



PROJECT SUMMARY

PROJECT TITLE: Project for improvement of locust management

PROJECT SYMBOL: GCP/INT/238/JPN

Recipient Countries: Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

Resource Partners: Japan

Government/other counterparts:

*Plant Protection and Quarantine Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and livestock, Afghanistan

*Department of Chemistry and Plant Protection, Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration, Kyrgyzstan

*State Republican Unitary Enterprise "Locust Control", Ministry of Agriculture, Tajikistan

Expected Starting Date: December 2015

Expected End Date: December 2018 (three-year duration)

Budget: USD 4 852 280

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, where approximately two-thirds of the population depend on agriculture, are periodically plagued by the Moroccan Locust (DMA) and the Italian Locust (CIT). During outbreaks, these locust pests attack a wide range of cultivated plants and can cause severe damage, thus jeopardizing food security and livelihood of the rural populations. Some of the main locust hot spots are located close to the borders with the neighboring countries or overlap them. During recent years, there was a significant increase of locust infestations in Afghanistan and the Central Asian countries and new hot spots were observed including at higher altitudes than in the past. In Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, funding appears as a very serious constraint, resulting in lack of adequate resources for survey and control operations, which includes insufficient experienced and trained staff as well as shortage of updated monitoring, communication, positioning and control equipment and techniques. A major challenge is therefore to strengthen countries' operational capacities and create or update competencies for better addressing the locust issues, with particular attention to human health and environmental aspects. In addition, it is essential that the response to such transboundary threats be addressed in a coordinated manner at regional level to fully benefit to the targeted countries.

In this context, a request for assistance was formulated by Tajikistan to improve locust management, to its own benefit and the one of some of its neighbouring countries, namely Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan. The present project document was prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in close liaison with the three countries and Japan. It takes into account the work carried out over the recent years in the framework of the FAO "Programme to improve national and regional locust management in Caucasus and Central Asia (CCA)", to which it will contribute, as well as the lessons learnt so far and the specific needs for each of the concerned countries.

The project, of USD 4 852 280, will have a three-year duration. The ultimate beneficiaries of the assistance will be the rural populations living in the locust distribution areas, whose food security will be preserved through better prevention of locust outbreaks and upsurges, thus reduced threat on crop and rangeland; the immediate beneficiaries will be the national services/bodies in charge of locust management in the three concerned countries, whose institutional, technical and human capacities to deal with the locust pests will be strengthened and updated at both national and regional levels.

The overall objective of the project will be to contribute to food security and livelihood of the rural populations in Central Asia by preventing and limiting the threats posed by locusts and damage to crops and rangelands in the respect of human health and the environment. The expected outcome of the project will be that national and regional locust management is improved in Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and in their neighboring countries, through development of increased national capacities and regional cooperation.

The project relies on the so-called locust preventive strategy, recognized as the only one able to adequately and sustainably address locust issues; it consists in appropriate monitoring of locust populations in their traditional habitats to allow early warning and early reaction with well-targeted control operations using updated techniques while reducing risks for human health and environment. The project includes five outputs. The first one will be that regional cooperation will be developed thanks to the circulation of locust information, joint activities and coordination of activities, both in the framework of the project and with “Programme to improve national and regional locust management in CCA” as a whole. The second output is that national capacities will be strengthened, i.e. knowledge and techniques improved and updated (training-of-trainers), practical guidelines and appropriate infrastructure for meetings and trainings available (in the latter case, for Tajikistan). Under the third output, locust monitoring will be improved thanks to the delivery of survey equipment and development of an automated system for data collection and national Geographical Information System, allowing appropriate collect and analysis of field locust data. The fourth output will concern the support of the locust control operations thanks to the delivery of locust control equipment including, in the case of Tajikistan, conventional pesticides in Ultra-Low Volume (ULV) formulation, whose management will be carefully monitored. The fifth output concerns risk reduction for human health and the environment: this will include mitigating impact of locust control operations on human health and the environment through delivery of personal protective clothing, facilitating pesticides, empty containers and pesticide warehouse management in Tajikistan (where pesticides are to be delivered) and preparing extension documentation and mass-media campaigns for local populations; it will also comprise the monitoring of impact of locust control operations through support to Human Health and Environmental Monitoring Teams, delivering health and environment monitoring equipment as well as facilitating impact assessment of control operations in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The project will focus on the provinces that are the most affected by locusts: in Afghanistan, the five northern provinces sharing borders with Tajikistan, namely Baghlan, Balkh, Kunduz, Samangan and Takhar; in Kyrgyzstan, Batken, Jalal-Abad and Naryn; and in Tajikistan, Khatlon in the South and Sughd provinces in the North.

The national responsible bodies for the project implementation will be: the Plant Protection and Quarantine Directorate (PPQD), Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and livestock (MAIL), Kabul, Afghanistan; the Department of Chemistry and Plant Protection (DCPP), Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration (MAM), Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; and the State Republican Unitary Enterprise (SUE) “Locust Control”, Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Dushanbe, Tajikistan. On FAO side, the overall technical, operational and financial supervision as well as the coordination and management of the project will be ensured by the “Locusts and other transboundary plant pests and diseases” Team (AGPMM), at FAO headquarters, in close cooperation with the concerned subregional offices and country FAO Representations. The operational implementation of the project will be supported by a Project Implementation Unit (PIU), based in the FAO Representation of Tajikistan. FAO will also ensure project monitoring, on a daily basis and through the annual convening of a Project Steering Committee (PSC), with specific attention paid to pesticide management, as well as project reporting.