## Fall Armyworm (FAW) on Maize

*Spodoptera frugiperda*

### Prevention
- Plant early with the first rains as Fall Armyworm (FAW) populations build up later in the crop season.
- Avoid planting at different times as this provides a continuous source of food for FAW.
- If available, plant maize varieties developed with resistance to FAW.
- Consider planting short maturity maize varieties.
- Ensure optimum use of fertilizer for strong maize plants able to compensate for pest damage.
- Keep the area around the plot free of weedy grasses.
- Conserve wildlife shelters and flowering plants on the field edges for beneficial insects.
- Intercrop maize with less susceptible crops such as beans.

### Scouting
- Start scouting as soon as the maize emerges.
- Scout 10-20 consecutive plants in 5 different locations of the field and calculate % of infestation (See Scouting Form).
- Look for signs of FAW feeding:
  - FAW are easiest to control when they are small.
  - FAW are extremely hard to find when they are small.
- Look for FAW ‘signs’ in the central emerging leaves (whorl): Light coloured patches (“window panes”) and elongated holes.
- Accumulation of FAW excrement in the whorl.

### Direct control
- This Green Column describes control options that are safest for small holder farmers.
  - On small-scale farms, handpick and destroy the egg masses and larvae.

### Direct control
- This Yellow Column describes control options that require additional safety precautions for small holder farmers.
  - Avoid spraying broad spectrum synthetic insecticides which might kill beneficial insects or harm the applicator.
  - Only select products with proven success in controlling Fall Armyworm.

### Restrictions
Note: The effectiveness of available pesticides is currently being tested. This will be completed in the future.

- Avoid spraying broad spectrum synthetic insecticides which might kill beneficial insects or harm the applicator.
- Only select products with proven success in controlling Fall Armyworm.

### Decision point:
- At early whorl stage (knee high), take action if >20% of plants are damaged.
- At late whorl stage (shoulder high), take action if >40% of whorls are freshly damaged.
- At tassel and silk stage, do not spray anymore.

### South Sudan

**CREATED/UPDATED:** April 2018  
**AUTHORS:** Written by CABI. This PMDG is produced with support from Feed the Future, contact fallarmyworm@usaid.gov  
**Plantwise is supported by a consortium of donors. See www.plantwise.org.**  
**EDITED BY:** Plantwise