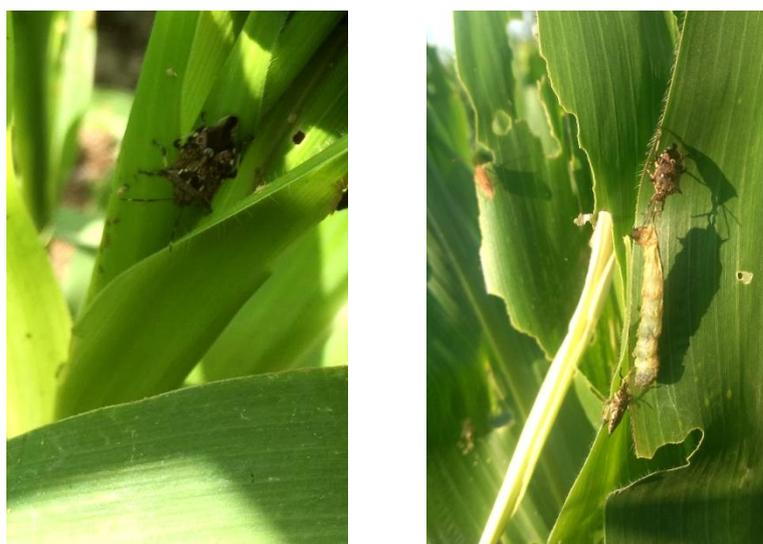


## Current status of invasive fall armyworm (FAW) *Spodoptera frugiperda*

- Incidence of FAW is fairly high in the young crop of Maize ( Popcorn and sweetcorn varieties) up to 40 days.
- Feeding on the tassel is noticed in several parts of the state and in neglected fields feeding on the cobs is also noticed.
- There was a good recovery from the initial damage by FAW and most of the plants started bearing cobs. Currently in the district of Hassan good recovery has been observed and yields are near normal except in few places.
- No incidence of FAW was seen in rice, but incidence was noticed on sugarcane, Rabi sorghum, ragi and Bajra in parts of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and northern Karnataka. Currently leaf and whorl damage has been observed to the tune of 15-50 percent.
- Incidence was observed in fodder sorghum but the damage was very less and no feeding was found on the flag leaf stage and also on the ear head.
- Predatory Pentatomid bugs like *Eocanthecona furcellata* and *Andrallus spinidens* were found feeding on the FAW larvae in addition to earwigs.
- *Nomurea rileyi* incidence was found in almost all the locations surveyed and larval mortality was in the range of 2-5 per cent.



*Andrallus spinidens* feeding on *S. frugiperda*



*Eocanthecona furcellata* feeding on *S. frugiperda*

**New reports of parasitoids:**

**One species of Egg larval parasitoid *Chelonus sp* was found predominantly which has a potential for biological control of FAW**



***Phenaratoma sp* was also recorded from FAW larvae from fields in Karnataka.**



**Suggestions for management:**

- Use of egg parasitoids *Trichogramma* and *Telenomus remus* should be encouraged in early crop growth stage to target FAW eggs.
- Use ecofriendly botanicals like neem formulations 4ml per lt. to reduce infestation and encourage natural enemies
- Use emamectin benzoate @ 0.04gm/lt spray targeted to whorls under situations of severe infestations
- The maize crop is recovering after initial damage by the larvae. Hence it is advised that farmers should not neglect the fields but provide the crop with proper irrigation and fertilizers so that the crop can recover fast from the damage and yield normally.
- Use of Entomopathogenic nematodes, *Nomurea rileyi*, *Metarhizium anisoplae* and also BT formulations are known to reduce larval populations. Farmers are requested to use these where ever available.