



## REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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### MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY

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### **RESPONSES TO THE NBC/NEW ERA QUESTIONS**

- 1. What is the status quo in terms of worms' prevalence in the areas which were affected by the outbreak last year and anywhere else?**

According to the data's that was collected from Pheromone Traps on the number of trapped Fall Army worm moths, the data shows that the Fall Army worm is still around and soon as the host plants will be available the moth will start producing egg masses on the plant leaves.

As soon as the eggs hatched, the larva will then start feeding on those plants causing leaf damage. Fall Army worm Pheromone Traps were set up in all crop growing regions from the onset of cropping season to monitor and to serve as early warning system to detect the presence of the Fall Armyworm moths. The Pheromone traps were procured by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and they were distributed to many countries in the southern Africa including Namibia.

- 2. What is the extent of last year's outbreak and destruction and were the insects completely contained?**

Last year the outbreak was reported from all crop growing regions with severity of infestation and damage varying from one region to another. The Northeastern region recorded largest proportion of affected households. During the last year outbreak the crop damage also differed from one crop to another. Among the farmers who planted Maize in communal sub-sector the loss was about 13% (277 tons) while in commercial sub-sector the loss was about 6% (4145tons). For pearl millet the loss due to fall armyworm was about 6% (3972 tons) and Sorghum grains lost was about 2% (62 tons).

This information was produced from the Fall Armyworm Impact and Needs Assessment survey that was conducted in order to assess the impacts and needs in response to the Fall Armyworm outbreak in Namibia. The survey was funded by FAO and supported by Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.

**3. How prepared is the government for any new outbreaks?**

The Ministry looked at all possible ways that it can implement to support the farmers if any new outbreaks occur. Therefore it was important for the Ministry to ensure that the responsible staff members are equipped with relevant information about the new pest through capacity building and training. The trainings capacitated staff in aspects such as FAW biology, identification features, damage symptoms, FAW management strategies and safe handling of pesticides. Some knowledge was then transferred to Agricultural Scientific Officers and Agricultural Technicians working for Ministry those based in different regions for them to be able to train farmers in their respective operational area. This cropping season we are expecting farmers to be able to identify the pest and take right decisions on time.

Furthermore, the Ministry have procured Pesticides such as Belt 300lt, Coragen 100lt and Steward 150EC 700lt, knapsack sprayers (90) so far and all those have already distributed to all the regions in the country. The Ministry is now processing another procurement of some more pesticides (Coragen 700lt, Belt 500lt and Emma 800lt) to top up to the current available pesticides.

**4. Which of the neighboring countries have reported the prevalence of the worms and how do countries coordinate their resolve to eradicate them?**

From the onset of the 2017/2018 cropping season, according to the media the FAW outbreaks have reported in the following countries:

Malawi, South Africa and Zambia (55 000hectares affected).

**5. Are there enough pesticides to counter any outbreak?**

Government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry has procured enough pesticide to react to any outbreak. However, it is not safe to say that the government has procured enough pesticide as the needed pesticides depends on the level of infestation experienced and environmental factors like temperature and rain can influence the presence of the pest in the area. Therefore, as said above, the Ministry has some pesticides to respond immediately to any reported outbreaks. In addition, the pesticides are also available in local markets with pesticides registered dealers.

In addition, farmers are encouraged to do scouting regularly to be able to detect the presence of larva on plants and to be able to spray while the larva are still very young since its only at that stage they are still susceptible to chemicals.

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**Permanent Secretary**