



agriculture & rural development

Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

Media Advisory

17 February 2017

KZN DARD IS IN CONTROL OF THE OUTBREAK OF FALL ARMYWORM IN THE PROVINCE

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in KwaZulu-Natal has identified Fall Armyworms in two farms located in two districts within the Province. The first farm is in Uthukela District and the other one being in the Umkhanyakude District.

KZN DARD has succeeded in rounding off these farms and responded to it through pesticides and other chemicals before it spread to neighboring farms. Whilst we cannot rule out the spreading capabilities which is a function of the wind, the Department is putting up "virus tracking" mechanisms so that reliable data and accurate predictability about its spread trajectory can be achieved for purposes of "trapping" interventions.

For the past three weeks since the reported outbreak from the first two Provinces in the country, the Department in KZN immediately assembled a team of scientists within the Department into an outbreak monitoring team located in all our eleven Districts. On a daily basis, working with farmers and communities, this team reports on the state of the Province.

We are calling on farmers from both commercial and subsistence in our rural communities to be on high alert and work closely with our local and district offices to report immediately if the worm has emerged in their crops.

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