FEED THE FUTURE
The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

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

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INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE — IFPRI

gfras — global forum for rural advisory services / forum mondial pour le conseil rural / foro global para los servicios de asesoría rural

How

CHANNEL 1

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

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CHANNEL 2

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

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CHANNEL 3

FAMEWS
(Fall Armyworm Monitoring and Early Warning System) Data is collected via pheromone traps on FAW sightings
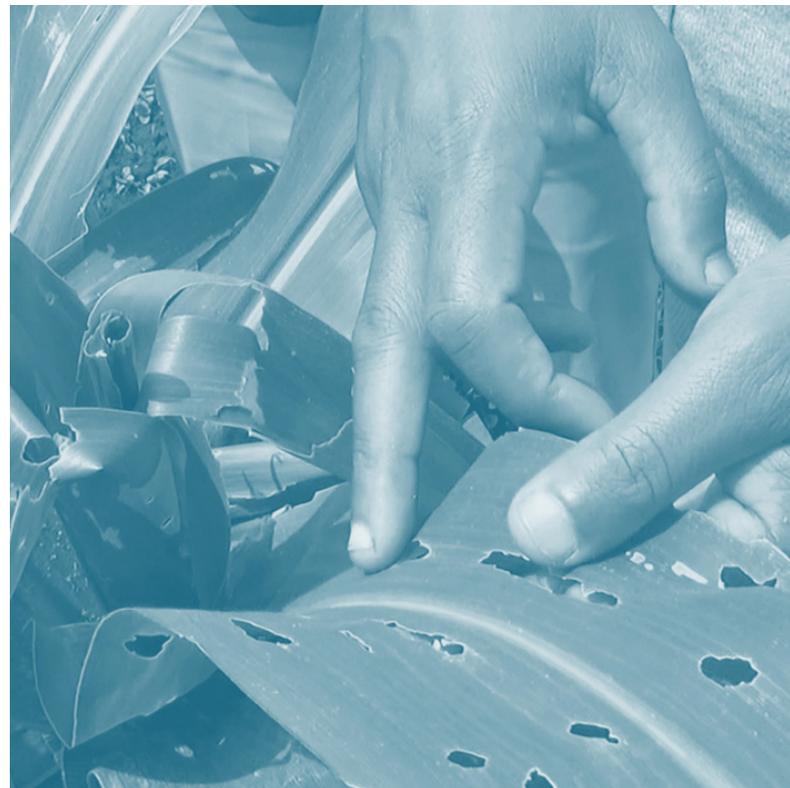
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TAC makes targeted evidence-based decisions on where, when and how to target FAW mitigation efforts based on data from all three channels

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.

Contacts

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