

**A SURVEY ON THE INFESTATION LEVEL OF FALL  
ARMYWORM (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) IN MAIZE IN  
CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL INSTRUCTOR DIVISIONS  
OF THE BATTICALOA DISTRICT**



**BY**

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## ABSTRACT

Fall armyworm is one of the major threats to maize cultivation at present. The fall army worm threat looms large in Sri Lanka. The larvae stage of fall army worm moth has the ability to destroy hundreds of acres of cultivation overnight and could affect over 180 species of crops. Maize is the major crop affected by fall armyworm. Maize is the most important coarse grain for which around 30,000 ha of land areas are devoted annually.

The study was carried out to find out the impact of Fall Armyworm on maize in Batticaloa District. As well as to find out the farmer's knowledge about this threat and to determine pest control methods use for control this pest in the Batticaloa district. The study was mainly based on primary data obtained from a sample survey in six AI division in Batticaloa district. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire for 120 farmers. And also secondary data were used. Data were analyzed using a SPSS software and descriptive statistics was employed to study the socio-economic data of farmers.

According to this study, there are two major crops cultivated in Batticaloa district. They are rice and maize. But rice is most cultivated crop. Farmers have practiced crop rotation by cultivating rice and maize in the same field time to time. Farmers have obtained the information about this fall armyworm attack from news papers(10%), television(11), radio(8%), neighboring farmers(28%) and from agriculture instructors(43%). There were incurred loss to farmers due to this fall armyworm attack. Most of the farmers had to faced Rs.50,001-75,000 loss as a result of this problem. This fall armyworm was controlled successfully by destroying all the cultivation.

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