

Agrochemicals Association of Kenya (AAK) enhances the fight against Fall Army Worm in Kenya.

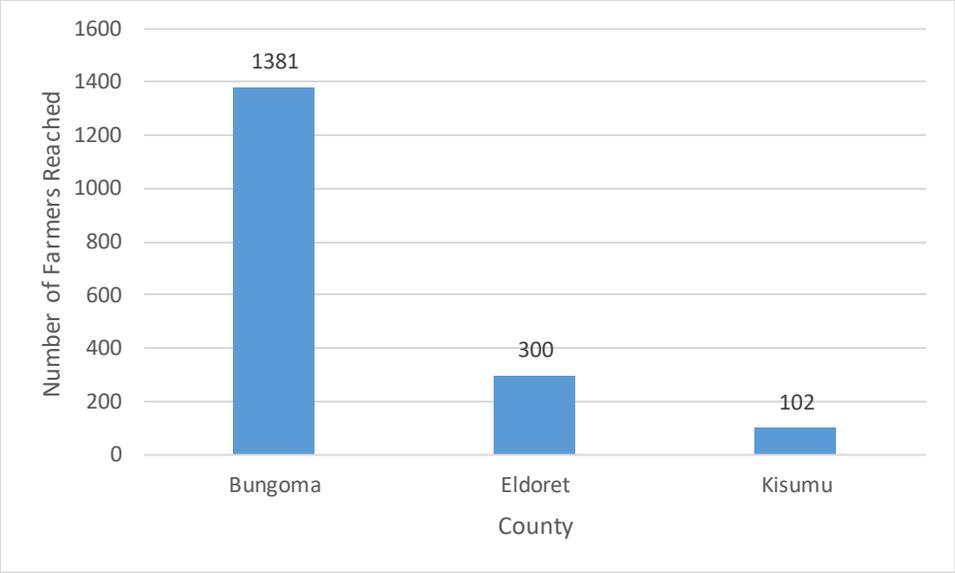
The Fall Army worm (FAW) - *Spodoptera frugiperda* pest continues to threaten food security in Kenya. To combat the spread of FAW across the country that could cause extensive yield losses in crops attacked especially Maize production which is a staple for many households in the country, the Agrochemicals Association of Kenya (AAK) has scaled up its efforts to deal with this scourge.

Since the pest was reported in Kenya, AAK has been raising awareness through Farmer Field Days, Exhibitions, seminars and Workshop on Fall Army Worm. This is particularly targeting Extension Officers, Technical Staff, Selected Farmers and General Farmers in different counties. The aim of the programme is to educate the target groups on the various approaches which they can adopt in control of FAW. One of these is an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach. In the case of IPM, immediate recommendations include; awareness on FAW symptoms, early detection and control including beneficial agronomic practices available. Another approach is national preparation and communication of a list of recommended and regulated pesticides and bio pesticides and their appropriate application methods.

This will ensure affected rural communities can learn how to effectively monitor the situation of FAW in their respective localities. This will in turn facilitate timely and effective control actions for army worms to minimize and avoid crop losses in the country. Over the past three months, AAK in collaboration with its stakeholders has managed to hold Farmer Field Days awareness campaigns on FAW in three (3) counties i.e Bungoma, Kisumu and Uasin Gishu.

The Programme is a joint effort by AAK and its member companies, respective county governments, Kenya Markets Trust (KMT), Pest Control Products Board (PCPB), Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), Ward Agricultural Officers (WAOs) and other stakeholders.

To ensure a good number of farmers were reached, AAK adopted different strategies including; Bulk SMS to farmers, Local Radio Adverts, Review Meetings with relevant stakeholders, Use of Mobilization Caravans Tools, Transport Vehicles (for transporting farmers to and fro their respective wards) among others. The number of farmers reached per county for this quarter is summarized by the chart below;



FAW Campaign in Bungoma, Mabanga ATC



SSPs during the event