



# agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:  
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## BRIEFING DOCUMENT

### FALLARMY WORM (FAW) UPDATE FEBRUARY 2018

#### 1. Background

Fall Armyworm (FAW) is a quarantine pest for South Africa, with an internationally documented wide host range. It is a notifiable pest in South Africa and regulated in terms of the Agricultural Pests Act 1983 (Act No. 36) of 1983 and the relevant regulations.

The presence of FAW in South Africa was confirmed on 3 February 2017 with positive morphological and molecular identification of caterpillars and adult moths. The presence of the pest was announced on the International Plant Protection Convention's portal in terms of South Africa's international pest reporting obligations. SADC member countries were also notified and regional control measures were discussed.

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) initiated a Fall Armyworm Steering Committee (FAWSC) which is a technical group investigating the best possible solutions to combat the FAW. The FAWSC membership includes representatives from the North West University (NWU), Agricultural Research Council (ARC), CropLife, Grain SA, South African national Seed Organisation (SANSOR), South African Biological Control Organisation (SABO), Insecticide Resistance Action Committee (IRAC), Provincial Departments of Agriculture and is chaired by DAFF. The stakeholders in the FAW Steering Committee have the following objectives.

- DAFF (monitoring, diagnostic, developed the model for management and control of the pest which was submitted to FAO), awareness, training, pesticide registration, legislation and enforcing)
- Provincial Departments (monitoring, extension support, awareness)
- ARC and Universities (research, diagnostics, training)
- CropLife SA and IRAC (Pesticide companies, registration, resistance monitoring)
- Producer organisations (Grain SA, SANSOR, etc. for monitoring, awareness and training)
- Private companies (monitoring, diagnostics, support)

The FAWSC is responsible for discussing and evaluating, among others, the surveillance programme, awareness programme, scouting methods, diagnostics, management practices, intervention by provincial Departments of Agriculture and relevant stakeholders, damage/loss assessment and future research on FAW and the development of Control Measures in terms of the Agricultural Pests Act.

## **2. Current Status in RSA**

The FAW is probably in most of the maize production areas within the country. However, the infestation is very limited in some provinces. These include the following provinces: Gauteng, Mpumalanga, North West, Free State and Eastern Cape. High infestation occurs in Limpopo province and the Umkhanyakude District Municipality, in KZN. The infestation also appears to increase also in Mpumalanga (This was not captured on the status map (see attached) at the time of this report). No report of the pest in Northern Cape and Western Cape.

**Affected provinces:** There are no details from reports for the affected districts in Gauteng, North West and Mpumalanga for this report.

### **Limpopo:**

District Municipality: Capricorn, Sekhukhune, Waterberg, Vhembe and Musina District Municipalities.

Hectares Affected: 4316 ha

**Kwa-Zulu Natal:**

District Municipality: Umkhanyakude Distric Municipality.

Hectares Affected: 219.1 ha

**Eastern Cape:**

District Municipality: Buffalo City Metro Municipality

Hectares Affected: 14ha

**3. Interventions since 2017****Pesticides registered so far to deal with it**

There are 50 registered agrochemicals thus far and they are available in the Departmental website. No new chemicals are registered in 2018.

**What is the picture now compared to last year?**

The infestation level is less than the previous year (2017), since most of the farmers are using and/or spraying registered agrochemicals. There were more chemicals registered during 2017 to control and manage the FAW. Therefore, there are more options to control the pest.

**Provincial Actions:**

**DAFF:** Submitted research needs to the Directorate Policy Research for 2018. There are currently no funds rolled out for the research. The Daff continues to conduct surveillance, awareness and coordination of all national, monthly reporting and steering committee meetings. Responsible, together with ARC, for the diagnostic identifications.

**All provinces:** The DAFF has intensified surveillance and trapping in all provinces

- **Eastern Cape:** weekly awareness conducted. Chemical spraying, (so far 14ha also along the coast were sprayed).
- **Gauteng:** Developed and printed awareness material and distributed to the farmers. Allocated R10 million for traps, lures and chemicals.

- **North West:** traps and pheromones procured and distributed to the farmers. Spraying equipment and protein kit (for diagnostic identification) procured. Continuous on-house Diagnostic training offered to all the farmers in the province
- **Limpopo:** the province spent R2.2 million towards chemicals which were provided to 714 affected farmers.

#### **Other Stakeholders:**

**ARC:** Responsible for diagnostic identification

**GrainSA:** Awareness campaign

**SANSOR:** Responsible for scouting and surveillance and awareness, training

**CROPLIFE:** Provides field training on trapping.

**FAO:** Provides traps and pheromone lures for monitoring and also sponsored the training workshops on diagnostic identification and surveillance. Coordinates research inputs within SADC.

#### **Does the department have the situation under control?**

The situation is under control and through regular engagement with different stakeholders from which include the provincial authorities. The implementation of the control measures relating to FAW is in ongoing and compliance with regard to reporting to the DAFF of any occurrence or suspected occurrence is being done in accordance with the Law.

#### **Any likelihood of further outbreaks?**

The public must be made aware that the pest might probably spread to lower warmer areas later in the season as similar to last year. But, the Department has allocated a budget to deal with the matter. Scouting has been intensified and more awareness being conducted.