

Popular scientific project description for project funded by Ekhagastiftelsen

Popular scientific project description is to be submitted within 2 months of project grant.

Applicationnumber:	2020-126
Project title:	Agro-ecological practices to tackle the new invasive pest, fall armyworm (<i>Spodoptera frugiperda</i>) for sustainable food production in East Africa
Receiver of grant (name, address):	Dr. Esayas Mendesil College of Agriculture & Veterinary Medicine Jimma University P.O. Box 307 Jimma Ethiopia
Contact / project manager:	Dr. Esayas Mendesil
Projectstart (yyyy-mm-dd): *	2020-12-01
Project end (yyyy-mm-dd): *	2022-11-31
By Ekhagastiftelsen grantedsum:	900 000 SEK

Project description: (max 150 words)

The fall armyworm (FAW), which is a native pest in the Americas, was first detected in Africa in 2016 and since then the pest has been spreading throughout the continent threatening maize production and the livelihood of many farmers in Africa. A massive spray of insecticides has been deployed in maize fields as an emergency response to control FAW invasion. However, it is vital to identify a sustainable and cost-effective strategy for FAW management. Agro-ecological approach offers an affordable and environmentally friendly alternative for controlling FAW. However, there is limited knowledge regarding the influence of agro-ecological practices in controlling FAW since it is a new pest in Africa. Here, we aim to understand the effect of agro-ecological practices in controlling FAW in Ethiopia. We also aim to understand the ecological mechanisms involved in regulating this pest. The findings will contribute to the sustainable management of FAW in smallholder farming systems.

* Dates for project start and end should be the dates for which the grant is received (Not dates for total project if longer than period for which grant is received)