



18 June 2018

(18-3777)

Page: 1/3

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

OUTLOOK ON ECOWAS IMPLEMENTED SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY ACTIVITIES DURING THE PERIOD OF MARCH – JUNE 2018

COMMUNICATION FROM ECOWAS-USAID SENIOR SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY (SPS) STANDARDS ADVISOR

The following communication, received on 12 June 2018, is being circulated at the request of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. The USAID/West Africa Regional Mission works to support the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to advance their vision to create an economic union and common market. In line with this objective ECOWAS is implementing many agreements designed to support the free movement of goods and people throughout the region. In standards, a USAID/West Africa Cost Reimbursement Implementation Letter no 2 was signed between CILSS and USAID/West Africa. It is through this agreement focus will be on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) standards.

1.2. With reference to the approved 2018-2019 work plan and in view of improving and strengthening SPS activities in the ECOWAS region the following activities were implemented during the period of March-June 2018:

2 PLANT HEALTH AND PLANT PROTECTION

2.1. The recent introduction of the fall armyworm (FAW) as well as the discovery of the new alien invasive pest identified in West Africa and its growing threat to agriculture and food security have caused much concern in about 44 countries in the sub-Saharan region including 15 West African countries. The FAW is a crop-destroying worm and can cause high damage to maize, rice, sorghum, vegetables. These attributes have made the control of FAW a challenging task. There have been efforts to sensitize, build capacity for the pest identification, knowledge sharing and a study tour. Overall, development of management options has mobilized international experts and the national capacities of affected countries and raised general attention to caterpillar attacks on various crops. It is in this line that a high-level FAW study tour in Brazil (visited cities Brazilia, Sete Lagoas) was organized with the support of USAID in collaboration with USDA, EMBRAPA, CIMMYT, Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), from 24-29 March 2018. Participants were member States: Malawi, Kenya, Uganda, Mozambique, Nigeria, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Zambia, Ethiopia; organizations: FAO, AUC, ECOWAS, SADC, AATF; private sector: Syngenta, AgBiTech, Corteva Agriscience™, IntreXon Crop Protection.

2.2. The objectives were to (i) demonstrate proven and successful technologies to combat the Fall Armyworm, (ii) understand advantages and limitations of various technologies, (iii) see how institutions are addressing pest problems through sustainable diversification, (iv) learn what makes certain technologies scalable, (v) understand the key policies to develop and apply these technologies in your own countries.

General lessons learnt:

- FAW poses a serious threat to food security and livelihoods of millions of smallholders in Africa. The pest unfortunately here to stay for the long term;
- We still do not know all the answers about the pest and its dynamics in Africa. However, we can certainly learn a lot from countries which have been dealing with this pest for several decades;
- Indiscriminate and extensive use of highly toxic pesticides must stop. We need to adopt ecologically and environmentally-friendly and IPM-based technologies/management practices for sustainability;
- Need for well-coordinated and rapid responses at the national, regional and continental levels.

Specific lessons learnt:

2.3. A wide range of proven and successful technologies to combat the Fall Armyworm demonstrated (both theory and field visit).

- EMBRAPA maize and sorghum and *Trichogramma* wasp (biocontrol);
- Crop-livestock integration;
- Irrigated maize field and *Trichogramma* wasp (release in the field using drone technology, intensive agriculture);
- Use of neem leaves (*Azadirachta indica*) extract;
- Use of genetically modified organisms (GMO crops) such as Bt maize.

2.4. It is important to note that:

- Each farm is unique and requires a combination of technologies (IPM);
- Use of technology is scaled to fit the size of the farm and cost-benefit impact;
- Use of GM maize seeds is an effective tool to control FAW in combination with other technologies;
- Use of *Trichogramma* in combination with natural predators like earwigs to control some of the FAW infestation;
- Advantages and limitations of these various technologies understood;
- EMBRAPA demonstration field as well as supported farmers field visited and application of IPM to combat FAW shown;
- Certain technologies scalable, and that can fit in the African context selected;
- Key policies to develop understood (policy on GMO, Biocontrol application);
- Visit of *Trichogramma* biofactory, JB Biotechnology.

Take home messages:

2.5. Following the successful FAW study tour in Brazil, there is need to:

- Convene in the short time a regional meeting for restitution (feedback to member States, NPPOs) of the outcomes of the FAW study tour in Brazil with focus on the potential technologies available to control FAW;
- Pilot biocontrol technologies in selected member States (short and mid-term action);
- Organize awareness campaigns to sensitize policy-makers, politicians, parliamentarians on benefits to adopt GMO in controlling FAW;
- Initiate/start dialogue for policy review;
- Exploring possibility for signing MoU with EMBRAPA, ABC for collaboration on the effective management of FAW in ECOWAS member countries (long term action).

2.6. Further the ECOWAS Commission will seek and initiate dialogue with member States for policy review, facilitate the signing of MOU with EMBRAPA, ABC for collaboration on the effective management of FAW in ECOWAS member countries (long term action) and finally ensure better coordination of harmonized IPM based technologies to control FAW at regional level.

3 ATTENDANCE AT REGIONAL, INTERNATIONAL SPS FORA

3.1. The ECOWAS Commission were represented at regional and international meetings including:

- Participation to the 9th Pan African national Codex contact point officer meeting from 17-18 May 2018, Nairobi, Kenya to harmonize common position on matters of interest to be discussed at the 41st session of Codex Alimentation Commission to be held in Rome, Italy, from 2-6 July 2018;
- Participation to the Global Food Security Strategy Development – Regional Strategy Development meeting in Accra, Ghana, from 30 May – 01 June 2018.

4 CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

4.1. The ECOWAS Commission take this opportunity to thank USAID Regional office, West Africa, USDA, USDA-APHIS, European Union, AU-IBAR and all partners and donors for their continuing support in advancing SPS issues in the ECOWAS region and beyond. The ECOWAS Commission also want to call for more collaboration, support for future implementation of actions to better address SPS matters in the region.
