

Regional Training course on Desert Locust Survey

Yemen, 28 March - 2 April 1998

- **Day 1:** The Minister of Agriculture **opened** the training course at the Plant Protection Department in Sana'a. A pre-evaluation test was given to the trainees. Presentations were made on why, where, when and how to make surveys, and how to use latitude/longitude. Trainees completed an exercise on **map reading**.
- **Day 2:** Everyone moved by vehicle to Hodeidah (4 hours). In the afternoon, trainees learned how to use a geographic positioning system (**GPS**) for coordinate determination and navigation.
- **Day 3:** Trainees were divided into four groups, each with a trainer, a 4WD landrover, maps, compass and GPS. Each group did an all-day field **survey** on the coastal plains north of Hodeidah to the Saudi border.
- **Day 4:** Two groups did a **survey** east of Hodeidah and two did a survey south of Hodeidah. In the afternoon, groups presented their survey results and discussed methodologies and difficulties. Locust biology and behaviour were reviewed.
- **Day 5:** All groups used the GPS to **navigate** to two infested sites near the Saudi border, about 3 hours from Hodeidah. Here, they practiced **evaluating** densities and sizes of the hopper band and swarm infestations. In the evening, a presentation was made on how survey results are used for **assessment, planning** and **forecasting** by countries and FAO. A post-evaluation was given and trainees evaluated the course.
- **Day 6:** Everyone returned to Sana'a. Course **certificates** were distributed.