INTEGRATED WARNING AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR FALL ARMYWORM

What
The Feed the Future Developing Local Extension Capacity (DLEC) project, in partnership with the Feed the Future Ethiopia Value Chain Activity (FTF-EVCA) implemented by Fintrac, is testing a multi-pronged, digital data-driven approach to mitigate the effects of Fall Armyworm for smallholder farmers in Ethiopia.

Why
The Fall Armyworm (FAW) has infested approximately a quarter of the 2.6 million hectares of land planted with maize since 2017 in Ethiopia.

The Government of Ethiopia has established a National Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on FAW to respond to the devastation caused by the pest.

The DLEC Engagement aims to support the TAC prevent and mitigate FAW by leveraging a suite of digital tools to track FAW spread in real-time and deliver tailored solutions to extension agents and smallholder farmers at scale.

Farmer Reach
18,852 farmers in 33 woredas in Amhara and Oromia regions

Partners
Ministry of Agriculture, Agricultural Transformation Agency, Regional Bureaus of Agriculture, Fintrac, CIMMYT

Timeline
May 2018 - September 2019

This factsheet is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of Digital Green and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.
**How**

**CHANNEL 1**

**VIDEO-ENABLED EXTENSION**
Extension agent shows socially-relevant videos on FAW mitigation

**CHANNEL 2**

**NATIONAL IVR Q&A FORUM**
Farmer reports FAW sighting and requests inputs via IVR

**CHANNEL 3**

**FAMEWS**
(Fall Armyworm Monitoring and Early Warning System)
Data is collected via pheromone traps on FAW sightings

TAC makes targeted evidence-based decisions on where, when and how to target FAW mitigation efforts based on data from all three channels

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**Results & Learnings**

With the screening of 19 videos on FAW scouting, identification and management, the engagement demonstrated how videos can help combat FAW, with nearly one third of farmers who saw a video adopting the promoted practices. While the video-based extension was effective in itself, the effort to target farmers by integrating data encountered several obstacles. We learned that to use data for early detection and management of pests and diseases, the initial design of what, when and how data is collected should take into account potential integration challenges. DLEC focused on building the capacity of the MoA Crop Protection Directorate and expects that the Government will sustain this integrated approach going forward.

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