

ASEAN FAW Action News

Issue No. 1 | April 2022



Welcome back!

2022 has got off to a very busy start and we are pleased to share with you some exciting news, including:

- The launch of the IPM Farmers Toolkit for FAW Control Scoping Project in Vietnam.
- Evaluation of the Establishment of a Regional Drones and Data Academy.
- Regulators' Masterclass Biocontrol Training Series.
- Bioprotection Research Masterclass Series.
- Launch of the Co-design process towards the ASEAN Bioprotection Research Centre.

Missed out on some of our webinars from last year?

We had over 10,000 attendees and post-webinar viewers across our series of webinars covering Biocontrol, Resistance, Women as IPM, Drones and Digital IPM.

See <https://www.aseanfawaction.org/videos>

Don't forget to sign up for our new Biocontrol Technical Webinar Series starting Thursday 5 May and 30 June 2022 with the first two sessions exploring Bt Biopesticides.

Featured

Drones and Digital IPM Academy for Southeast Asia?

Drones and digital IPM technologies offer significant opportunities to help improve plant health surveillance and manage plant pests and diseases, including FAW, as well as contribute to broader sustainable agriculture goals. The ASEAN FAW Secretariat is currently commissioning a scoping study to evaluate the potential establishment of a **Drones and Data Academy for Southeast Asia** as a centre for training excellence in the region to facilitate the responsible use of drone technology, data collection and analysis and to support economic development and innovation opportunities through the implementation of precision agriculture. Dr Gajendra Babu is currently undertaking an evaluation of the proposal and is keen to talk to regional stakeholders to get feedback and input on the proposal. If you have an interest in Drones and Digital IPM and would like to participate in this important study please reach out to the team at FAW@growasia.org.

IPM Farmer Toolbox Scoping Study

Dr Joe Huesing is currently leading a Scoping Study, with input from Dr Vi from the Plant Protection Research Institute and Mr Hoang from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, which will look at the design and development of an IPM Farmer Toolkit Pilot project in Vietnam that combines FAW monitoring and management practices, behavioural research and IPM to improve farmer FAW monitoring and management via the development of a "farmer toolbox" of effective tools, technologies, and approaches. This work combines work under all the Work Programmes of the ASEAN FAW Action Plan, with a particular focus on farmer communication and monitoring programmes. More information on the outcomes of the Scoping Study will be shared in a regional webinar this July 2022.

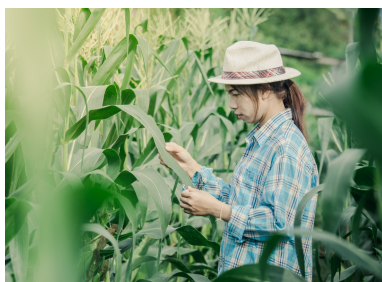
CO-DESIGN LAUNCH: Southeast Asia Bioprotection Research Centre



A key component of the Biocontrol Programme published in August 2021 is the potential establishment of a **Virtual ASEAN Bioprotection Research Centre and Biocontrol Accelerator** to help build ASEAN capacity and capability for the introduction, use, and scale-up of biocontrol technologies and approaches for plant pest and disease management.

We are very pleased to be working with CSIRO, who will be leading a comprehensive co-design process with regional stakeholders to test, design and develop (depending on the outcomes of the co-design process), a proposed framework for a regional Bioprotection Research and Accelerator Centre for Southeast Asia. This is exciting news and more information will be posted shortly on how to get involved in this co-design process.

LAUNCH OF PROGRAMME: WOMEN AS IPM LEADERS



"The important role of women in IPM should be recognized and their needs reflected in the design and implementation of programmes and community extension work. Empowering women as leaders in IPM improves the performance and sustainability of our food systems."

WOMEN AS IPM LEADERS
PROGRAMME

On 7 December 2022, a public regional workshop was held to launch the Women as IPM Leaders programme. Speakers from across the region shared their experiences and insight on the importance of gender-transformative approaches in agriculture.

The session also presented results from a short regional survey of 96 farmers across Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar and the Philippines related to the role of women in agriculture. The survey showed a number of interesting topics that are being further investigated including that women are more involved in pesticide purchase, use and decision-making than assumed prior to the survey and that digital tools may not be as available to women to the extent expected due to less access to smartphones and internet connection.

The webinar and presentation can be downloaded at <https://www.aseanfawaction.org/women-as-ipm-leaders>.

We also welcome **Ms Leandra Fernandes** to the team who will be assisting on the programme. Leandra is currently pursuing a PhD in Plant Biosecurity assessing the socio-economic impact of the Fall Armyworm on smallholder farmers in the Pacific Islands at Griffith University, Brisbane Australia. She has a background in plant health and has worked on various plant pest and disease issues including fruit fly and fusarium wilt in banana plantations.

REGULATORY BIOCONTROL MASTERCLASS SERIES



Our May 2022 Biocontrol Masterclass Series will workshop the process of good regulation of biological technologies. Participants will share progress and report on the success of changes to biocontrol regulation in the region over the last five years, as well as identify where there may be gaps or weaknesses in the current regulatory systems still to be addressed. For biological technologies (microbial, botanical and semiochemical) the following topics will be addressed:

- **Session 1:** 3 May 2022: Summary of regional progress; identity, specification and mode of action
- **Session 2:** 17 May 2022: Human safety
- **Session 3:** 31 May 2022: Environmental fate

15:00 to 17:00 SGT (GMT+8)

Participants will be normally involved in the regulation of biocontrol within governments across Southeast Asia and need to commit to attending all three sessions, where possible. If you would like to attend these sessions - please contact faw@growasia.org.

BIOPROTECTION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH MASTERCLASS SERIES

This Bioprotection Technology Masterclass Research Series will look at ways to streamline research and development and better understand the market readiness of biological technologies that better meet the pressing needs of farmers for new crop protection solutions. The Series will also aim to bring together all the researchers working on biopesticides across Southeast Asia to share work, understand barriers to current research efforts and identify opportunities to better support this important work.

- **Session 1: 26 May 2022:** Meeting market needs - what R&D is needed, how can this innovation be streamlined. Sharing our work across the region.
- **Session 2: 9 June 2022:** Product development process – how to move biological technologies forward towards commercialisation.
- **Session 3: 22 June 2022:** Making products ready for farmers – how biological technologies can be used in agroecological farming and how to co-develop products with farmers.

15:00 to 17:00 SGT (GMT+8)

Participants will be undertaking research on biocontrol technologies within Southeast Asia across any research organisation (e.g. university, plant protection organisation or lab, CGIAR). If you would like to attend these sessions - please contact faw@growasia.org. Masters and doctoral students with an interest in biopesticide research are also welcome to attend.

Both these Masterclass Series are kindly supported by



NEWS

- The **ASEAN FAW Taskforce** met on 24 February 2022 to talk about work being progressed across the region and at the national level. Taskforce Members each gave presentations on the current status of FAW and work. See <https://www.aseanfawaction.org/regionalupdate>
- **New Zealand** reported Fall Armyworm for the first time in March/April 2022.
- **Dr Wee Tek Tay (CSIRO)** spoke at the latest ASEAN FAW Taskforce Meeting and explained the latest work on resistance in the region, as well as his work on understanding the population genomics of FAW. His latest paper, "Global population genomic signature of *Spodoptera frugiperda* (fall armyworm) supports complex introduction events across the Old World" has recently been published.
- The ASEAN FAW Action Plan Secretariat is pleased to announce that **4 part-time project advisors** have been hired. Our project advisors help with gathering information for our Knowledge and Innovation Hub. Welcome to Ratna Rubiana (Indonesia), Ignatius Putra Andika (Indonesia), Samoul Oeurn (Cambodia), and Khamphachanh Sihavong (Lao PDR).

BLOG/FORUM/LINKED IN

Check out our latest **blog** with Cambodian farmer, Mr Ou Run from Tboung Khmum province, who talks about his experience with managing FAW. Mr Ou Run doesn't find FAW easy to manage, particularly when the crop has recently been planted and the young leaves are emerging. He currently applies 4-5 pesticides to control FAW in his maize crop. You can see all our blogs, join one of our Forums or see the latest country updates at <https://www.aseanfawaction.org/community>. Our LinkedIn page is at <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/10544063/>

NEXT EVENTS

All our upcoming events are featured on our Events webpage at: <https://www.aseanfawaction.org/events>

Biocontrol Series - April to July

Bt Biopesticides Part A

Date: 05 May 2022

Time: 16:00-17.30 SGT (GMT+8)

Register: <https://bit.ly/biocontrol1>

Bt Biopesticides Part B

Date: 30 June, 2022

Time: 16:00-17:30 SGT (GMT+8)

Register: <https://bit.ly/biocontrolbt>



ASEAN FAW ACTION PLAN
Supporting IPM Across Southeast Asia

CABI

2022 BIOCONTROL WORKSHOP SERIES

This 7-Part Workshop Series will explore implementation in the field of different biocontrol technologies and approaches

Workshop 1: Bt Biopesticides Part 1
May 05 | 16:00 PM to 17:30 PM SGT (GMT +8) | Register: <https://bit.ly/biocontrol1>

Workshop 2: Bt Biopesticides Part 2
June 30 | 16:00 PM to 17:30 PM SGT (GMT +8) | Register: <https://bit.ly/biocontrolbt>

Workshop 3: New Frontiers
Aug 11 | 16:00 PM to 17:30 PM SGT (GMT +8) | Register: <https://bit.ly/biocontrolNF>

Workshop 4: Baculoviruses
Aug 25 | 16:00 PM to 17:30 PM SGT (GMT +8) | Register: <https://bit.ly/biocontrolNF>

Workshop 5: Nematodes and Fungi
Sep 29 | 16:00 PM to 17:30 PM SGT (GMT +8) | Register: <https://bit.ly/2022bio5>

Workshop 6: Botanicals
Oct 27 | 16:00 PM to 17:30 PM SGT (GMT +8) | Register: <https://bit.ly/botanicals6>

Workshop 7: Semiochemicals
Nov 24 | 16:00 PM to 17:30 PM SGT (GMT +8) | Register: <https://bit.ly/semiochem7>

Logos: Australian Government, CABI, GrowAsia, SUMITOMO CHEMICAL

CONTACT: If you have any questions or would like to reach out please email faw@growasia.org

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