Pod Borer

Recognize the problem
Pod borer is a notorious pest of beans causing heavy damage to the crop. Yield loss due to pod borer damage can be quite high. The larvae feed on the buds and flowers and bore into the pod to eat the developing seeds. The flowers and pods are bound together by a frass-covered web, produced by the larvae. Seeds within damaged pods are totally or partially eaten by bean pod borer larvae. Entry holes also let in water, which stains the remaining non-eaten seeds. In peanuts, bean pod borer larvae may web young leaves together and may tunnel into plant stems. Such damage is not typical of its behaviour on other legumes.

Background
Bean pod borer moths are active at night but shelter within the plant canopy during the day. The infestation starts on peas usually a fortnight after germination and becomes serious just after the initiation of flower bud coupled with cloudy and humid weather.

This pest attacks chickpea, pigeon pea, broad bean, yard long bean, sunflower, cotton, safflower, chilli, sorghum, groundnut, tomato and other agricultural and horticultural crops. It is a devastating pest of legumes, pulses and oilseeds.

Management
Integrated control measures help to achieve a good crop:

- Eradication of the weed host, *Sesbania* spp. from cropping areas.
- Clean cultivation
- Application of balanced doses of fertilizers
- Pesticides are most effective if applied before larvae enter into pods: Spray with fenvalerate (e.g. Fenfen) or cypermethrin (e.g. Ripcord or Cymbush) at the recommended dose, mentioned in the label
- No fruits should be consumed in the 10 days after spraying

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) > *Maruca vitrata*

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Bangladesh