Damage by sugar cane borer in maize

Recognize the problem
This worm bores the maize stalk. If the maize is young, this worm can kill the plant. If the attack occurs after ear formation, the plants fall and cannot be lifted by the harvester.

However, the infestation level is usually low.

Background
The borer is the same pest that has always affected sugarcane but it is currently spreading to maize.

Maize varieties that have harder stalks are probably more resistant.

The borer can survive in the residue stalk after maize harvest.

Management
• Practise crop sanitation to destroy maize canes in the plot
• If there are a large number of borers, apply Thiamethoxam at 40g per 20L-water knapsack on the soil during sowing
• If the crop is already large apply chlorpyrifos plus cypermethrin at 100 mL per 20L-water knapsack

Scientific name(s) > Diatraea saccharalis

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.

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Bolivia