Sub: Advisory on incidence of Fall Army Worm (FAW) *Spodoptera frugiperda* on Maize - regarding.

Sir,

It is to bring to your notice that FAW is now reported on Maize in most of the maize growing States. The pest was effectively managed during Kharif, 2019 through IPM approach, further regular rainfall during active growth stage of Maize resulted in suppression of FAW.
In the coming Rabi season, FAW may cause serious damage to Maize in the absence of regular rainfall. Therefore, it is requested to take all possible precautionary measures to minimize the effect of FAW during Rabi, 2019-20.

The following strategies are suggested to contain and suppress the FAW:

- Follow deep ploughing before sowing. This will expose FAW pupae to predators.
- Timely and uniform sowing over a large area is advised. Avoid staggered sowing.
- Encourage cultivation of maize hybrids with tight husk cover to reduce ear damage by FAW.
- Ensure compulsory seed treatment with Cyantraniliprole 19.8% + Thiamethoxam 19.8% FS @ 6 ml/kg of seed. This will provide effective protection against FAW for 15-20 days.
- Follow intercropping of maize with suitable pulse crops.
- Erection of bird perches @ 10/acre during early stage of the crop (up to 30 days).
- Sowing of 3-4 rows of trap crops (e.g. Napier) around maize field and spray with 5% NSKE or Azadiractin 1500 ppm as soon as the trap crop shows symptom of FAW damage.
- Collect and destroy egg mass and young larvae present in field.
- Application of dry sand in to the whorl of affected maize plants soon after observation of FAW incidence in the field.
- Application of Sand + lime in 9:1 ration in whorls in first thirty days of sowing.
- Install pheromone traps in field @ 15/acre to monitor and manage FAW.
- Eggs parasitoids such as Trichogramma sp. and Telemonus remus can be released for destroying the egg stage of FAW (avoid spraying chemical pesticides for few days during the time of release in the field).
- Entomopathogenic fungi such as Metarhizium anisopliae, Nomuraea rileyi, Beauveria bassiana and Verticillium lecani may be extensively used for management of the pest.
- The following chemical pesticides such as Spinetoram 11.7% SC or Chlorantraniliprole 18.5% SC or Thiamethoxam 12.6%+Lambda cyhalothrin 9.5% ZC may be applied up to early tasselling stage for controlling FAW. The chemical pesticides should be used on rotation basis.
- The focus may be given to suppress, contain and eradicate the pest at the earliest.
- IPM package of practices for Maize need to be promoted. The IPM package of practices can be downloaded from http://ppqs.gov.in/ipm-packages.
- Package of practices for management of FAW on maize need to be promoted. The IPM package of practices can be downloaded from http://ppqs.gov.in/advisories.
- Insecticides must be used as recommended by Central Insecticide Board and Registration Committee (CIB&RC).

Regular meetings of State Pest Surveillance & Advisory Unit (SPSAU) and District Pest Surveillance and Advisory units (DPSAU) may be conducted. The hot spots of FAW should be identified for survey and teams may be constituted for regular monitoring of FAW situation and adoption of need based plant protection measures to avoid economic loss. Timely supply of quality pesticides/ bio-pesticides for the control of FAW on Maize should be ensured.

In view of the above, it is requested to monitor the maize crop on regular basis and if major incidence of FAW is reported by the farmers, extension functionaries and even through newspapers or other sources, survey of the affected fields may be conducted immediately and the concerned officials at the district/division/block may be advised to take the suitable plant protection measures immediately. The detailed information may also be sent to the Directorate through email ppa@nic.in urgently to apprise the same to Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare.

Yours faithfully

(Rajesh Malik)
Plant Protection Adviser

Copy to:
1. Additional Secretary(PP), MoA&FW, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110001
2. Joint Secretary(PP), DAC&FW, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110001
3. PS to PPA
4. Officer In-charges of RCIPMCs- Lucknow and Guwahati & CIPMCs- Patna, Aizwal, Imphal, Shillong, Dimapur, Itanagar, Agartala and Gangtok.