FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

Photo Credit: CABI_Invasives

# The Fall Armyworm Tech Prize

USAID

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Fall armyworm (FAW) poses a serious threat to African food security. Originally from the Americas, FAW outbreaks first occurred in West Africa in early 2016 and are now on the verge of devastating food supplies across the continent, exacerbating global poverty and hunger. FAW attacks more than 80 different plants.[1] Agriculture experts estimate the pest could cause losses of 8.3 million to 20.6 million metric tons of maize in just 12 African maize-producing countries annually, food that could feed 40.8 million to 101 million people.[2] FAW can travel on air currents and move up to 1,600 kilometers in 30 hours, meaning it can easily migrate to surrounding farms and countries.[3] As of June 2018, FAW has been identified in 45 African countries.[4]

Given the spread and rate of the infestation, interventions are needed at a transnational level. In addition, smallholder farmers and those who advise them need appropriate information on how to respond and prevent the pest.

Digital technologies are increasingly being utilized to both analyze information and transmit it to smallholder farmers. Deploying these technologies can provide accurate, context-specific information to smallholder farmers and extension agents that help them make informed decisions in response to a new threat.

As a result, the Fall Armyworm Tech Prize aimed to source and support digital tools and approaches that provide timely, context-specific information that enables smallholder farmers and those who support them to identify, treat, and track incidence of fall armyworm in Africa.

This paper presents an overview of the Fall Armyworm Tech Prize and the learning from its implementation. In particular, it shows how the prize model was used to achieve each of the following:

- Sourcing, honing, and testing digital tools focused on combating fall armyworm;
- Building value for every participant and stakeholder;
- Fostering deep context-specificity;
- Utilizing a Lean Start-Up approach/designing with your customer;
- Encouraging the analysis and communication of relevant, timely, accurate, actionable, and accessible information; and
- Measuring demonstrated results.

*"Looking at our users, some of the stories people tell are so compelling, and the kind of knowledge gaps they have facing a pest that is so new, whole fields are devastated. No one seems to know what the scope of the problem is, and both farmers and stakeholders are facing a massive knowledge gap. We saw this as an opportunity to have real impact."*

**FARM.INK, FALL ARMYWORM TECH PRIZE GRAND PRIZE WINNERS**

[1] "Multi-pronged approach key for effectively defeating fall armyworm in Africa," April 2017. http://www.cimmyt.org/press_release/multi-pronged-approach-key-for-effectively-defeating-fall-armyworm-in-africa/
[2] CABI, September 2017
[3] https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2017/06/07/fall-armyworm-outbreaks-in-the-sadc-region-how-to-respond/
[4] http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1142085/icode/

# WHY A PRIZE FOR DIGITAL TOOLS AND APPROACHES?

Inducement prizes are a tested method for supporting innovation. They incentivize the achievement of a specific result, rather than being a reward for past achievements. Prizes are also a tool to go beyond the "usual suspects," facilitating the engagement and participation of anyone who can achieve results against the defined problem.

In early 2018, few digital tools could consistently identify FAW and even fewer of them were appropriate for African smallholder farmers' needs. Moreover, while research institutions, African governments, and multinational organizations (MNOs) had begun to publish guidance on tackling FAW, they did not have the tools to effectively communicate it to smallholder farmers at scale.

Advances in digital communications, social networks, satellite imagery, electronic data collection and sharing, sensing technologies, crowdsourcing, and the global movement to share open data mean that more information than ever can be efficiently communicated and made relevant for farmers. While digital tools and approaches are not the only solutions to FAW (and depending on the context, may not be appropriate), technological solutions can help serve as a force multiplier to strained agricultural advisory services.

*"These prizes give us a lot of flexibility to try things out, to not be bound to a particular timeframe or budget. They can be really helpful to get things off the ground, throw things out, change, speed up, or slow down. The approach fits very well in our skillset, where we build prototypes, quickly test them, and get a clear understanding how you move from idea to product in a short time frame"*

**GEORGIA, FARM.INK**

# WHAT WE DID

In March 2018, Feed the Future, in partnership with Land o'Lakes International Development and the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR), launched the Fall Armyworm Tech Prize to leverage digital technologies to help African smallholder farmers fight the invasive fall armyworm pest.

## The prize statement

The prize is seeking digital tools and approaches that provide timely, context-specific information that enable smallholder farmers and those who support them to identify, treat, and track incidence of fall armyworm in Africa.

The solutions were tested on Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI) test plots in Uganda and were evaluated against the following outcomes:

- Enable smallholder farmers and those who support them to accurately identify incidence of fall armyworm in their crops.
- Produce timely, context-appropriate, and empowering insights for smallholder farmers to treat the incidence of fall armyworm.
- Contribute to the reduction of productivity losses caused by fall armyworm among those using the tool or approach.
- Ensure the appropriate and responsible use of pest management assessments, tools, and interventions.

**NOTES FROM THE FAW TECH PRIZE RESEARCH TRIP**

Farmers noted that information from government ministries and international institutions does not necessarily reach them, and, if it does, it often goes through multiple channels before they receive it.

By the time information gets to farmers, it is often too late to treat their crops.

Most farmers admit that they know very little about the life cycle and biology of fall armyworm, even though this information could better prepare them to combat the pest.

Photo Credit: CABI_Invasives

# PRIZE TIMELINE, ACTIONS & RESULTS

The eligibility criteria, judging criteria and assessment and testing process provided the basis for much of the impact framework, and were vital components of the prize that allowed for key indicators and outcomes to be collected and analyzed.

## RESEARCH
### 10 JAN - 30 APR 2018

Desk research and field research consultations in Uganda.
Consolidated research report.

**PURPOSE**

The research and design process produced the benchmarks for the prize and structured how the prize would be implemented.

**RESULTS**

Between the impact of fall armyworm, the Ugandan digital ecosystem, its role as a Digital for Feed the Future country, and strong Mission support for the prize, Uganda was identified as the ideal country to host the prize.

## DESIGN
### 1 FEB - 27 MAR 2018

Design report, design of innovators handbooks and prize documents, creation of prize platform.

**RESULTS**

Creation of implementation and communication plan, assessment criteria and prize evaluation framework.

## LAUNCH
### 28 MAR - 14 MAY 2018

The launch was strong a digital push with strong communication activity via social media, media and press campaign, online presence and webinar.

Six outreach events were held at innovator hubs in Uganda, South Africa, Nigeria and Cote d'Ivoire.

**PURPOSE**

The launch was the call to action for innovators from all across the world to come and create a solution.

**RESULTS**

228 applications from 34 countries globally. 81% coming from Sub-Saharan Africa.

## STAGE 1 ASSESSMENT & JUDGING PANEL
### 5TH JUNE 2018

The launch was strong a digital push The applications were assessed for shortlist.

The finalists were then selected at a virtual judging meeting.

**PURPOSE**

Seed funding of $2,000 to supply modest resources for prototyping, adaptation, user feedback, and participation in events for finalists.

**RESULTS**

20 finalists selected from a shortlist of 40 applications.

## CO-CREATION
### 25 - 28 JUNE 2018

The co-creation event was held 25-28 June in Kampala, Uganda.

Organization of a marketplace to showcase prototypes, gauge farmer feedback and of two networks events.

**PURPOSE**

All finalists attended the co-creation event, where they learned from experts and practiced pitching their solutions.

**RESULTS**

A co-creation event for 3.5 days in Kampala, Uganda to establish a common understanding of the problem, assess needs and growth opportunities, set expectations for future prize outputs, and enable competitors to learn from each other, experts, stakeholders, smallholder farmers.

## DEVELOPMENT & TESTING
### 1 JULY - 5 SEPTEMBER 2018

CABI tested all solutions, including two hardware-based solutions.
MEST held mentoring sessions with finalists.
Nesta held calls with finalists to discuss the development of their solutions.
Finalists sent their final submissions on 5 September.

**PURPOSE**

Seven weeks of development time for finalists to incorporate feedback and strengthen the solution, as well as to conduct self-guided and self-interested testing on users. Field testing in Uganda to measure performance as assessed by experts and smallholder farmers.

**RESULTS**

All solutions were tested at three levels (functionality, user testing and context testing). Finalists were supported to further develop their solutions and business plans ahead of submission.

All 20 finalists submitted their development plans and videos of their solutions

90% of finalists attended mentoring sessions focused on technology, business, scale and the development plan submission

## STAGE 2 ASSESSMENT & JUDGING PANEL
### 10 OCTOBER 2018

Judges read and scored the submissions
CABI created a report of the independent testing results
The final judging meeting was held on 10 October at the Nesta offices in London.

**PURPOSE**

A development plan to establish both development targets for the solution, and a logical process to get there, as well as a video submission to clearly demonstrate the solution.

**RESULTS**

The testing results and judges scores were used to inform the judging meeting

The judges chose 6 finalists for the awards (an increase from 5) following the offer of additional funding from FFAR.

## AWARD
### 13 - 15 NOVEMBER 2018

The awards were announced as part of the AfricaCom awards in Cape Town, South Africa.

Finalists exhibited at the AfricaCom exhibition and conference USAID's Chris Burns presented at the AHUB exhibition on the Fall Armyworm Tech Prize

**PURPOSE**

An awards event at an industry conference, AfricaCom in Cape Town, South Africa to forge connections between finalists and digital stakeholders across the continent. .

**RESULTS**

All finalists except 1 team (due to visa issues) were able to attend the final awards event at AfricaCom. 6 prizes were awarded - 1 Grand Prize Winner ($100,000), 2 Runners-Up ($75,000 each) and 3 Frontier Innovation Winners ($50,000 each).

# WINNERS

## Grand Prize Winner, $150,000

**Farm.ink** | *United Kingdom, operating in Kenya*

### Fall Armyworm Virtual Advisor

The Fall Armyworm Virtual Advisor is an interactive solution that provides knowledge on how to identify, scout, and treat fall armyworm to its users. The tool is integrated into Farm.ink's award-winning mobile service, Africa Farmers Club, an online group and chatbot that enables more than 150,000 farmers across Africa to find information about farming. Through the Facebook Messenger platform, the solution gamifies learning and, after completing trainings, allows farmers to access the FAW Scouter, a progressive web app that guides farmers through the scouting process. It then provides farmers with personalized recommendations for how to treat fall armyworm on their farms.

***"We really think the prize process works for early product development—especially digital products. To us, it feels like a more effective vehicle for using funds to deliver results."***

—Farm.ink

## Runners Up, $75,000 per prize

**Akorion** | *Uganda*

### EzyAgric

The EzyArmyWorm (EAW), an enhancement of the pest and disease diagnostic in the EzyAgric app, aims to assist farmers, extension workers, and agribusinesses in Uganda with early detection and accurate diagnosis of FAW. It uses artificial intelligence and machine learning to allow farmers to easily detect the pest across possible affected crops at any stage of the production cycle. With SMS and smart alert notifications, EAW provides farmers with constant reminders and real-time information on how to detect, manage, and address fall armyworm.

***"The prize was an opportunity to develop our AI use case. That was the major, major motivation. It aligned with our goals and our vision, but it was also responding to customer demand. Farmers had just been sending photos back and forth to us, and we saw there was a need for an agile, real-time solution."***

—Akorion

**Project Concern International and Dimagi**
*United States operating in Malawi and Tanzania*

### AfriFARM

Built on CommCare, an existing digital platform designed for low-resource settings, AfriFARM provides accessible and actionable information about FAW to smallholders, lead farmers, and agricultural extension agents in Africa. The app provides learning modules tailored to user needs and capabilities on topics including management, identification, scouting, treatment options and safety considerations, and incidence reporting.

***"We hope to leverage this opportunity to change the lives of the thousands of farmers that we serve in Africa."***

—PCI and Dimagi

Photos Credit: Addmaya

## Frontier Innovation Awards, for early stage developments that show the most potential, $50,000 per prize

**FarmerLine** | *Ghana*

### CdPAS

Crop Disease Prediction & Advisory Services (CdPAS) by Farmerline is a digital solution that allows end-users to access information on fall armyworm, engage experts on the pest, make incidence reports, and request inputs/services. CdPAS will leverage the audio-visual learning capabilities of local farmers by providing the simplified information via two channels: 1) an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system, which allows users to access content in their preferred local language and on any mobile phone; and 2) an android application that has media-rich content (photos, videos, infographics) on the pest.

***"Farmerline has been able to gain an audience with key stakeholders that will ensure that CdPAS is not only a useful, but also a sustainable solution to agriculture in Africa."***

—FarmerLine

**Henson Geodata Technologies** | *Ghana*

### Igeza

Igeza is a cloud-based mobile application that enables early detection and instant interaction with a control center. Igeza integrates location and audio-visual services used by the smallholder maize farmer to scout, scan, and identify fall armyworm as well as map their farms. The call center connects all notifications to a pool of experts including entomologists, plant pathologists, agronomists, and extension workers who can analyze the evidence presented and recommend appropriate management responses, where needed.

***"[In the future] I see a big expansion; our solution is already evolving into a fully fledged pest management system, so there is a lot of work to be done to sustain the project."***

—Henson Geodata Technologies

**eHealth Africa** | *Nigeria*

### CornBot

CornBot is an audio-visual mobile application that interacts with farmers in their local language, talking them through a process that helps them identify, control, and manage fall armyworm. It uses an image-based Q&A mechanism to engage farmers and empower them with information needed to combat fall armyworm. CornBot also aggregates data on the prevalence of fall armyworm, providing stakeholders with real-time data necessary for formulating evidence-based policies and intervention on the pest.

***"The prize experience has exposed us to the possibilities out there and reinforced our belief in the power of technology."***

—CornBot

Photos Credit: Addmaya






# PRIZE RESULTS

## Innovation

The innovation impact category assesses the extent to which the Fall Armyworm Tech Prize had an impact on generating solutions to the FAW threat (both preventative and reactive responses for farmers) and attracting new approaches and tools, as well as the adaptation of existing ones to produce better guidance on how to tackle the FAW. Key results include:

- The prize incentivized 20 prototypes or newly adapted solutions with complete business plans.
- For a cost of $1.39 per user, 4.5 million people across Africa utilized/benefited from finalists' solutions.
- The prize accelerated the development and market entry of solutions by as much as a year.

## Capabilities

The capability category assesses to what extent the FAW Tech Prize mobilized new talents to generate new innovative solutions to the FAW threat, built new partnerships in the agricultural value chain in Africa, and built context-specific capacity in innovators. Key results include:

- 68% of finalists had existing solutions, but the prize inspired them to improve or adapt it to the FAW in the African context; 32% had created new solutions as a result of this prize.
- Finalists secured 17 partnerships during the prize. An additional 16 partnerships are in the pipeline, and 11 potential partnerships are under discussion.
- 92% of finalists reported that the prize contributed to their technical knowledge of FAW in Africa.

## Ecosystem

The ecosystem impact assessment captures the extent to which the Fall Armyworm Tech Prize has supported scaling of new products/services in the agricultural market in Africa, leveraged investments to support solutions' entrance to market, and raised awareness in Africa of the potential of digital tools, approaches, and data to generate useful insights in order to combat the threat of the fall armyworm. Key results include:

- 84% of finalists intend to enter African markets immediately.
- The Fall Armyworm Tech Prize received $268,774 of in-kind support from partners, equivalent to 26% of USAID's total investment.
- News of FAW and the prize itself reached a global audience of 15 million.

***"We had been researching incorporating AI, and the prize accelerated Akorion's strategy to use AI in service delivery in EzyAgric. Akorion also joined the Google developer Launchpad, which also provided us with an opportunity to perfect our AI. As a result, Akorion is now one year ahead of schedule and moving into the AI space faster than anticipated."***

—Akorion

**myAgro** and **Technoplus IT Solutions** discovered their solutions complement one another: myAgro can provide seeds, fertilizer, and training services to Buuza Agripoll farmers, purchased via myAgro digital currency, which can also be given to farmers as an incentive to respond to surveys.

***"We want to connect and team up with finalists, we are only getting information from the field, so it's important to share information between teams working in different countries. I would support that 100%."***

—myAgro

***"The top 10 finalists are ready for market, and even the bottom 10 have an opportunity to get to market."***

—Joel Wipperfurth, *Land O'Lakes judge*

# KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PRIZE

## A global call for local solvers

The prize was a global program, open to competitors around the world to ensure diverse participants brought a balance of innovation, expertise, and local knowledge and to encourage complimentary new partnerships between them. While the prize sought to reward the top-performing innovations, it was also intended to inspire innovators who were able to solve problems that affected their families and communities. For this reason, the prize focused on attracting high potential African innovators.

To ensure strong engagement of local solvers, the Fall Armyworm Tech Prize ran specific activities in Africa, with the support of local partners and local staff. In particular, the prize organized:

- A virtual launch and a webinar. The webinar was well-attended and staffed by the prize partners. Competitors were made aware of the prize requirements and process.
- In-person events. During the eight weeks the call was open Africa Communications conducted workshops with local innovators at innovation hubs in Uganda, Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, and South Africa.
- Relevant, context-specific media coverage. Africa Communications conducted outreach across a variety of international and pan-African online and print platforms in Kenya, Nigeria, Liberia, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, South Sudan, and Ghana.

The Fall Armyworm Tech Prize received 228 submissions. The majority of applications came from 22 African countries (81%), particularly Uganda, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, and South Africa. Other applications came from the United States, the United Kingdom, India, Israel, Canada, Asia, and Latin America. From these, the prize selected 20 finalists, 13 of which were from African countries. Of the six award winners, four are African. This proportion of high-quality, high-performing competitors from developing countries moving from application to award is unprecedented in USAID's history of global open innovation competitions.

***"The prize was a great way to create awareness and drive people in Africa to engage in innovative competitions. It was a great competition with lots of benefits."***

—Cyhana, *Henson Geodata Technologies*


Photo Credit: Addmaya

## Testing and developing with end users

The Fall Armyworm Tech Prize aimed to award context-specific solutions. To this end, the prize was designed to ensure that end users would take an active part in the development of solutions, and that finalists would get support to adapt their solutions as needed.

In particular, the prize offered:

- A four-day co-creation workshop during which all participants received an introduction to business development and what it means to develop with end users and testing, followed by the opportunity to showcase their solutions and interact with farmers, extension services, agronomy students, mentors, and experts to gain valuable feedback.
- Seed funding of $2,000 for each finalist to support the development and prototype of the solutions on the ground.
- Field partners—CABI and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)—supported finalists by providing expertise and connections on the entomology and agricultural impact of FAW. CABI designed and implemented a field test protocol for the innovations, which signalled priority areas for performance.
- An eight week on-call mentorship program delivered by MEST to support finalists in developing their innovations and technology to be as user-centered and sustainable as possible.

All finalists enjoyed the possibility to showcase and test their solutions. On average, finalists assessed their skills as improving by 12% post-co-creation thanks to the interactions and feedback from experts and farmers. While the co-creation event, the seed funding, and mentorship were made available to all finalists, each finalist selected the types of support their team needed.


Photo Credit: CABI_Invasives

*"Co-creation was exciting and intense all at once. We were able to meet all the other teams and important organizations that we could partner and collaborate with. Also, being able to meet the farmers was amazing as we got direct feedback on what worked, which allowed us to immediately get back to developing the prototype."*

—Kofi, *Limitless Apps Studios*

*"Farmers were treated as experts. Too often, working with them is done in a way that's really patronizing. There's a tendency to treat them as beneficiaries versus users. The attitude is, 'we made this for you and now you have to use this.' We love that you had them on a panel, just like you had the other experts, and you emphasized that they are just as respected as USAID staff."*

—Adam, *Farm.ink*

*"The in-person sessions in Uganda were incredible and thought provoking. Because of the success of the in-person sessions, the mentoring sessions actually became context-driven. Our biggest win was when the finalists actively thought about business models to sustain the business rather than offer it as a free service"*

—Ashwin Ravichandran, *MEST*

## Strong partners & private sector engagement

At the core of the Fall Armyworm Tech Prize were strong partnerships. USAID/Uganda buy-in for the prize's in-country activities was key to the success of the prize.

The prize benefited from the advice and networks of Land O'Lakes International Development, FFAR, CIMMYT, and CABI. These partners attended the co-creation workshop and gave finalists expert advice on how to hone their innovations to be more responsive to market trends, customers, and FAW's behavior. Land O'Lakes International Development invited the chiefs of party of several local projects to give finalists feedback on how the innovations might better incorporate into USAID projects.

The finalists and winners also attended the AfricaCom digital industry conference and obtained both industry contacts and a better sense of the digital platforms, infrastructure, and providers with whom they might partner to distribute their solutions.

With the prize's conclusion, Land O'Lakes International Development, FFAR, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), and the Syngenta Foundation have continued to support winners in positioning their innovations, alerting them to networking opportunities, and sharing potential testing, funding, and showcasing opportunities.

All finalists confirmed the prize was a tremendous platform to boost new partnerships, and more than 17 partnerships were confirmed during the prize's timeline, with more likely to materialize in the coming months.


Photo Credit: Addmaya

*"I thought the co-creation workshop, for me, Joel, and my two COPs was a highlight. The chance to have a hands-on discussion with each of the finalists, to learn more deeply about their solutions and how they defined the problem was very helpful to us. And I certainly hope the innovators found that the interactions they had with us was beneficial to them and their ideas."*

—John Ellenberger, *Senior Vice President of International Development, Land O Lakes Inc.*

# KEY RESULTS

The Feed the Future Fall Armyworm Tech Prize demonstrated that prizes can contribute to appropriate, effective, and context-specific innovation. Key results and lessons from the Fall Armyworm Tech Prize include:

### The prize as a tool to rapidly expand awareness and inspire action against fall armyworm

At a cost of $1.39 per user, the prize's innovations reached 4.5 million African users in four months. Moreover, 15 million people learned about the Fall Armyworm Tech Prize and the urgent need to accelerate identifying and intervening against the pest.

### The prize as a tool to generate partnerships and engage with the private sector

The Fall Armyworm Tech Prize deepened USAID's relationships and collaboration with private-sector partners while also fostering 17 partnerships among winners and finalists. In both cases, the prize was an effective tool to engage with the private sector in supporting innovative solutions to tackle development problems.

### The use of a prize to incentivize paying for results

A meaningful prize statement, judging criteria, and testing process are essential to attract the right innovators and evaluate their innovations. This means that for a prize to be effective, it takes time to research and design its elements. In particular, the Fall Armyworm Prize could have benefitted from more time to conduct field research in order to further scope the prize statement and align it with the judging criteria. In particular, it would have been useful to have a more robust testing process that fully aligned with the judging criteria and prize objectives. Finally, it would have been ideal to test the innovations over a growing season to measure their impact on productivity.

### The use of a prize to attract local solvers and generate tested solutions

To attract African solvers and contextualize the prize, it was essential to have a robust outreach strategy, engage field staff, have USAID Mission support, and to run in-country events. These activities generated momentum, built context-specificity, and ensured the resulting solutions were relevant to the field test subjects.

### The prize as a tool to support human-centered design approaches and co-creation

The prize's staged process with activities such as human-centered design and co-creation improved the quality on finalists' and winners solutions. All Fall Armyworm Tech Prize finalists benefitted from end-user feedback, expert guidance, and new partners as a result of the prize's co-creation activities.

Photo Credit: CABI_Invasives

# PARTNERS & THEIR ROLES

## Led By

Feed the Future is America's initiative to combat global hunger and poverty. It brings partners together to help some of the world's poorest countries harness the power of agriculture and entrepreneurship to jump-start their economies and create new opportunities.

## Contributing Partners lent their technical expertise, convening power, and contributions to the prize awards to the prize:

Land O'Lakes International Development is a 501(c)(3) independent nonprofit that leverages the farm-to-fork expertise of Land O'Lakes, Inc. to unlock the potential of agriculture to empower the developing world. Since 1981, Land O'Lakes International Development has implemented over 300 dairy, livestock and crops development programs in nearly 80 countries.

The Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR), a non-profit organization established through bipartisan congressional support in the 2014 Farm Bill, builds unique partnerships to support innovative science addressing today's food and agriculture challenges.

## Resource Partners lent their expertise to support the prize's testing process, finalist acceleration, and communications and outreach efforts:

The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) provided FAW research and context to both the prize sponsors and finalists.

The Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI) created and conducted the field test protocol and supported with expertise around FAW.

The Meltwater Entrepreneurial School of Technology (MEST) provided skills support in technological and business development and mentored finalists during the testing and development stage.

Africa Communications provided communications support across Africa to raise awareness of the prize, the innovators, and the issue of FAW.

BRAC provided support at the co-creation event with expertise in agriculture and development.

Syngenta Foundation offered post-prize support through their accelerator program as well as judging insights in the final recommendations to USAID.

OPIC offered networking opportunities as well as judging insights in the final recommendations to USAID.

## Judges

**Chris Burns**—*Director, Center for Digital Development, U.S. Global Development Lab, USAID*
**Ethel Cofie**—*CEO and Founder, EDEL Technology Consulting*
**Josephine Ukot**—*Founder, Victoria Seeds Ltd.*
**Bruce Cameron**—*Director, Agribusiness and Project Finance, OPIC*
**Lungisa Mashtoba**—*Chief Technology Officer and Co-Founder, Yoco*
**Joel Wipperfurth**—*Director, AgTechnology, Winfield, a Land O'Lakes company*
**Dr. Sally Rockey**—*Executive Director, FFAR*
**Dr. Mike Robinson**—*Chief Science Advisor, Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture*
**Simon Byabagambi**—*Program Management Specialist and Agronomist, USAID/Uganda*
**Debisi Araba**—*Africa Director, International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)*

**For more information about the Fall Armyworm Tech Prize, please see:**

**Videos:**

Why Innovation Is Needed to Tackle Fall Armyworm

Co-creation to Stop Fall Armyworm

**The prize application and information platform:**

fallarmywormtech.challenges.org

**Please contact:**

Talia_Dweck@dai.com

fawtechprize@nesta.org.uk

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The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative