

Monitoring and Scouting Techniques

for Fall armyworm

Best practices, challenges and lessons learned from Rwanda, Uganda
and Burundi using CBFAMFEW experience.

Technology Transfer Unit

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Monitoring

- Monitoring is essentially finding the presence or absence of the target pest in an area of interest.
- Successful monitoring can only be done with a good knowledge about the biology and feeding behaviour of the target pest
- The exercise can be done visually by visiting farms or with the help of traps



Signs

- Excrements
- Presence of predators
- Presence of larvae
- Trap catches (pheromone)

Symptoms

- Characteristic damage

Surveillance

Repeated survey of abundance, behavior, damage, or other parameters for the purpose of information gathering to make an informed decision

- Surveillance requires a systematic data collection
- Should be done with trained personnel
- Need based (infestation, severity, weather data, data, etc.) should be collected



Scouting

- Is the process of quantifying the amount and or the level of infestation
- While monitoring provides information on the presence or absence, scouting will provide the level of intensity and guide decision making
- Percent infestation and severity of infestation are the key outputs of scouting



Community Based Fall Armyworm Monitoring Forecasting and Early Warning (CBFAMFEW)

The project aimed to strengthen institutional capacity to build resilience by creating awareness and supporting early warning and information management systems, building community-level resilience thereby improving the livelihoods of vulnerable rural communities in the Eastern Africa.



Specific out put of the project

- A sound community-based Fall armyworm monitoring and reporting system to be developed.
- Effective and reliable community-based early warning system for the FAW to be developed and maintained.
- Capacity building for several technical personnel, Community Focal Persons (CFPs) and community members including farmers.

Planned activities/achievements

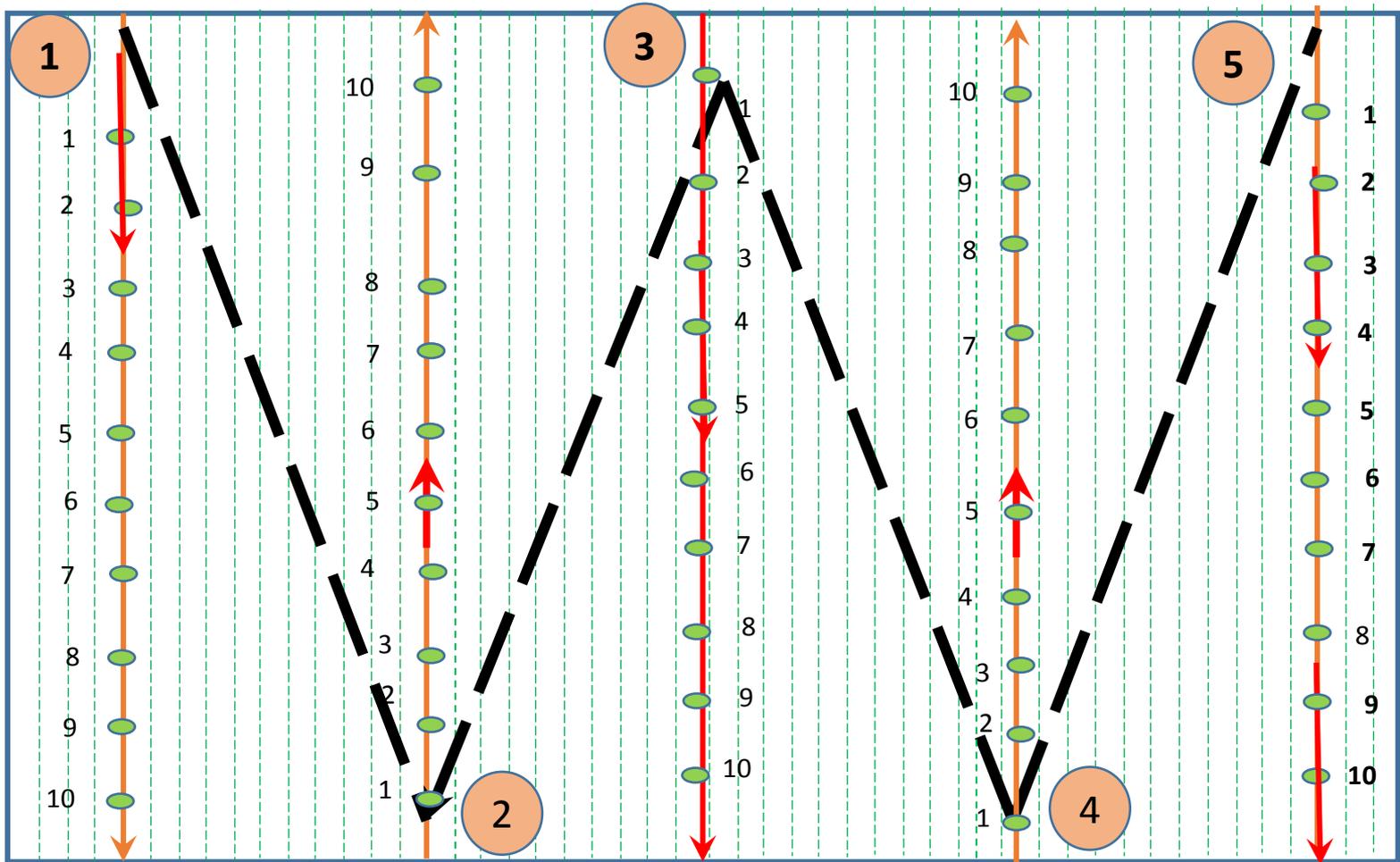
- National ToT for Fall armyworm personnel in Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda;
- District level stakeholders meeting (awareness creation) in selected FAW prone districts;
- Training of 160 community focal persons (CFPs)
- Field monitoring tools and (pheromone, traps and accessories) installation and deployment;
- Season-long monitoring and technical backstopping
- Field days
- National workshops

How the project was implemented

- The project was implemented in three countries, Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda
- Five districts in each country and 10 villages in each district making 50 villages/country;
- 4 CFPs including the village head, village agricultural officer and 2 Community Focal Persons (CFPs).

Scouting ('W' or zigzag)

Randomly select 10 plants



Best practices and challenges during CBFAMFEW implementation

- Best practices

- Community empowerment to monitor, scout and report back FAW abundance and damage
- Resident trainers on existing and emerging pest problems and their management
- The use of mobile phones to collect large amount of data and its importance for timely decision making
- Farmers knowledge and excitement to learn about the presence of natural enemies



Best practices and challenges during CBFAMFEW implementation

Major challenges

- Mobile network unavailability
- Frequent power problems to charge mobile phones
- Regular software updates and subsequent challenges to provide technical backstopping
- Damage or theft of mobile phones



Thank you



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