

WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT FALL ARMY WORM?

SOME NATURAL SOLUTIONS



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ISSUE:

Fall armyworm is a new pest in Malawi that eats maize and many other crops.



KEY FINDINGS:

- The more natural enemies (animals and insects that eat fall armyworm, such as flying insects, birds, ground insects) are present, the less maize is damaged
- The more natural enemies of fall armyworm are present, the higher the maize yield
- As shrubland provides additional food resources and shelter for natural enemies of fall armyworm, it is very important for making sure they can help with crops.



RECOMMENDATIONS:

Having many different types of natural enemies helps with pest control. To have many different natural enemies, there needs to be good homes for them to live.

Potential solutions to maintain or create such habitats include, for example:

- Protecting natural forests and bush (prevention of deforestation);
- Setting aside some forest and shrub from any use – including charcoal production, firewood collection, cattle grazing, etc.
- Increasing flower cover and types of flowers for natural enemies: Planting flower strips, trees and shrubs on parts of fields, on boundaries and as hedgerows.
- Reduction of grazing and cutting intervals of existing flowering field boundaries.

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