

## **REPORT ON NEW PEST: Fall Armyworm in Malaysia**

The Department of Agriculture (DOA) of Malaysia has received a report which confirmed that Fall Armyworm (FAW - *Spodoptera frugiperda*) was positively identified (morphology identification) from the samples collected from maize plantation in a farm in Chuping Valley, Perlis which is located near Malaysia – Thailand border. The samples of Fall Armyworm were collected on February 2019, morphologically identified and molecular analysed by entomologists from the DOA Malaysia. Following that, detection survey has been conducted throughout the country to find and identify the area invaded by FAW.

Until September 2019, FAW was detected throughout the whole peninsular Malaysia (11 states) and the latest was in Kuching, Sarawak which was detected and confirmed in September 2019. Total area affected by FAW is estimated at 246.35 hectares with percentage of severity between 50-100% for age of planted maize less than 40 days. Sabah is free from FAW and DOA Sabah is currently conducting detection survey to observe any invasion of the pest.

In relation to that, DOA Malaysia is now steering the official control in the whole country to minimize the spread of this pest in maize planting areas. In-country management program to control FAW is currently being implemented, such as:

1. Study on the control and management of FAW with collaboration between DOA Malaysia, research agencies and universities;
2. Control and Management Action Plan Program to be used by the whole country for FAW management; and
3. Continuous surveillance activity to detect any new areas affected by FAW; and
4. Awareness and campaign programme for stakeholders especially large and small scale maize plantation on detection and management for FAW.