

Popular scientific project description for project funded by Ekhagastiftelsen

Popular scientific project description is to be submitted within 2 months of project grant.

Application number:	2021-124
Project title:	2021-124 Unmasking the agricultural monster: Agroecological approaches to fall armyworm management in Nigeria
Receiver of grant (name, address):	Dr. Mobolade Dele Akinbuluma Dept of Crop Protection & Environmental Biology Room B107, 2nd floor, Agric. Biology Building Faculty of Agriculture, Ibadan, Nigeria
Contact / project manager:	Dr. Mobolade Dele Akinbuluma, University of Ibadan; +2348038594189
Project start (yyyy-mm-dd): *	2021-11-01
Project end (yyyy-mm-dd): *	2023-03-31
By Ekhagastiftelsen granted sum:	610 000 SEK

Project description: (max 150 words)

Chemical pesticides leave undesirable residues on human food and animal feed when used to control insect pests, which warrants for alternative management methods. This project aims to identify non-chemical management solutions against the fall armyworm (FAW), *Spodoptera frugiperda*, whose rapid spread is causing substantial threats to food security. Trials will be conducted to assess the impacts of farm practices such as intercropping, tillage, and mulching on the health of maize agro-ecological systems and on the incidence of FAW damage in maize. Researchers will also determine to what extent management practices affect FAW damage and natural enemy abundance in relation to tree cover within the landscape. In two growing seasons, experiments will be conducted on replicated farmers' fields within the Oyo State in Nigeria. The results are expected to provide information on how agricultural practices could reduce infestation of the invasive fall armyworm by enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem functions.

* Dates for project start and end should be the dates for which the grant is received (Not dates for total project if longer than period for which grant is received)