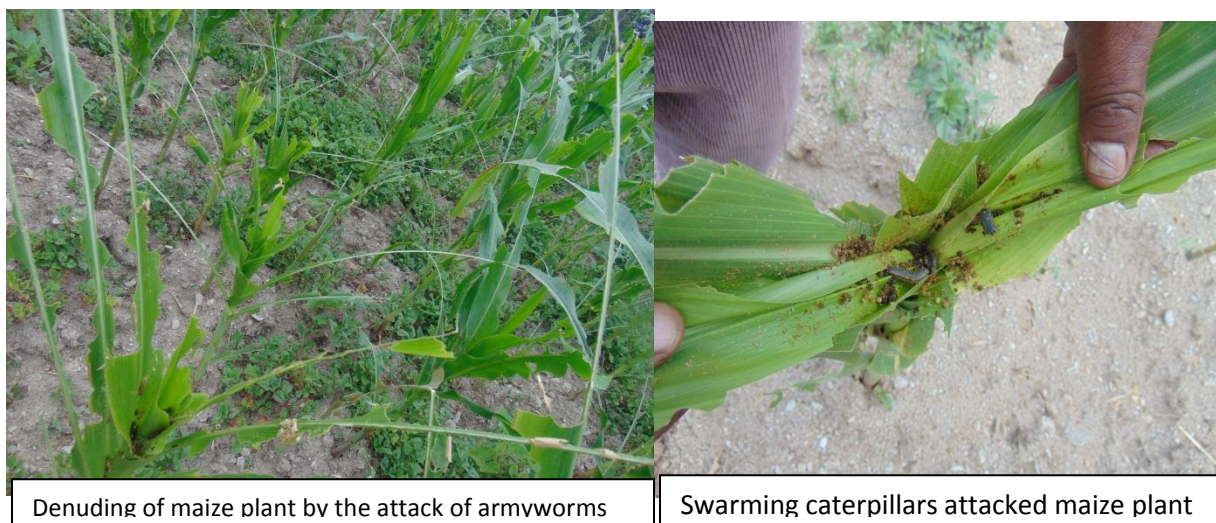


A Special Report of Armyworm Infestation in Dolakha District

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In 2015 June, there was wide spreading of armyworms in the northern Village Development Committees – Gaurishankar, Lamabagar, Laduk, Orang and Bulung of Dolakha district of Nepal. The swarming caterpillars of armyworms had damaged the crops by cutting off the leaves of maize and more severely on the seedlings in the nursery of rice and millet.



Three membered technical team – Mr Surendra Pokharel, Senior Plant Protection Officer of Regional Plant Protection Laboratory (RPPL); Mr Baulal Chaudhary, Senior Agriculture Development Officer of District Agriculture Development Office (DADO), Dolakha; and Mr RamchandraGauli, Entomologist of Nepal Agriculture Research Council (NARC) visited to the affected VDCs. The team found that 90% crop had been damaged in the affected VDCs from the infestation of swarming caterpillars of armyworms. Swarming caterpillars had been reared in the laboratories of NARC and RPPL to identify, either the armyworms is *Mythimna seperata* or *Spodoptera mauritia*. Later, it was diagnosed that the insect was *Mythimna seperata*.

The farmers of affected areas were marginal and had little knowledge about safe use of pesticides. The technical team had provided on-the-spot training about management tactics of armyworms along with safe use of chemical pesticides.



Technical team had been observing the infested field



Technical team had been counseling to farmers about armyworms management and safe use of pesticides

In the meantime, farmers of Dolakha district were in mourning because of devastated earthquake of 12th May. In addition, they had anxiety of famine of future because of damaging their field crops.

To control the infestation of armyworms, Plant Protection Directorate and Regional Plant Protection Laboratory, Hariharbahvan had provided insecticides. The insecticide had the mixture of chloropyrifos 50% and cypermethrine 5%. Besides, DADO Dolakha had been broadcasting message through local FM radio about management strategies of armyworms.

The senior Agriculture Development Officer of DADO, Dolakha; MrChaudhary had informed that the infestation of armyworms has been dwindling gradually in these days because of synergistic effect of chemical pesticides with rain shower.