

<b>Technical Workshop on Locusts in Caucasus and Central Asia (CCA)</b>
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 12-16 November 2012
<b>Strengthening national capacities: Internship</b>

*- Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda -*

## **Description**

In the framework of the “Five-year Programme to improve national and regional locust management in Caucasus and Central Asia (CCA)” (Activity 2.3 of the Roadmap for its implementation), Mr. Almas Baidillayev, a national from Kazakhstan, agronomist specialist of locust control, carried out an internship on locust management in Morocco from 10 to 29 June 2012. This activity was charged against United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funding (project GCP/INT/134/USA). The Moroccan National Center for Locust Control (CNLAA) hosted Mr. Baidillayev and kindly contributed to the organization of the internship by providing all logistical materials and supervision. It was also expected that one person from Tajikistan participate to the mission but this was not possible due to locust situation in the country.

The following topics had been identified for the internship on locust management:

- Management / organization / functioning of the Center;
- Relationships/Links between the Center and the other structures involved in locust management, at centralized (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Agriculture and Plant Protection Division, etc.) and decentralized (regions) levels;
- Presentation on the main habitats of the Moroccan Locust (DMA);
- Locust campaign management - theoretical and practical training if possible;
- Survey operations - theoretical and practical training;
- Control operations with focus on Ultra-Low Volume (ULV) spraying - theoretical and practical training;
- Monitoring of locust control operations: efficacy and impact of treatments on human health and the environment;
- End of campaign report.

The internship therefore focused on practical aspects and covered different issues related to locust campaign management, habitat features of the Moroccan Locust, locust survey and ULV spraying techniques, management of pesticides and of their

empty containers, information management, use of Standard Survey Form agreed by CCA countries, monitoring of human health and environment. More specifically, five days (from 18 to 23 June) were devoted to survey in Askaoun region, a breeding area of the Moroccan Locust located 200 km east of Agadir, at an altitude of 2 000 m. The first day of the survey focused on how to fill the Standard Survey Form and on the use of different devices as GPS, thermo-hygrometer, anemometer, compass as well as on map reading. During the two following days, surveys were carried out in different localities. The last two days were spent on demonstration and training on calibration of different sprayers using pesticide oil formulation (ULV). The trainee was encouraged to actively work with all these tools.

The survey carried out during the internship provided the opportunity to prepare a video film on survey and control operations against the Moroccan Locust, which will be used as audiovisual support (tutorial) for future training workshops in CCA countries, as per Activity 4.2.1 of the Roadmap of the Five-year Programme (See Working Paper for Item 10).

**Expectations:** to improve managerial and technical skill of Kazakh personnel on locust control management.

### **Assessment**

Briefing and debriefing with the trainee were regularly organized to assess the progress achieved. The supervisor deemed acceptable the progress the trainee made. He gained experience in locust control management, survey techniques and calibrating handheld and vehicle-mounted equipment using ULV spraying techniques.

### **Conclusion**

The internship was successful and well organized. During the course programme, the Kazakh trainee had the opportunity to gain experience on appropriate way to manage efficiently a locust control campaign and a national locust unit. He also improved his technical skills on locust monitoring and ULV pesticide spraying techniques.

Knowledge gained during this training and documents provided will undoubtedly allow the Kazakh trainee to appropriately transfer the acquired knowledge to his colleagues during future trainings held at national level.

However, it should be noted that despite repeated requests, no end-of-training report was received from the trainee.

### **Recommendations:**

- The internship for Tajikistan, which was initially planned in 2012, will have to be postponed in 2013, at a suitable period of the year (to be decided during the forthcoming workshop);

- The organization of such training session requires important human resources, logistic and funding, and is time consuming. Consequently, it is highly recommended in the future to involve simultaneously several participants from various CCA countries in such internships abroad (as originally planned) to ensure a better cost-benefice balance, maximize efforts made by the host country and strengthen exchanges and information sharing within CCA.
- A pre-selection of the candidates should be made to choose the most appropriate persons in order to ensure sustainability, taking into consideration the age, background, experience and skills of the candidates.
- Each CCA country should prepare an annual plan of national training workshops and keep FAO informed.