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FALL ARMYWORM REGIONAL TRAINING AND AWARENESS GENERATION WORKSHOP

USAID, CIMMYT and IITA, in partnership with ECOWAS, organized the **West Africa Fall Armyworm (FAW) Regional Training and Awareness Generation Workshop in the premises of IITA-Cotonou and the newly established Biorisk Management Facility (BIMAF), Benin, Feb 13-15, 2018**. The training was attended by more than **85** participants from the 15 ECOWAS member states (including resource persons).



The training included the following modules:

- FAW Scouting, Monitoring and Surveillance
- Synthetic Pesticides and Pesticide Risk Management
- Biological Control of FAW

- Visit to IITA FAW-affected Field (for demonstration of FAW and its symptoms, scouting protocol, pheromone traps, and safe application of pesticides)
- Visit to IITA Biocontrol Unit (for demonstration of rearing of natural enemies of FAW) and Insect Museum
- Host Plant Resistance to FAW
- Cultural Control and Sustainable Agro-ecological Management
- Developing an effective FAW response country-wise in West Africa

One of the most attractive sessions of the training was the microscope-aided demonstration of fall armyworm pest stages and natural enemies, conducted by IITA FAW expert Dr Georg Goergen. Another exciting session was the visit to IITA irrigated maize production field naturally affected by FAW, where participants learnt, how to scout and report, how to install pheromone traps, and safe pesticide application.

FAW represents one of the model pest species of the newly established Biorisk Management Facility (BIMAF) which is a multi-stakeholder platform initiated by IITA under CORAF/WECARD authority to sustainably address biotic stresses management in a changing climate through a one-health approach. The participants had the opportunity to visit BIMAF FAW and natural enemies rearing unit where *Telenomus remus* and *Cotesia marginiventris* were demonstrated as candidates quarantine parasitoids to further serve classical biological control programmes. One of the true IITA assets which undertakes diagnostics and offers free accurate identification services of arthropods and mites supported by barcoding is the Biodiversity Centre, the largest insects and mites reference collection in West and Central Africa. This Biodiversity Centre where FAW was detected for the first time in Africa offered to participants a broad view of possibilities of collaboration between national plant protection organizations and international partners like IITA to sustainably manage invasive species in a climate smart manner.

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IPM INNOVATION LAB PRESENTS WEBINARS ON NEEM AND TRICHODERMA

Over the past year, the Feed the Future IPM Innovation Lab at Virginia Tech has conducted two successful webinars: one on the subject of neem, a ubiquitous tree in Asia, Africa, and Central America with natural insecticidal properties, and the other on *Trichoderma*, a genus of fungi, present in all soils, that is an antagonist to harmful fungal species. On October 18, 2017, the IPM IL launched the neem webinar, focusing specifically on utilizing neem as a botanical pesticide and the potential for farmers and entrepreneurs to develop local neem production, marketing and utilization opportunities. Dr. Murray B. Isman of the University of British Columbia, Vancouver discussed the chemistry and biological activity of neem. Dr. Philip C. Stevenson of the University of Greenwich, London discussed botanical pesticides in IPM with a special emphasis on neem. Dr. Ramesh C. Saxena, Founder and Chairman of the Neem Foundation in India, discussed neem as a

tactic for ecological pest and vector management, and environmental conservation. The webinar emphasized the high value of neem, but also its challenges, potential, and the many ways in which is it used as a combatant against crop pests.

On February 28, 2018, the *Trichoderma* webinar similarly gathered experts to discuss the “fighting fungus”. Dr. S. Nakkeeran, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, India made a presentation on the popularization of *Trichoderma* technology, Dr. Yousuf Mian, an IPM Innovation Lab Coordinator in Bangladesh, presented on Tricho-compost and plant disease management, and Mr. Rabin Adhikari, Director of Agricare in Nepal, discussed the commercialization of *Trichoderma*. The webinar on *Trichoderma* highlighted the fungi’s unique properties, stories of its success, and its contribution to local economies. With each webinar, and with more to come in the future, the IPM IL team is able to contextualize the management and implementation of IPM technologies as well as extrapolate upon their performance and impact while reaching both local and global audiences interested in the subjects.

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IAPPS Mission: to provide a global forum for the purpose of identifying, evaluating, integrating, and promoting plant protection concepts, technologies, and policies that are economically, environmentally, and socially acceptable.

It seeks to provide a global umbrella for the plant protection sciences to facilitate and promote the application of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to the world’s crop and forest ecosystems.

Membership Information: IAPPS has four classes of membership (individual, affiliate, associate, and corporate) which are described in the IAPPS Web Site www.plantprotection.org.

The *IAPPS Newsletter* welcomes news, letters, and other items of interest from individuals and organizations. Address correspondence and information to:

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