

ASEAN FAW Action News

Issue No. 4 | September 2023

Welcome back!

In this issue we share exciting news on:

- Bioprotection Research Alliance co-design and regional workshops in Bali, Indonesia
- Women as IPM Leaders Programme
- FAO Training and Learning Project
- New Training Videos and Resources on FAW and BPH
- Upcoming webinars: Drones and Farmers, Gender
- Model Demonstration FAW Trials in Vietnam

Videos on our YouTube Channel



Over the last two and half years, we have brought leading experts together in various webinar series to provide learning opportunities and discussions on a range of important topics, covering everything from Fall Armyworm, Biocontrol, Resistance, Women as IPM, Drones and Digital IPM, as well as farmer communication, pesticide use and decision-making. Access all these resources at our YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@aseanfawactionplan>

News Update

CBPSA23, International Conference on BioProtection for Sustainable Agriculture, 26-28th July 2023

This wonderful initiative was organised by five universities in Vietnam with the support of CIRAD (the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development). The goal - to bring together bioprotection researchers from across Vietnam to share work and boost collaboration. It was a fantastic national example of what the Regional Bioprotection Alliance is aiming to do. An important part of the conference was providing an opportunity for a wide range of researchers across Vietnam to present their work and have feedback from the audience. Thanks to Can Tho University for its hosting of this event.



New Publications

A number of recent journal articles have been published over the last 6 months that involve stakeholders from across the Asia-Pacific region. Please check out the following efforts and share your own work with us so we can highlight it on our resources page.

- Tanaka Y, Matsukura K. **Quantitative Effects of Temperature and Exposure Duration on the Occurrence and Repair of Indirect Chilling Injury in the Fall Armyworm *Spodoptera frugiperda***. Insects. 2023; 14(4):356. <https://doi.org/10.3390/insects14040356>
 - **Anyone else in the Asia-Pacific doing work on cold temperature effects on FAW?**
- Rane, R., Walsh, T.K., Lenancker, P. et al. **Complex multiple introductions drive fall armyworm invasions into Asia and Australia**. Sci Rep 13, 660 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-023-27501-x>
 - **This team has been leading multiple research efforts on this topic in Southeast Asia and Australia involving teams across countries.**
- Apirajkamol, N., Hogarty, T. M., Mainali, B., Taylor, P. W., Walsh, T. K., & Tay, W. T. (2023). **Virulence of *Beauveria* sp. and *Metarhizium* sp. fungi towards fall armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*)**. Archives of Microbiology, 205(10), 328.
 - **Anyone else in the region working on entomopathogenic fungi isolates and FAW?**

Featured

Women as IPM Leaders Programme

The Women as IPM Leaders Programme is going from strength to strength due to the incredible motivation of all the researchers and stakeholders involved in this work. Projects, webinars, blogs, training...

Gender Research Project Updates



Three multi-country research projects are currently being conducted by teams working in **Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, the Philippines, and Vietnam**. The projects aim to gain a better understanding on the **role of women farmers in the decision-making and management of plant pests and diseases of major crops (maize, banana, and mango)** and to understand how to support them better in the development of IPM programmes, including training.



Focus group discussions and household surveys are happening now in Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos PDR, Philippines, and Vietnam. The research team have already completed a total of seventeen focus group discussions with approximately 90 women and men farmer participants in addition to 125 participants already reached through household surveys.



Thanks to ACIAR and research partners working on the ACIAR Mango and Fruit-Fly Project and Bananas and Fusarium Wilt Disease management projects, to which this project is partnered with.

Webinar Series 2023

This September, a three-part online webinar series exploring the power of participatory research methods with women farmers and agricultural extension workers will kick off. The field stories of women farmers and extension workers will be emphasized in the series. The aim is to equip researchers and agri-food system stakeholders with practical knowledge and skills to more effectively reach and involve women farmers in the development of IPM programmes.

Blog Series



Want to hear what women farmers have to say about managing plant pests and diseases and their dreams for farming? Three women farmers from the Philippines will be sharing with us their challenges and their aspirations as farmers in our new video and blog series to be launched this month. You can check our all our blogs and the latest updates at <https://www.aseanfawaction.org/blog>

Over the next month, we will be updating our Programme webpage to provide updates on the work. You can visit <https://www.aseanfawaction.org/women-as-ipm-leaders> for more information.

Bioprotection Research Alliance

The CSIRO supported co-design process for the Virtual Bioprotection Research Centre and Biocontrol Accelerator to help build capacity and capability for the introduction, use, and scale-up of biocontrol technologies and solutions for plant and animal pest and disease management held its second physical Workshop in Bali, Indonesia on 20 June 2023. This followed our previous workshop held in December 2022. This time 75 experts from across Southeast Asia, Pacific and South Asia joined for three days of intensive discussion.



More information on the Bioprotection Research Alliance can be found at
<https://www.aseanfawaction.org/researchalliance>

ASEAN FAW ACTION PLAN
Supporting IPM Across Southeast Asia

Women as IPM Leaders

Empowering women as leaders in integrated pest management across Southeast Asia

2023 Learning Webinar Series

Learn from the experts, ask questions, and be part of the movement towards inclusive and gender-sensitive agrifood research and project development.

3 Webinars

- ### 1 PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH: INVOLVING WOMEN IN PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Date: 28 September 2023
Time: 16:00-17:30 SGT (GMT+8)
Register: <https://bit.ly/ParticipatoryR> or scan the QR code
- ### 2 LISTENING TO THE VOICES OF WOMEN FARMERS

Date: 26 October 2023
Time: 16:00-17:30 SGT
Register: <https://bit.ly/WFarmers> or scan the QR code
- ### 3 THE ROLE OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION WORKERS IN GENDER-SENSITIVE APPROACHES

Date: 30 November 2023
Time: 16:00-17:30 SGT (GMT+8)
Register: <https://bit.ly/AgExtWorkers> or scan the QR code

This series is kindly supported by

Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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FAW Model Demonstration Project in Vietnam

From April 2023, The ASEAN FAW Action Plan has been working with the Vietnam Plant Protection Research Institute (PPRI), independent consultant Dr Joe Huesing, as well as a number of key partners in Vietnam to trial different control solutions for FAW. The demonstration trial has been divided into two separate phases:

- Phase 1: April – September 2023 (summer-autumn season)
- Phase 2: September - December 2023 (autumn-winter season)

In Phase 1, a Bt biopesticide (Aztron WG) or Spinetoram (Radiant® 60SC) were used as a rescue remedy when FAW damage levels in the plots exceeded the action threshold of 20%.

With the harvest of Phase 1 having only recently concluded we are waiting for results, however, some key points can already be made:

- There have been extremely high moth concentrations, consistent with a pest outbreak year. At one stage, 200 moths were caught over one night!
- Local farmers are applying high levels of pesticides - at least 5 times across the season. However, they are very interested in alternatives evidenced by interest in alternatives to conventional pesticides at the farmer field day - which 65 farmers attended.
- Back to basics! Good scouting every 3-7 days is essential, as well as good soil preparation and quality seeds.

Phase 2 has started in September and we will be incorporating mating disruption technologies into the trials. The project will finish with a workshop to discuss all the findings and we will be sharing the results in a webinar in early 2024.

We would like to thank our partners on this work including: [AgBiTech](#), [Valent Biosciences](#), [M2i Lifesciences](#), [Provivi](#), [University of Neuchatel](#), [Vietnam National University of Agriculture](#).





Resources on FAW Control

We have brought together a comprehensive list of FAW information, training, guidance, videos and education resources at international and regional levels at <https://www.aseanfawaction.org/onlineFAWresources>.

FAW Training and education capacity-building project

As part of the FAO Transboundary Plant Pests and Diseases Capacity-Building Project - Asia Pacific Region (with the generous support of Government of Japan), two webinars were held earlier this year providing insight on FAW farmer field schools and also regional work on citrus greening disease. If you missed the chance to join either session you can watch the webinars by going to our regional community page at: <https://www.aseanfawaction.org/transboundary-pests-disease-mgmt>

FAW Farmer Field School - Experiences across Asia-Pacific

23 February 2023

Examples of farmer training for FAW from experts with extensive experience conducting programmes in the Philippines and Bangladesh.

Management of citrus greening disease/ Asia-Pacific

23 March 2023

An introduction to citrus greening/Huanglongbing disease. Experts from across Asia Pacific and the Caribbean shared their expertise in this introductory session.

Out and about in the field!

It's important to hear directly from farmers about their challenges and needs and to find out more on how they proactively manage pests, weeds and diseases in their crops. ASEAN FAW Action Plan Associate (Zahtamal) along with the Zett Productions team spent four days in the field in early September talking to rice farmers about how they manage Brown Planthoppers (*Nilaparvata lugens*). This insect is one of the most destructive rice pests, which damages rice directly through feeding and by transmitting viruses, like the rice ragged stunt virus and rice grassy stunt virus. The series will feature farmers sharing their own experiences in managing brown planthoppers.



BLOG/FORUM/LINKED IN

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

Events webpage at: <https://www.aseanfawaction.org/events>

Women as IPM Leaders Programme

Gender and Participatory Research and Project Development

Date: 28 September 2023

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

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

Listening to the Voices of Female Farmers

Date: 26 October 2023

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

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

The Role of Agricultural Extension Workers in Gender-Sensitive Approaches

Date: 30 November 2023

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

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

Drones and Farmers

Farmer Drone Access Models - What are the different ways that farmers access drones?

Date: 16 November 2023

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

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

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

Supported by



The Secretariat of the ASEAN FAW Action Plan is kindly hosted by CSIRO