Chemical control of armyworm in corn

Recognize the problem
The armyworm caterpillar opens holes or gaps in the inner leaves of corn. Sometimes their waste can be seen on the leaves. When the plant is large, the armyworm is located in the cob, entering by the ear silk and causing damage to the grains which can lead to rot.

Background
During the night, gray moths or butterflies can be seen. The moths lay eggs, from which the armyworm is born.

If we always apply the same type of insecticide, the armyworm becomes resistant and the insecticide will no longer kill it.

Management
Before spraying insecticides, verify if there are a large number of armyworms in the field.

For control, application of insecticides like Alpha-cypermethrin (e.g. Fastac) and chlorpyriphos (e.g. Tifón) is recommended at 20 to 40 ml per 20 liters of water. Application should be done when plants show 3-6 leaves.

In one cycle, you can spray Alpha-cypermethrin; in the following one, you have to change to chlorpyriphos, so that you do not use always the same insecticide in consecutive cycles.

Take care when using these chemicals because they are broad spectrum insecticides and are therefore also harmful to natural enemies e.g. parasitoids.

When using a pesticide, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label, such as dosage, timing of application, and pre-harvest interval.

Scientific name(s) > *Spodoptera frugiperda*

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Peru