

## Inside this issue:

*NaCRRRI socio-economists set to assess impact of Fall Army Worm*

*Researchers in drive to create awareness on new Striga-resilient maize varieties*

*TL III three years down the road...*

*Ugandan media, scientists discuss opportunities and challenges for public awareness on GMOs*

*Uganda benefits from Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) project*

*Africa conference confirms growing strength of plant disease research network*

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## NaCRRRI socio-economists set to assess impact of Fall Army Worm



### Fall Army Worm

In response to the outbreak of fall army worm, socio-economists at the Institute met on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2018, to develop tools which would help gather information to establish and/or quantify the impact of the Fall Army Worm (FAW) on maize in the country.

The team, drawn from different research programmes and disciplines constitutes a technical taskforce equipped with skills and competencies to assess the impact of this pest, that has since 2016, caused immense suffering to the maize industry.

Dr. Otim Michael, the Head of the Cereals Research Programme noted that the information generated will be instrumental in generation of local and regional policies that limit both the spread and damage of FAW.

Besides, impact assessment studies, maize researchers also plan to :a) screen a range maize varieties and germplasm for resistance to FAW and b) identify cost-effective chemicals

and/or biological control agents against the FAW.

Through interactions with key stakeholders (farmers, input dealers, processors and consumers), priority training needs, best practices, indigenous knowledge and lessons learnt on FAW control, will also be documented.

The FAW was first reported in Uganda in 2016, and by the end of 2017, it had covered the whole country, ravaging maize fields border to border.