

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** June 12,2020

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**Report Name:** Fall Armyworm Expected to March into North China Plain in June

**Country:** China - Peoples Republic of

**Post:** Beijing

**Report Category:** Grain and Feed, Pest/Disease Occurrences

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**Report Highlights:**

Based on field and industry reporting, Fall Armyworm (FAW) has spread across the Yangtze River and entered central China, reaching the border of Henan Province earlier this growing season than it did during last season. FAW's movement to Northern China this year has occurred at least three months earlier than last year, making it highly likely that the pest will establish itself in Northeast China, the largest corn producing region in China. While some industry contacts and academics predict the country will suffer a corn deficit and corresponding soaring prices this year, the Chinese government released their official estimate that corn production will decline only 2.5 percent due to the pest.

FAW has spread faster and farther this year to date than during the previous year posing a larger threat to a wide range of crops this growing season. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) affiliated National Agriculture Technology Extension Service Center (NATESC) reported that FAW larvae have been found in Fujian, Hubei, Sichuan, Jiangxi, Chongqing, Anhui, Shanghai, Jiangsu and Zhejiang by early June 2020. In the case of Zhejiang Province, the detection in 2020 is more than three months earlier than in 2019. For FAS-China's past reporting on FAW during this growing season and last growing season, please see: [MARA FAW Prevention Plan Braces for Widespread Pest Impact in 2020-21 Crops; Update: Fall Armyworm Now in 15 of China's Provinces; Voracious Fall Armyworm Invades South China.](#)

By May 28, NATESC reported that FAW has affected 178,667 hectares in 720 counties spread across 17 provinces. This is considerably wider than at a similar period in the previous year when 72,000 hectares in 261 counties across 13 provinces were affected by May 10, 2019. By May 28, nearly 90 percent of the affected counties were located south of Yangtze River. However, since May, the number of counties and area affected by FAW in the Yangtze River Delta and the region north of the Yangtze River and south of the Huai River is growing, accounting for 81 percent of newly added counties. Spread in Hubei, Anhui and Jiangsu are increasing exceptionally fast.

According to a Jiangsu FAW Status and Trends Analysis, by June 3, 8 Jiangsu counties have detected matured FAW. Considering the Spring corn in Jiangsu is in the stage of tasseling and silking and summer corn will be planted and seeding in late June, the FAW establishment in Jiangsu is expected to pose a large threat to the Autumn grain harvest in that province.

Northeast China is preparing for FAW's introduction this Summer. The Heilongjiang Soybean Association (HAS) issued a warning on May 26 that the FAW may enter Northeast China in late June or early July, mainly damaging corn crops. HAS added that FAW was detected in Jiangsu and Anhui Provinces this March, then was detected along the Yangtze River in April and May. HAS said that FAW will probably enter Shandong in June and finally reach Northeast China, the major corn growing region, producing 45 percent of China's annual corn crop.

Based on the experience during the 2019 growing season, China reportedly launched a radar system in April to detect, monitor, and alert FAW movement and to make prevention plans, accordingly. However, it was also reported that it would take three years to completely establish this system. The current system only covers Hainan, Yunnan and Shandong (recognized as a main gateway into Northeast China's breadbasket). According to the China Agriculture Industry Development Report 2020 jointly published on June 4 by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), FAW is estimated to reduce corn production by less than 2.5 percent this year.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.