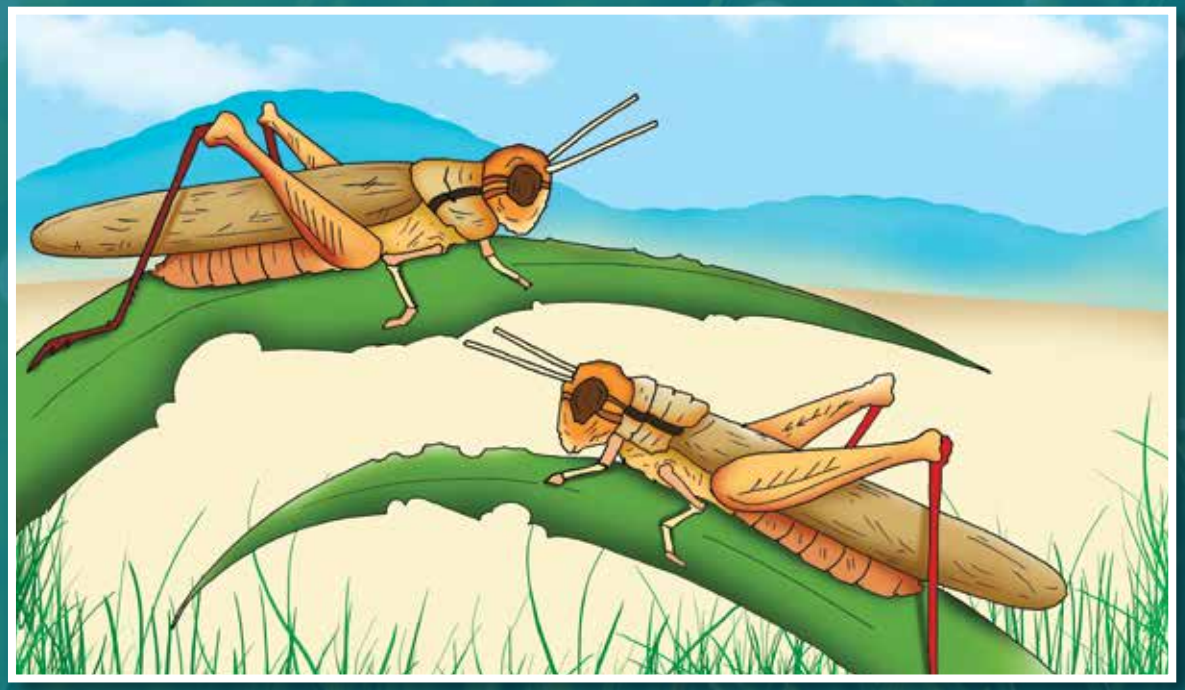
Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

FAO “Programme to improve national and regional locust management in Caucasus and Central Asia (CCA)”

SAFETY MEASURES ASSOCIATED TO LOCUST CONTROL OPERATIONS



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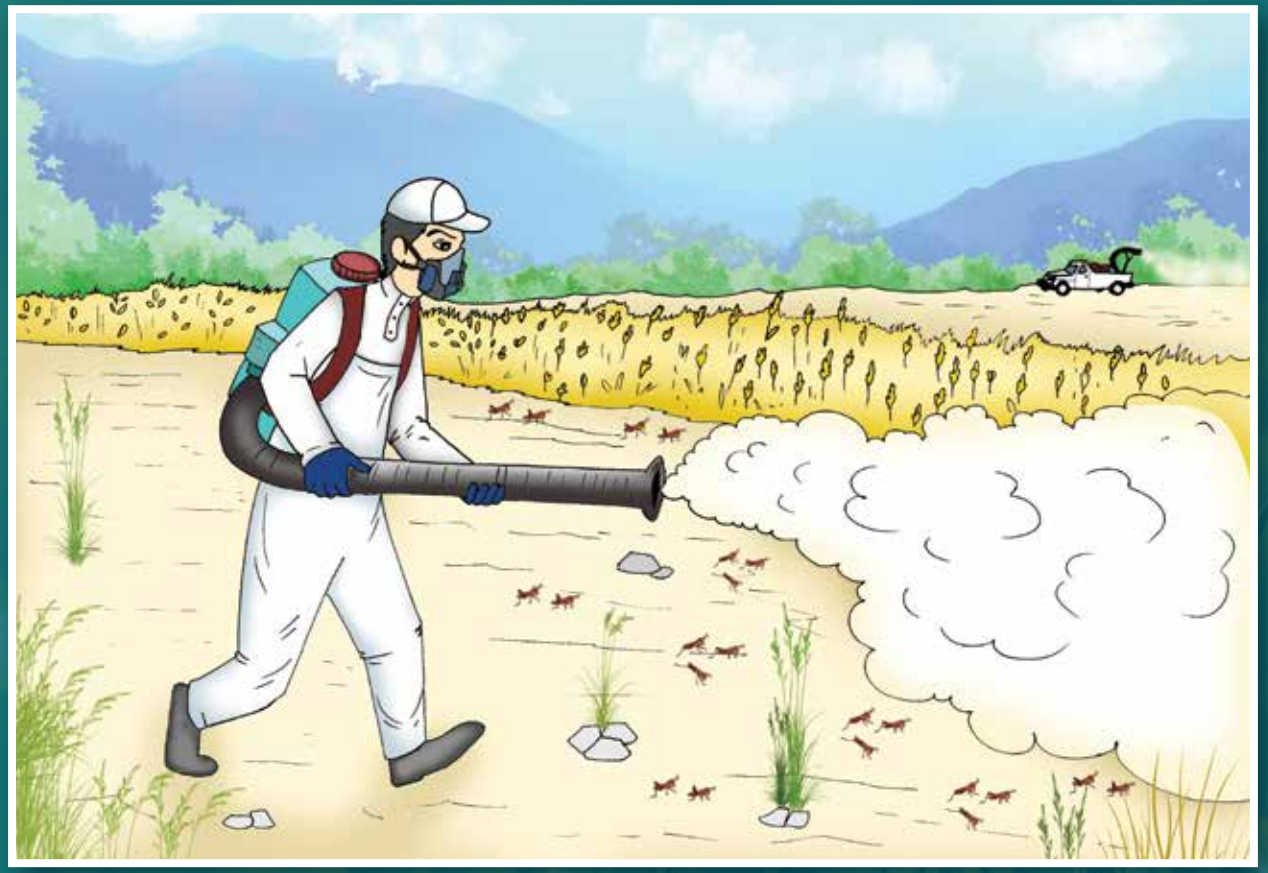


LOCUST CONTROL

Locusts may cause serious damage to crops and pastures. Therefore, control operations are conducted to keep locust populations at bay and minimize losses to crops and grazing land. Locust control is mainly conducted with conventional chemical pesticides. Control staff is well trained to use such toxic chemicals effectively and to avoid adverse effects on human health and the environment. This includes information of local populations about planned control operations.

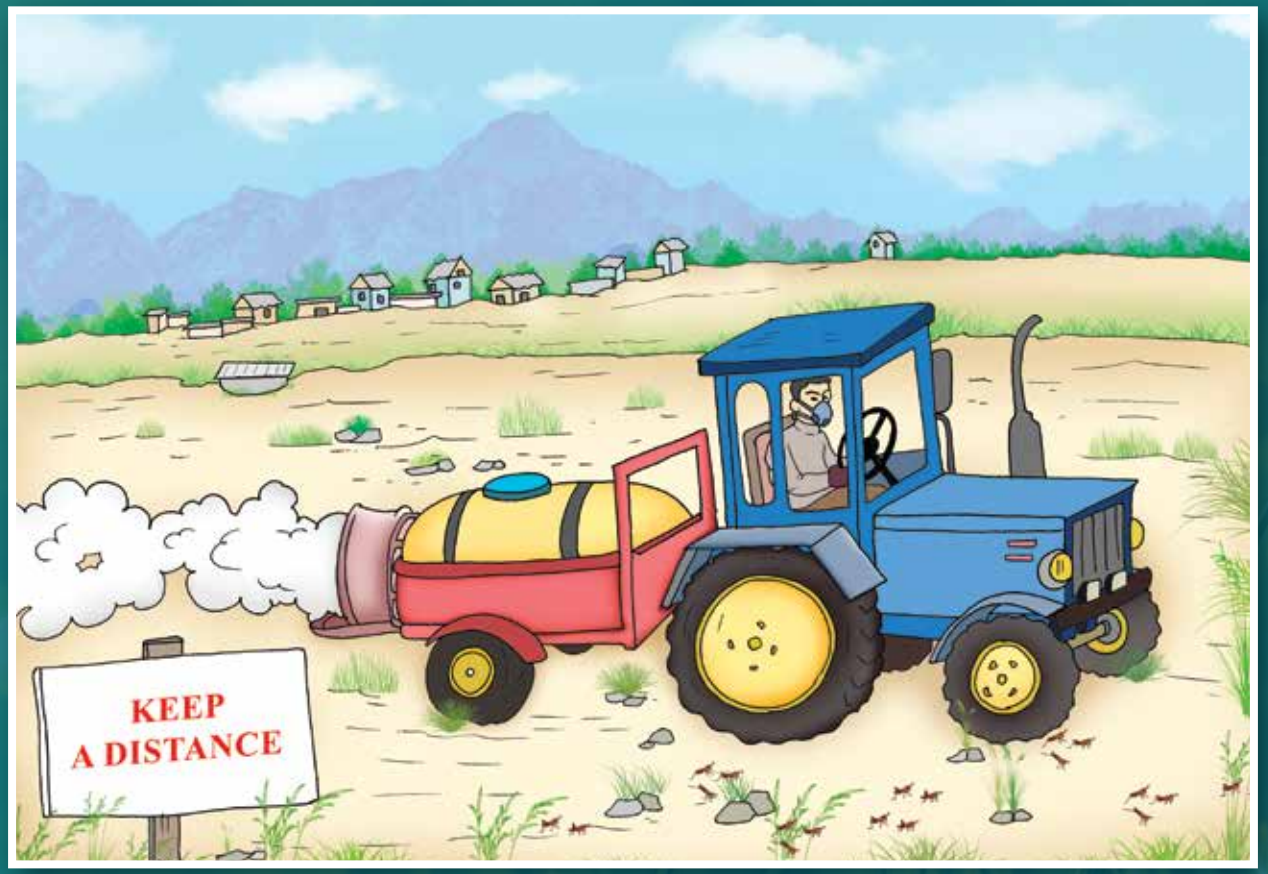
However, as long conventional chemical insecticides are used, precautions should be taken to minimize adverse effects on human health and the environment. This calendar provides some practical advices on safety measures to be adopted by local populations, farmers, shepherds, beekeepers and municipalities before, during and after locust control operations.

January 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				



KEEP A DISTANCE

Generally, locust control is carried out well away from villages, farms or other dwellings. In some situations, however, insecticide applications may need to be done closer to habitations. During and immediately after spraying, you should not approach the fields that are being treated.

Watch out! Keep you and your family safe from pesticide exposure!

Follow the instructions of the control team and/or the local authorities. Keep a distance from the insecticide treatments to avoid exposure to the spray droplets! If so instructed by the control team or the local authorities, cover the wells or drinking water points in the village or close to the house with a tarpaulin. Do not enter the sprayed fields for at least 48 hours after spraying.

March 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

RESPECT PRE-HARVEST INTERVALS

Sometimes, locust control has to be conducted in crops. If your field is treated with insecticides, you should wait for a minimum number of days before you can harvest the crop. This is called the pre-harvest interval. If you respect the pre-harvest interval, pesticide residues on the crop will not pose a risk for consumers.

Locust control staff or agricultural extension agents can tell you the duration of the pre-harvest interval; it may be different according to the insecticide used.

Make sure our food is safe: respect the pre-harvest interval!

May 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

June 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	2	3
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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RESPECT LIVESTOCK WITHHOLDING PERIODS

Locust control will often be conducted in pastures. If your livestock grazes in or close to pastures treated with insecticides, you should wait for a minimum number of days before you can let the animals re-enter the treated plots. This is called the withholding period. If you respect the withholding period, pesticide residues on the grass will not pose a risk for your livestock nor for consumers who are drinking milk or eating meat from your animals.

Locust control staff or agricultural extension agents can tell you the duration of the livestock withholding period; it may be different according to the insecticide used.

Make sure our food is safe: respect the withholding period!

July 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

August 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

DO NOT RE-USE EMPTY PESTICIDE CONTAINERS

Empty pesticide containers may seem to be useful to store food, cooking oil or drinking water. However, pesticide residues will always be present in the container, even after cleaning them. It is therefore dangerous to [for?] your health if you use empty pesticide containers to store food or drinks. Do not believe persons that tell you that empty pesticide containers can be sufficiently cleaned for subsequent use: They cannot! Never re-use them!

If you find empty pesticide containers close to your field or house, return them to the local Ministry of Agriculture office, so they can be properly disposed of.

Protect the health of your family: do not re-use empty pesticide containers!

September 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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29	30	31				

PROTECT HONEYBEES

Conventional chemical insecticides that are sprayed against locusts are toxic to honeybees. It is therefore important to remove beehives from the fields that will be treated, especially if plants are flowering. Generally, 3 to 5 km is a safe distance. You should wait at least one week until you return your honeybees to forage again close to the treated fields.

If you are a beekeeper, make sure to follow the instructions of the locust control staff. If you see that locust control is conducted in the neighbourhood, contact the locust control staff or the local authorities to find out whether you need to move your beehives.

Bees are important for crop pollination and honey production: make sure to protect them from insecticides!

November 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

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Locusts and grasshoppers are a serious threat to agriculture as they attack all kinds of crops and plants. The best strategy to manage them is prevention. This means monitoring of locust habitats during critical periods of their lifecycle to detect the infestations early and allow quick reaction. Control operations can then be carried out before significant increase of locust numbers and when there is no immediate threat to cropping areas.

For the time being, locust control operations are mostly carried out with chemical pesticides. Locust control staff is trained to carry out these operations with a view to avoid or limit their negative impact on human health and the environment. Increasingly, low risk insecticides are used in locust control, such as insect growth regulators and biopesticides, which are very specific to locusts and do not affect many other organisms. As a result, effective locust control becomes more environmentally friendly.

FAO is supporting Caucasus and Central Asia countries in implementing locust prevention as well as adequate locust control operations that respect human health and the environment.

This calendar, which focuses on safety measures to be adopted by local populations living in locust-infested areas, is realized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) with the financial support from Japan/ Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

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