



Project Name	SCALING UP COMMUNITY-BASED ARMYWORM MONITORING, FORECASTING AND EARLY WARNING (CBAMFEW) IN EASTERN AFRICA
Ref	AWARD NO. AID-OFDA-F-12-00006
Duration	September 2012 – September 2015
Project area	Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania
Funded by	UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID)/OFFICE OF FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Project Brief

Community Based Armyworm Monitoring, Forecasting and Early Warning (CBAMFEW) initiative was designed as a collaborative project in which implementing countries (Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania), a regional organization (DLCO-EA) and the donor (USAID) participated in the development of the monitoring, forecasting and early warning system.

Project Objective

The overall objective of the project was to improve food security and livelihoods of rural communities in targeted villages and communities, particularly in the high risk districts of armyworm outbreaks in **Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania** by preventing or reducing the damage armyworm causes to crops and pastures.

The specific objectives of the project were:

- a) To scale up community based armyworm monitoring, forecasting and early warning initiative in high risk areas of armyworm in **Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania** to detect the presence of armyworm outbreaks on time and undertake control operations.
- b) To improve armyworm outbreak reporting through the use of innovative Cell Phone technology in CBAMFEW villages in Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania in order to initiate control operations on time.

Key Project Outputs

Community Based Armyworm Monitoring, Forecasting and Early Warning Scaled up in Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania:

CBAMFEW was scaled up in 10 high risk districts of armyworm outbreaks in Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania. In each district 10 villages were be selected for the implementation

of CBAMFEW, which makes the total number of villages covered in the project to be 100 in each country.

Innovative Cell Phone Technology for reporting armyworm outbreaks in CBAMFEW villages successfully piloted in Tanzania, Kenya and Ethiopia

The innovative Cell Phone technology was tested and introduced for reporting armyworm outbreaks in CBAMFEW villages. The Cell Phone technology was widely used by farmers in eastern Africa to get different types of information on occurrence Armyworm and ecology that support the development of armyworm, etc.

Lessons learnt

a) Element of success

During the three-year project implementation period, significant results were achieved in monitoring armyworm migrations and infestations.

- a) The project enhanced the capacities of the Ministries of Agriculture of the three countries through the provision of trainings, Pheromone traps, rain-gauges, mobile phones, desktop computers, printers, vehicles etc...
- b) Forecasters were able to predict the armyworm occurrences and notify the community members on its possible developments in religious centers, community centers, markets, public assemblies etc....
- c) The Short Message Service (SMS) Technology was developed to report armyworm outbreak alerts issued by the community forecasters

b) Impediments/constraints

- a) Insecurity- mad people interfering with the traps.
- b) Inadequate means of transport for extension staff to move and assist in case of outbreak.
- c) Inadequate logistical support
- d) Few extension staff in the field.
- e) Insufficient budget to achieve some milestones especially in monitoring
- f) Some villages were too large for one trap

Recommendations

- a) National Governments/Districts should absorb or incorporate the system in their annual programs, ensure the supply of material and financial inputs and show their commitment and willingness for its sustainability as they asserted in written pledges prior to the start of the project as well as during the course of the program implementation (e.g., at the DLCO and IRLCO annual meetings, several ministers

expressed their appreciations of the project and commitments to carry it forward with regular support from the national and regional administration; ...).

- b) DLCO-EA should get involved with the issue of supplying Armyworm monitoring equipment to the region.
- c) To exempt duty and other taxes on the program inputs in order to make it affordable for the farmers, DLCO-EA Base Managers should make follow-up of the duty exemption.
- d) Armyworm outbreak reports should be provided by DLCO-EA Base Managers who are working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture of their respective countries (this is not clear; can you please, explain?).
- e) Communication is a very important tool in CBAMFEW program and therefore, it has to be addressed with emphasis on its importance and considering it as one of the components of the forecasting system.
- f) Governments should support the positive impact of the project, train other stakeholders and expand the initiative to other localities after the donor pullout. DLCO-EA also should have the same role and take part in scaling-up of the program (please, clarify where the scaling up should take place, in the same countries or other countries?).
- g) The Cell phone technology should be studied well and be expanded to involve more villages nationally and as well as regionally.
- h) DLCO-EA and Member countries should consider developing project proposals and seek funds to support the sustainability of the CBAMFEW initiative and diversify it to other locations.

Acknowledgement

- 1) USAID for direct funding of this project
- 2) Ministry of Agriculture offices in Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania for the implementation of this project.