



agriculture & rural development

Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

Farmers are urged to report the infestation by Fall Armyworms in their crops to KZN DARD

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in the province is working very hard to contain the outbreak of the Fall Armyworm pest. As we reported before, the worm was positively identified in Uthukela, Mkhanyakude, Amajuba and Zululand districts respectively.

These identifications of the worm have been limited to the commercial farmers who had a capacity to use advanced pesticides to arrest the spread of the outbreak within their crops. The Department has been responding urgently in augmenting the intervention through agrochemicals.

This weekend, the Fall Armyworm was positively identified in Nongoma [Zululand] in the communities' plantations. These are rural communities engaged in subsistence farming for their own domestic consumption.

The Department is intervening by all means through pesticides to ensure that this new wave in Nongoma is nipped in the bud before it causes more damages to the communities' agricultural crops.

The Departmental emergency plant pest response team of scientists, as part of mitigation to the scourge is:

1. Conducting pest scouting, collecting and reporting on the spread and damage.
2. Working on resources for control such as procurement of agrochemicals and traps to meet the demand levels.

We are calling for all our people and farmers in general, to monitor crops in their fields constantly and report any pests identified in their crops to our Local offices, extension officers and district offices for immediate scientific identification and intervention before further damage is caused.

Issued by the KZN DARD Ministry:

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