

Agrochemicals Association of Kenya



**REPORT ON WORKSHOP AND EXHIBITIONS HELD IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH KENYA MARKETS TRUST.**



**KIAMBU
KIRINYAGA
TRANS NZOIA
MIGORI
UASIN GISHU**



The agrochemical Association of Kenya -AAK and the Kenya Markets Trust -KMT launched a partnership to promote the improvement of extension service delivery via technology and information dissemination. Pursuant to this, AAK was to organize county level workshops and exhibitions in 10 counties of Kenya with the main objective of bridging the information gap at extension level in relation to current technologies, innovations and best practices in pest management and food safety.

AAK enlisted the Pest Control Products Board, Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services, Horticulture crops Directorate of Agriculture and Food Authority, the Fresh Produce Exporters Association of Kenya, Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate services, Centre for Agricultural and biosciences international and the County Governments of Kiambu, Kirinyaga, Trans Nzoia, Uasin Gishu and Migori to hold the monthly events which ran from 27th April to 21st July 2017.

The seminars were directed at extension staff where 248 officers alongside 245 farmer leaders from the 5 counties were directly contacted. The seminars addressed issues that had been identified participatorily as impediments to achievement of high yields or access to markets. Alongside the seminars, were farmers' exhibitions where 1,315 farmers received advice from AAK member companies on good agricultural practices and value addition opportunities from invited stakeholders.



Participants follow the proceedings during the Kiambu and Kirinyaga seminars (right)

In Kiambu and Kirinyaga counties, the discussions and presentations dwelt on adherence to food safety, where practices that lead to high pesticide residues and their mitigation were deliberated.

Measures to counter the threat of counterfeit pesticides also featured prominently in the presentations where participants were informed on how to identify and avoid counterfeits as well as the importance of peer education of individuals in society (mainly the illiterate and

economically challenged) who are especially vulnerable to counterfeiters.

Adoption of climate smart agriculture and market opportunities that are available for horticultural producers were highlighted with further discussion to take place at the farmer group level.

In Trans Nzoia, Uasin Gishu and Migori Counties of western Kenya, the farmers were in the middle of a Fall army worm outbreak which was threatening their crop of maize. The seminars in these 3 counties therefore gravitated towards an integrated pest management approach on how to cope with the new invasive pest.



Presentations were made by experts on;

- The life cycle of the fall armyworm, identification of the various stages with emphasis on the destructive stages as well as pupation habits and adult behavior.
- The cultural and biological options available for management of the pest which included the use of *Bacillus thuringiensis*, neem products and use of traps for monitoring and mass snaring. Participants were given updates on the progress of research on identification of promising fall armyworm resistant/tolerant varieties and natural enemies.
- The pesticide options available to farmers for management of fall armyworm as approved by the Pest Control Products Board.



Farmer listen attentively to advise on Fall ArmyWorm (FAW) Management

Owing to some similar symptoms, many farmers had mistaken the pest for the more common maize stalk borer and a few could distinguish it from the African armyworm from its common name. There was confusion on the appropriate insecticides to use with some farmers using trial and error in desperation. The farmers and extension staff were given the recommendations of the PCPB for fall armyworm control as well as information on the responsible use of these pesticides which includes rotation of pesticides with different modes of action to prevent the development of resistance.





The exhibitions were graced by AAK member companies who were at hand to give information on pest management as well as improved seed varieties. AAK appreciates the support of the 27-member companies who participated in the exhibitions and we are looking to host them in the next phase of the seminars and Exhibitions. Special thanks go to the field coordinator of the events who worked tirelessly to ensure the events were organized and executed according to plans. The efforts of the various county planning committees are also much appreciated

AAK wishes to particularly acknowledge the immense support from the Kenya Markets Trust in staging the exhibitions and seminars.

