Sub:- Advisory on exotic pest Fall Army Worm (FAW) *Spodoptera frugiperda* on Maize and Sorghum crop at Tamilnadu and Maharashtra state-reg.

Sir,

I have the honour to bring your kind notice that the incidence of FAW has been reported at Moderate level on Maize crop in Tamilnadu Maharashtra state and reported at Moderate level on Sorghum crop in Maharashtra state.

Following strategies are suggested to contain, suppress and eradicate the pest population.

1. Extensive surveys need to be initiated to map the prevalence and spread of the pest.
2. All approaches for managing Fall Army Worm with the use of available resources may be taken up.
3. Entomopathogenic fungi such as *Metarhizium anisopliae*, *Nomuraea releyi*, may be extensively used for management of the pest.
4. Eggs parasitoids such as *Trichogramma* *sp.* And *Telemonus remus* can be released for destroying the egg stage of FAW. (Avoid spraying any chemical pesticides for few days during the time of release in the field)
5. Install pheromone traps in field to know the status of moths.
6. Follow clean cultivation practices in field which will expose the fall armyworm pupae to birds and other predators, helps in reducing the fall armyworm population.

7. Collect and destroy egg masses and young larvae present in field.

8. The following chemical pesticides such as Dimethoate 30% EC and Thiamethoxam 12.6% + Lambda cyhalothrin 9.5% ZC which is recommended for Lepidopteran pests of Maize may be applied for controlling *Spodoptera frugiperda*.

9. The focus may be given to suppress, contain and eradicate the pest at the earliest.


   For this purpose, regular meetings with State Pest Surveillance & Advisory Unit (SPSAU) and District Pest Surveillance & Advisory Units (DPSAU) may be conducted. The host 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 Fall Army Worm on Maize should be ensured.

   In view of the above, it is requested to monitor the Maize and Sorghum on regular basis and if major incidence of FAW is reported by the farmers, extension functionaries and even through the newspapers or other source, survey of the affected area may be conducted immediately and the concerned officials at the Division/District/Block may be advised to take suitable plant protection measures immediately. The detailed status report may be sent to this Directorate through Fax (Nos. 0129-2412125 or 011-23384182) or e-mail: ppa@nic.in urgently to apprise 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.
2. Joint Secretary (PP), DAC&FW, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. Agriculture Commissioner, Room No. 231, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. PS to PPA.
5. Officers I/Cs of CIPMCs- Trichy, Nagpur and Nasik for close watch of this pest.
6. IT-cell, DPPQ&S