

A special bulletin issuing from Agro-Met Field Unit (AMFU), ICAR, Mizoram Centre with Department of Agriculture, Research and Education (KVK) for heavy infestation of fall armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) in maize at *jhum* field of Kolasib, Mizoram.

SPECIAL BULLETIN FOR HEAVY INFESTATION OF FALL ARMYWORM (FAW)
(SPODOPTERA FRUGIPERDA) IN MAIZE

Entire Mizoram state is severely infested with fall army worm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) in maize. The worms, about 3.40 centimetres in length, have attacked over 80 different plants and vegetables, mainly maize. More than 50% percent damage reported from different *jhum* field of Kolasib, Mizoram. Following measures must be taken to save the maize crop

- ❖ **Seed treatment:** with **Cyantraniliprole 19.8% + Thiomethoxam 19.8% @ 4 ml per kg seed** reported to offer protection up to 2-3 weeks after germination.
- ❖ Use tolerant varieties like RCM-75 and RCM-76 for better yield.
- ❖ Spacing should be increase 60X20 cm to 75X30 cm.
- ❖ Hand picking and destruction of egg masses and neonate larvae in mass by crushing or immersing in kerosine water.
- ❖ Destroy the infected plant or plant part by deep burying the plant residues in soil (at least 12cm deep).
- ❖ Application of dry sand or ash in to the whorl of affected maize plants soon after observation of FAW incidence in the field.
- ❖ Intercropping of maize with suitable pulse crops of particular region. (eg. Maize + pigeon pea/black gram /green gram).
- ❖ Erection of bird perches @ 10/acre during early stage of the crop (up to 30 days)
- ❖ Provide sprinkle irrigation over the plant for small homestead garden.
- ❖ To manage 2nd and 3rd instars larvae at 10-20 % damage spray **Emamectin benzoate @ 0.4 g/l of water** OR **Spinosad @ 0.3 ml/l of water** OR **Thiamethoxam 12.6% + lambda-cyhalothrin 9.5% @ 0.5 ml/l of water** OR **Chlorantraniliprole 18.5% SC @ 0.4 ml/l of water**.
- ❖ Spray must be done at early in the morning from 6:00-10:00am or late afternoon 4:00-7:00pm provided the conditions are favourable for spraying because FAW actively feeds at night.



Fig: Infestation of fall armyworm (FAW) in maize plants at *jhum* field of Kolasib, Mizoram