizations and other stakeholders.
- c. It is also worth to mention that even though the three countries are now actively introducing the system into their national program, however future success of the project depends on the collaboration and commitments of the respective governments to handle and finance it routinely, the ability and willingness of the national Fall armyworm coordinators, community focal persons, agricultural staff, the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) and other stakeholders.

#### ***II. Impediments/constraints***

- a. Shortage of Frontline Extension Officers to backstop the community focal persons.
- b. Inadequate transport for the available field extension officers to visit and backstop the community focal persons.
- c. Delayed facilitation of mobile phone airtime to enhance timely transmission of data.
- d. Poor management of bundles for online submission of reports, some CFPs exhausted bundles as soon as they received them hence the rest of the period reporting was poor.

- e. Use of one smart phone for two farmers hindered timely submission of data.
- f. Lack of a feedback mechanism in the FAMEWS Application to those submitting the reports to enable mapping of FAW risks in the villages or field.

### **Recommendations**

For the sustainability of effective **CBFAMFEWS** in the Horn of Africa, the following actions are required:

- a. Up scaling of the project to other districts/sub-counties by training more community forecasters and extension officers on monitoring, data collection and sharing on FAMEWS app.
- b. Ensure feedback to all stakeholders to know the trends and emerging issues on FAW.
- c. Organize exchange visits to other project areas to share experiences on success stories and challenges.
- d. Periodic refresher courses for forecasters on FAW should be considered.
- e. Constant consultation between the staff and forecasters to be encouraged whenever there is a challenge(s).
- f. For sustainability CBFAMFEW should be mainstreamed in other existing programs like Plant Health Clinics during planning and budgeting
- g. Explore the best way in collaboration with the county/regional Governments to address the transport challenge for extension officers to enable them reach and backstop community focal persons.
- h. Expand data collection beyond the project, engage citizens and ordinary farmers using their own mobile phones,
- i. Develop a strategy to update and create awareness,
- j. There is need to develop an e-bulletin (Weekly, Monthly or Biannually),
- k. Develop country profiles or regional profiles highlighting the status of FAW, connecting data and management recommendations for citizens,

### **Acknowledgement**

- 1) USAID for funding this project through FAOSFE
- 2) FAO for facilitation and coordination of the project
- 3) Ministry of Agriculture offices in Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania, communities and all stakeholders for the implementation of this project.