



# HOW TO MANAGE FALL ARMYWORM



Egg Mass



Young Caterpillars



Caterpillar with  
inverted Y on head



Male Moth



Damaged Leaves

*Fall Armyworm is a transboundary pest that may cause damage to maize, rice, sorghum, millet and pastures*

## PREVENTION

- Avoid late planting.
- Avoid staggered plantings (plots of different ages)
- Increase plant diversity – intercrop maize with cassava or yam

## MONITOR

- Visit and walk through fields at least once a week – twice a week when FAW populations are high.
- Look for FAW egg masses and larvae.
- Look for FAW natural enemies - ants, earwigs, small wasps, mummified (fungi) or liquefied (virus) larvae
- Look for FAW damage on leaves – inspect 25 plants and count how many have new damage (number of plants with new damage X 4 = % plants infested in field).

## ACT

- Handpick and destroy egg masses and young caterpillars on leaves.
- Actions to try:
  - Spray sugar water to attract and maintain populations of natural enemies.
  - If present in large numbers, larvae killed by fungus or virus can be collected, liquefied, strained, and the liquid sprayed on the plants.
  - Apply ash, sand, or soil to whorls with damaged leaves – they could kill the larvae.
  - Use botanical pesticides (based on neem or other plants)
  - Use bio-pesticides based on *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) or virus (NPV).
- Be very careful of synthetic pesticides – some are very toxic to humans and natural enemies, all are expensive and some don't kill FAW.