

REPORT

**Amman,
Jordan,
15-18 October
1999**

**The Executive Committee
FAO Commission
For Controlling
the Desert Locust
in the Central Region**

Twenty-third Session



**Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations**

Report
of the Twenty-third Session
OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE
COMMISSION FOR CONTROLLING THE DESERT LOCUST
IN THE CENTRAL REGION

Amman, Jordan, 18-20 October 1999

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Regional Office for the Near East
Cairo, 2000

**THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE COMMISSION FOR CONTROLLING THE DESERT LOCUST
IN THE CENTRAL REGION**

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Summary of Recommendations

Desert Locust Situation in the Central Region

The Committee urged Member countries to continue their systematic monitoring operations in areas of rainfall and conventional Desert Locust breeding areas. It also urged them to continue to inform the commission and FAO about the prevailing Desert Locust situation in their respective countries and the measures taken in that regard.

It further recommended that Member countries be regularly provided with up-to-date information pertaining to meteorological conditions and vegetation in the Central Region with a view to assist survey teams to conduct their activities in the best required manner.

Training

a) **Regional Training**

After reviewing the regional training activities conducted during the period 1993 – 1999, the Committee recommended the following:

- 1) The necessity to raise the number of regional training courses to three per year and ensure that these focus on specialized topics, in accordance with the needs and training priorities of the countries of the Region.
- 2) Regional training in the next two year, should include the following aspect: Desert Locust information and forecasting, Desert Locust surveys, organization of campaigns and evaluation of their results, maintenance of survey equipment, use of computers in Desert Locust operations activities, use of advanced communication facilities, meteorology and map reading.

b) **National Training**

Noting that national training courses conducted by Member countries during the period 1993 – 1999 in the field of Desert Locust control operations still fall below the required range of training, the Committee recommended the following:

- 1) Formulation of a national training programme for Member countries to include organization of a yearly training course in one of the countries in the Desert Locust breeding area;

- 2) The Commission should allocate the amount of \$5,000 to meet the local needs of the national training course or cover the expenses of providing technical expertise to contribute to the organization of the training course.
- 3) Member countries should organize other training courses, depending on their own technical staff and resources or in collaboration with donors or other organizations and programs;
- 4) Provision of training at the Organization Headquarters for one staff from each Member country on forecasting, remote sensing, map reading and reporting on the locust situation. Such training must be coordinated in advance with FAO

c) Academic Training

Considering that the academic training programme proposed by the University of Khartoum will systematically meet the needs of Member countries in the field of required advanced training for senior national officials responsible for locust control, the Committee recommended the following:

- 1) Endorsement of Khartoum University's proposed academic training programme and the need to improve it whenever required;
- 2) The Commission should contribute three scholarships for candidates from the countries of the Region, once the training programme becomes operational;

d) Fellowships

Being informed of the three fellowships offered to the Commission by the Desert Locust Control Committee (DLCC), the Committee recommended the following:

- 1) Urge the authorities of Saudi Arabia to release Mr. Adnan Khan so that he can attend Khartoum University and receive training in the field of entomology before enrolment in the Masters programme;
- 2) The necessity of setting rules governing future candidature for higher studies. Such rules must ensure that candidates meet the required standards of academic efficiency, language proficiency and commitment to attendance of scheduled studies whenever and wherever given without any delay.

e) Regional Project for Training

Having endorsed, in its Twenty-first Session, the draft regional training project prepared to meet the training needs of the countries of the Region, which includes the national as well as the specialized regional programmes and the provision of necessary skills and information for all those working in the field of Desert Locust control in the countries of the Region; and

Having approved the scale of contributions of Member countries to the project and the amount allocated for annual training; and

Recalling that the project was referred to FAO HQ for revision with a view to reducing the budgetary costs of its implementation without seriously affecting the project objectives or its approved phases of implementation;

The Committee recommended that the work on the revision of the project be expedited, finalized as soon as possible and the project submitted to donors for funding.

Research

Noting that most of the research proposals received during the past years do not adequately match the prepared and agreed guidelines, and that the research programme is still not running smoothly;

The Committee recommended the formation of a research task force to be composed of selected researchers from the countries of the Region, researchers from outside the Region, in addition to the Commission and EMPRES and FAO. The Task Force should review what has already been achieved in the field and promotion of the establishment of applied research in the Region, identify the obstacles hindering progress in research activities and formulate necessary concepts and proposals for the promotion of research in the Central Region.

Meteorology

Recalling its recommendations of the Twenty-first Session and its endorsement of the proposed draft project on the establishment/support of a meteorological network in the Central Region; and

Noting that no tangible progress in this regard has so far been achieved; the Committee recommended the following:

- 1) Urge FAO to prepare a comprehensive document on the project, in the light of the draft project proposal approved by the Commission, and submit it to donors for funding;
- 2) Urge Member countries to solicit assistance in this field from the African Development Bank (ADB), Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and donors;
- 3) Urge the authorities concerned with Desert Locust control in Member countries to intensify their contacts with meteorological departments with a view to assist in the establishment of meteorological stations in Desert Locust breeding areas.

Joint Surveys

Commending the joint survey undertaken during March 1999 in the Red Sea coastal areas in Sudan, which was the first of its kind since the establishment of the Commission; and

Stressing the importance of repeatedly undertaking such surveys on a regular basis in the areas which are crucial for Desert Locust breeding during the summer, winter and spring breeding seasons, the Committee recommended the following:

- 1) Organize joint surveys during the next two years in the Sudan–Egypt and Yemen– Saudi joint border areas. The survey in Sudan should cover Darfour and Kordofan areas, the Red Sea coast in Yemen and Saudi Arabia, and Shabwa and Mareb area in Yemen;
- 2) Urge Member countries where the surveys are to be undertaken to inform the Commission about the national capacities available to undertake such surveys and request the Commission to provide them with any other facilities not locally available, in addition to providing assistance to cover travel expenses (tickets and DSA) for participants from Member countries and meet the expenses of other experts who are invited to take part in the surveys.

Coordination between the Commission and the EMPRES Programme in the Central Region

The Committee recommended the endorsement of the cooperative framework between the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region and the EMPRES Programme, which was prepared in July 1998, and the addition of a paragraph relating to coordination modalities indicating “ The formulation of a joint programme of action between the Commission and EMPRES which clearly specifies the responsibilities and obligations of each party in the execution of the programme”.

Publications

Affirming the importance of making available all publications that the Commission approved in its Twenty-first Session upon the advice of the Publications Task Force, the Committee recommended the following:

- 1) The Commission Secretariat to cooperate with Member countries and FAO in making available all necessary information and publications in the field of Desert Locust control;
- 2) The Secretariat to do everything in its power to make available all necessary publications to Member countries.

Registration of Spray Equipment Used in Desert Locust Control

The Committee stressed the importance of making more efforts to obtain required information for the registration of spray equipment used in Desert Locust Control and make it available to Member countries, so that it could be taken into consideration in the formulation of national legislation for the registration of locust pesticides spray equipment.

Obsolete pesticides

Noting with satisfaction that most Member countries have responded favourably to the call to provide the Secretariat with an inventory of their obsolete pesticides; and

Recognizing that there are large quantities of obsolete pesticides in some Member countries;

The Committee recommended the following:

- 1) That Member countries where obsolete pesticides are present should, individually or collectively, request FAO to finance national projects or a regional project for the disposal of such obsolete pesticides from its TCP budget;
- 2) Member countries are urged to seek assistance from donors for the same purpose.

**REPORT
of the
Executive Committee
of the
COMMISSION FOR CONTROLLING THE DESERT
LOCUST IN THE CENTRAL REGION**

Twenty-third Session

Amman, Jordan, 18-20 October 1999

Introduction

Mr. Youssef Al-Tarakmah, Chief of the Plant Protection and Quarantine Service in Kuwait, in his capacity as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region, had invited Member countries of the Committee (namely, Egypt, Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Jordan) to attend the Twenty-third Session of the Committee which was held in Amman, Jordan, 18-20 October 1999, in response to the generous invitation of the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Invitations were also extended to the Acting Coordinator of EMPRES and the Secretary of the Commission for Controlling Desert Locust in North West Africa to attend as observers. The Session was attended by Mr. Ali Mohamed Ali in his capacity as Chairman of the Commission and expert in Desert Locust activities, Mr. Abdul-Rahmane Hafraoui, representative of FAO and Senior Officer of the Locust Control and Migratory Pests and Emergency Operations Group in Rome, and Mr. Mahmoud Mohamed Taher, Secretary of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region and Senior Plant Protection Officer (see List of Participants in Annex 1).

1- Opening of the Session

Mr. Youssef Al-Tarakmah and Mr. Abdul Rahmane Hafraoui expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in particular the Ministry of Agriculture, for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to the participants and the excellent work done to make the Session a success. They commended the tremendous efforts exerted by Member countries to contain Desert Locust upsurges and prevent their spread to neighbouring countries and regions. They stressed the importance of exerting more efforts to strengthen cooperation with FAO and relevant agencies, organizations and programmes working in the field of Desert Locust control operations. They also expressed their appreciation of the efforts exerted by the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom, at both the formal and informal level, which enabled it to mobilize the necessary resources for Desert Locust control operations, in case of the country's exposure to any locust invasion.

Mr. Mohamed Obeidat, Director of the Plant Protection Directorate of the Jordanian Ministry of Agriculture, stressed that although Jordan does not fall within the Desert Locust breeding belt, it still accords high priority to preparedness for contingent locust control operations through efficient training and readiness to conduct emergency control operations. He added that the coincidence between the

convening of this Session and the on-going training course on locust control held in Jordan bears testimony to his country's commitment to locust control.

Mr. Mazen Khasawna, Under-secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, in his capacity as representative of the Minister of Agriculture, welcomed the participants to the Session and stressed the support of Jordan for the collective regional approach which is indispensable for containing Desert Locust threats. He commended the invaluable efforts exerted by the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region and FAO, in assisting Member countries to undertake the necessary surveys and control operation. He also commended efforts made by Member countries, particularly Saudi Arabia, in preventing the spread of swarms of Desert Locust to Jordan and other neighbouring countries. He concluded by wishing the participants a good stay in Jordan and a successful Session.

2 - Adoption of the Agenda

The Executive Committee reviewed the proposed Agenda. After lengthy discussion and an exchange of views, the following Agenda items were approved:

- 1- Opening of the Session
- 2- Adoption of Agenda
- 3- Election of the Drafting Committee
- 4- Desert Locust situation in the Central Region (July 1998 – September 1999)
- 5- Follow up of the implementation of Recommendations of the 22nd Session of the Commission
- 6- Training:
 - (i) Regional Training
 - (ii) National Training
 - (iii) Academic Training
 - (iv) Fellowships
 - (v) Regional Training Project
- 7- Research
- 8- Metrology
- 9- Joint Surveys
- 10- Coordination with EMPRES
- 11- Publications
- 12- Annual Budget for the Years 1998/99
- 13- Date and Venue of the next Session
- 14- Closure of the Session

3- Election of the Drafting Committee

The Executive Committee established a Drafting Committee composed of Dr. Mohamed El-Gashm (Yemen) and Mr. Ahmed Khasawna (Jordan), in addition to the Secretary of the FAO Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region.

4- Desert Locust situation in the Central Region

July 1998 - September 1999

The Committee considered document No. CRC/EX/99-2, which summarized the Desert Locust situation in the Region from July 1998 to September 1999 and the control measures undertaken. Participants gave additional information on the Desert Locust situation in their respective countries and regions. The situation can be summarized as follows:

The Desert Locust situation during the past year was characterized by a local outbreak that developed in northern Sudan in September 1998 and was brought under control by February 1999. Limited control operations were also carried out in the interior of Yemen against hopper bands in September, on the Red Sea coast of Saudi Arabia in November, and in south-western Egypt in February. Breeding during the winter did not occur on the Red Sea coastal plains due to drought conditions. Consequently, locust numbers were very low at the start of this year's summer rains and there have not been enough to take advantage of the favourable conditions in the breeding areas. The situation remains calm and no significant developments are expected for the remainder of the year.

Country situations

Egypt

Isolated solitarious adults were reported from August to December 1998 in a few oases along Lake Nasser and occasionally on the Red Sea coastal plains near Sudan. The former are probably resident populations that do not present a significant threat. In February 1999, ground operations treated 200 ha of solitarious adults at densities of up to 400 per ha near Jebel Uweinat in the south-western corner of the country. Isolated adults were again reported near Lake Nasser in May and June and there was an unconfirmed report of hoppers in the south-west in August.

Kuwait

No locusts were reported during the period.

Oman

No reports were received from July 1998 to January 1999. No locusts were present during February in breeding areas along the northern coast. In the absence of further reports, except for June and August, the situation is thought to have remained unchanged.

Saudi Arabia

Scattered solitarious adults were present at a few places along the Red Sea coastal plains south of Jeddah from October 1998 to February 1999 where there had been unusually heavy rainfall in the summer. Control operations treated 160 ha of solitarious hoppers in November. No locusts were reported from March onwards, mainly due to dry conditions. In August, there was unusually heavy rainfall near Jizan.

Sudan

A local outbreak developed in September 1998 in Northern Kordofan where solitarious adults had been reported in the previous month. This rapidly spread into the neighbouring Northern Province. About 50,000 ha of hopper bands and swarms were treated by ground and air from September to February 1999. Although it was brought under control and did not spread to neighbouring countries, the development of such an outbreak is an example of what can happen when regular monitoring and early warning activities cannot be properly conducted in locust areas, especially when unusually good rains occur. During the winter, no locusts or breeding were reported on the Red Sea coastal plains as a result of a lack of rain and unusually dry conditions. Although there was good rainfall during the summer in the interior and breeding conditions are favourable, only isolated adults have been reported so far.

Yemen

As a result of breeding in the interior in August 1998, hoppers formed groups and small bands near Ataq during September. Control operations treated 77 ha. Undetected small-scale breeding occurred on the Red Sea coastal plains during October where solitary hoppers and adults were reported in November and December. Some of the adults were transients and started to form small groups. The infestations apparently declined on their own as no reports were received for the next two months. No locusts were reported from March until August when one adult was seen in the interior desert where good rains had fallen.

No reports were received from other Member countries.

Desert Locust situation outside the Central Region

Western Region

In general, the situation remained calm in the Western and Eastern regions. A local outbreak developed and was brought under control in south-eastern Libya in early 1999. This did not threaten the Central Region because the infestations were limited to a relatively small area and control operations were immediately undertaken, treating about 10,000 ha. Nevertheless, it indicates the potential for locusts to breed and small outbreaks to develop in fairly remote areas such as south-eastern Libya and adjacent areas of south-western Egypt.

Breeding conditions during the winter and spring of 1998/1999 were generally unfavourable in all recession areas due to poor rainfall. Consequently, the level of

locust numbers at the start of this past summer was very low, perhaps the lowest during this decade.

Eastern Region

Although there was good rainfall throughout the summer in the breeding areas of the Sahel from Mauritania to Sudan and along the Indo-Pakistan border, only insignificant numbers of solitarious locusts have been reported and breeding has been nearly impossible to detect since it is on such a small scale. Control operations were not required during the past summer.

Forecast until 2000

Desert Locust numbers are currently at one of their lowest levels during this decade. This is mainly due to a lack of rain and failure of the locusts to breed during the winter of 1998 and spring of 1999 and, so far, very poor breeding the summer of 1999 despite good conditions. All indicators suggest that it will take several consecutive seasons of good rainfall and several generations of successful breeding before locust numbers increase to a point where they may start to become a threat. Although the forecast predicts a calm situation with no significant developments expected for the remainder of this year, regular monitoring should continue to be undertaken in areas that receive rainfall and FAO should be kept informed of the situation.

5- Follow-up of the Commission's Recommendations at its Twenty-second Session

The Executive Committee took note of the contents of document CRC/EX/99-3, presented by the Secretary of the Commission, which summarized the implementation of the Commission's recommendations at its Twenty-second Session. The summary included the following:

Training:

- In collaboration with EMPRES, the Commission organized a regional training course on aerial and ground spray operations, held in El Smailiya, Egypt (14-28 November 1998). The course was attended by 21 trainees from Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Yemen and the United Arab Emirates. The Commission is currently working on preparations for organizing two regional training courses, the first of which will focus on forecasting and information and the second on campaign management. The Commission, in collaboration with EMPRES and Locustox, will also organize a regional training course on the effects of pesticides on the environment.
- The Commission provided technical and financial support for the organization of one national training course held in Iraq in November 1998 and another held in Jordan in October 1999, which focussed on Desert Locust control

operations and the use and calibration of control equipment. No other application for support of national training courses was received.

- The Commission pursued contacts with Khartoum University with a view of establishing a post-graduate programme leading to a diploma in Desert Locust Studies. Document CRC/EX/99/4(C) contains all details of the proposed study programme.
- The Commission coordinated with the relevant Omani authorities to secure the travel of two of its Locust Control staff to Sudan to get acquainted with tree locust control methods and activities.

Research:

The Secretariat of the Commission received very few research proposals, most of which were found to be incompatible with research priorities identified by the Commission. The Committee noted that more efforts need to be made to sensitize national institutions in the Central Region to participation in such an important activity.

Fellowships:

With regard to DLCC fellowships, the Committee was informed that Mr. Adel Al-Shebani (Yemen) was expected to finish his studies for an M.Sc. degree in India by the end of 1999 and that Mr. Khalid Al Hariri (Syria) had begun his courses for an M.Sc. degree in Pakistan in January 1999. The Commission was informed by Faisal Abad University in Pakistan that Mr. Adnan Khan (Saudi Arabia) could not be admitted to the M.Sc. degree courses because he had not previously undertaken any courses in entomology. However, after contacts with Khartoum University, the University agreed to allow him to follow courses in entomology once he had passed the qualifying exams.

Publications:

- The Commission was currently working on the translation of the book entitled "Précis de lutte antiacridienne - les pulvérisations d'insecticides" from French to Arabic. The revision and publication of the book should be finalized by the end of 1999.
- The Commission was pursuing contacts with the team assigned to issue a manual on safety instructions to be applied in the use of Desert Locust insecticides and control equipment.
- The Commission was currently working on the preparation of abstracts of published publications and research related to Desert Locust and the circulation of these abstracts to Member countries.
- No requests had been received from Member countries for the provision of Desert Locust-related books, publications and periodicals.
- FAO had issued no new Desert Locust-related publications.

Coordination with EMPRES Desert Locust Component:

A framework of coordination between the Commission and EMPRES to enhance complementarity, effectiveness and coordination of activities was formulated on July 1998 (CRC/EX/99/8). Based on that framework, CRC and EMPRES cooperated in organizing several training courses in the field of Desert Locust control and promotion of the research programme in the Central Region. The Committee noted that more efforts needed be made to enable the coordination framework to achieve its desired objectives.

Survey of Joint Border Areas:

The Commission was pursuing contacts with locust-concerned authorities in Egypt and Sudan with a view to organizing a survey of joint border areas between the two countries in December 1999. The Committee noted with appreciation that a joint survey of the Desert Locust winter breeding areas had been conducted along the Sudanese Red Sea coast during the period 8-13 March 1999. Surveyors from Egypt, Sudan, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Yemen participated in the project.

Obsolete Pesticides:

The Commission prepared a model inventory of obsolete pesticides to be used by Member countries to provide the Secretariat with information regarding quantities, packaging, storage and status of obsolete pesticides stocked in Member countries (INF-2).

Tree Locust:

Due to the fact that tree locusts had not spread during the season in serious plague proportions, the Committee decided that the provision of advice and assistance requested by Oman the previous year should be deferred. Meanwhile, the Commission was urged to enable trainees from Oman to visit Sudan and acquaint themselves with ways and means of controlling the tree locust.

Logo of the Commission:

The Commission adopted a logo to be used in its correspondence, publications and future activities.

Status of the Commission Secretariat:

No new development in relation to the status of the Commission's Secretariat had been reported.

Assistance requested by Member countries:

The Commission provided financial support to Sudan for conducting necessary Desert Locust surveys in March 1999. However, with the exception of the overestimated request made by Syria, no other application for assistance had been received.

Registration of Desert Locust Spray Equipment:

The Secretariat of the Commission was continuing efforts to obtain the required information for the registration of Desert Locust spray equipment and to make it available to Member countries.

Information on Agricultural Aviation Companies:

- Based on the information provided by Member countries on the agricultural aviation companies active in the field of Desert Locust control in the Central Region, the Commission finalized the requested compilation of data and would make it available to Member countries shortly (INF-1).
- After extensively discussing the report on the progress made in on the implementation of the relevant Commission's recommendations, the Executive Committee stressed the following:
 - a) More efforts must be made to obtain the information required for the registration of spray equipment used in Desert Locust control; this should be made available to Member countries, so that it can be taken into consideration in the formulation of national legislation for the registration of locust pesticides spray equipment.
 - b) Member countries in which stocks of obsolete pesticides exist were urged to request FAO, individually or collectively, to finance national projects or a regional project for the disposal of those obsolete pesticides from its TCP budget. They were also urged to seek assistance from other donors for the same purpose.

6- Training:

(i) Regional Training:

- The Executive Committee reviewed the document CRC/EX/99/49a, which contained the regional training activities conducted by the Commission during the period 1993 –1999 and the other activities scheduled for the coming few months. It stressed the necessity of increasing the number of regional training courses to three courses per year and that such courses should focus on specialized fields, in accordance with the training priorities of the countries of the Region.
- The Executive Committee recommended that regional training during the following two years should include the following aspects: Desert Locust information and forecasting, Desert Locust survey, organization of campaigns and evaluation of their results, maintenance of survey equipment, use of computers in Desert Locust operations and activities, use of advanced communication facilities, meteorology and map reading.

(ii) National Training:

After discussing document CRC/EX/99/4-b, which contained the national training programmes supported by the Commission during the period 1993-1999, the Committee noted that the number of national training courses in the field of Desert Locust control organized to date by Member countries during this period still fell below the range of required training. It also noted that the number of Member countries which requested assistance from the Commission in the field of organizing national training courses was still very low. The Committee recommended the formulation of a national training programme for Member countries to include organization of a yearly training course in one of the countries in the Desert Locust breeding area (Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Oman and Yemen), and a training course every two years in one of the countries in the infestation area. It also recommended that the Commission allocate the amount of \$ 5,000 to meet the local needs of the national training course or cover the expenses of providing technical expertise, as a contribution towards the organization of the training course. Moreover, the Committee expressed the hope that Member countries would organize further training courses, depending on their own resources and technical staff or in collaboration with donors, other organizations or programmes. The Committee further recommended that the Commission provide training at FAO Headquarters in the field of forecasting, remote sensing, map reading and reporting on the locust situation, and that such training be coordinated in advance with FAO

(iii) Academic Training:

After discussing the document CRC/EX/99/4-c, containing the academic training programme proposed by the University of Khartoum, which was presented by the Secretary of the Commission, the Committee agreed that the proposed programme would adequately and systematically meet the needs of Member countries in the field of the advanced training required by senior national officials responsible for locust control. It therefore recommended the endorsement of the programme, and the need to improve and update it whenever required. The contribution of three scholarships for candidates from the countries of the Region was proposed once the training programme became operational in the year 2001.

(iv) Fellowships:

Having been informed of the three fellowships for M.Sc. in entomology offered to the Commission by the Desert Locust Control Committee (DLCC), that Mr. Adel al Shebani (Yemen) should finish his studies in Rajistan University (India) by the end of the current year, that Mr. Khalid al Harairi (Syria) had already started his studies in Islamabad University (Pakistan) in January 1999, and that contacts were in progress with regard to enabling Mr. Adnan Khan (Saudi Arabia) to join Khartoum University to follow the required courses in entomology before enrolment in the M.Sc. programme, the Committee recommended that the Commission urge the concerned authorities in Saudi Arabia to release Mr. Khan in order to enable him to proceed with his studies as soon as possible. Moreover, the Committee stressed the necessity of setting rules governing future candidature for higher studies to ensure that candidates meet required standards of academic efficiency, language proficiency and commitment to the attendance of scheduled studies whenever and wherever given without any undue delay.

(v) Regional Project for Training:

Recalling that the Commission in its Twenty-first Session endorsed the draft regional project for training, which was prepared to meet the training needs of the countries of the region at both national and specialized regional levels, and the provision of necessary skills and information for all those working in the field of Desert Locust control in the Central Region;

Recalling that the Commission had approved the scale of contributions of Member countries to the project and its execution within the Commission's annual training budget;

Recalling that the project was referred to FAO HQ for revision, with a view to reduce its implementation budgetary costs without seriously affecting the project or its approved phases of implementation; and

After taking stock of the background of the subject and thoroughly studying document CRC/EX/99/4-e;

The Committee affirmed the importance of the project for Member countries and urged FAO to expedite work on the revision of the project and its submission to donors for financing as soon as possible.

7- Research

Having reviewed the document CRC/EX/99/5, containing the research proposals submitted by Member countries during the past years, the Committee noted that most of the research proposals received to date did not adequately match the prepared and the agreed guidelines or the priorities identified by the Commission. It concluded that there were still problems in the execution of the research programme. It attributed the current deficiencies primarily to lack of experience in required field work. It recommended the following steps for the review of the current research methodology and the promotion and support of research in accordance with the countries' identified priorities:

- a) Identification of research institutes in the Region that could contribute towards the enhancement of the identified research priorities.
- b) Identification of research institutes outside the Region that could also contribute towards the enhancement of identified research priorities.
- c) Formulation of guidelines for research in each country of the Region in accordance with the country research priorities.

The Committee recommended the formation of a research Task Force to be composed of selected researchers from the countries of the Region and researchers from outside the Region, in addition to the Commission, EMPRES and FAO. The Task Force would review what had already been achieved with regard to the promotion and establishment of applied research in the region, identify the impediments to progress in research activities, and formulate necessary concepts and proposals for the promotion of research in the Central Region.

8- Meteorology

Recalling that the Commission at its Twenty-first Session:

- Stressed the importance of effective meteorological networks to collect information on climatic and environmental conditions of the spread of Desert Locusts, and to circulate data to Central Region countries.
- Emphasized the role of meteorological networks in rationalizing the monitoring of and preventive operations against excessive use of pesticides.
- Endorsed the proposed draft project on the establishment/support of a meteorological network in the Central Region and recommended its immediate execution.
- Approved allocation of funds from the Commission's budget for the implementation of the project.
- Urged FAO to prepare a comprehensive document on the project, in the light of the approved draft project proposal and its submission for finance to donors.

Noting that no tangible progress in this field had so far been achieved, the Committee recommended the following:

- 1) Urge FAO to pursue its efforts to permit the initiation of the approved meteorological project.
- 2) Urge Member countries to solicit assistance in this field from the African Development Bank (ADB), Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and donors;
- 3) Urge the authorities concerned with Desert Locust control in Member countries to intensify their contacts with meteorological departments with a view to assisting in the establishment of meteorological stations in Desert Locust breeding areas.

9- Joint Surveys

After reviewing document CRC/EX/99/7, the Committee commended the joint survey which was undertaken during March 1999 in the Red Sea coastal areas in Sudan, in which surveyors from Egypt, Yemen and Oman participated. This was the first joint survey of its kind since the establishment of the Commission.

The Committee noted that the survey had provided Member countries with rich and useful information on the topography of the area surveyed and the extent of its suitability for locust activities in the existence of favourable conditions, in addition to providing a good opportunity for the exchange of expertise and standardization of survey methodologies.

The Committee stressed the importance of undertaking such surveys on a regular basis, especially in areas which are crucial for Desert Locust breeding during summer, winter and spring breeding seasons and in the areas from which the swarms emigrate to the eastern and western Red Sea plains and other areas, such as Darfour Kordofan in the Sudan and the Red Sea coast in Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

The Committee recommended that in future such surveys should cover joint border areas between Egypt and Sudan and between Yemen and Saudi Arabia which are often not checked during normal surveys carried out by the individual countries and which constitute a favourable habitat for locust breeding, upsurge and spread to other Member countries.

The Committee was informed about the initial approval of both Sudan and Egypt to undertake such survey of joint boarder areas.

The Committee recommended that FAO undertake to secure the approval of both Yemen and Saudi Arabia to conduct a survey of joint border areas and urged the Commission to organize the following joint surveys after securing the required approval of concerned Member countries:

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| * Sudan/Egypt joint border areas | February 2000 |
| * Darfour and Kodfon area | June 2000 |
| * Saudi Arabia Red Sea coastal area | January 2001 |
| * Yemen/ Saudi Arabia Joint border areas | October/ November 2001 |
| * Shatwa and Mareb areas in Yemen | May 2001 |

The Committee urged Member countries in which the surveys are to be undertaken to inform the Commission about the available capacities in their countries for undertaking such surveys and request the Commission to provide them with any other facilities which are not locally available, in addition to providing assistance in covering travel expenses (tickets and DSA) for participants from Member countries and meeting the expenses of other experts who are to be invited to take part in those surveys.

10- Coordination between the Commission and EMPRES Programme in the Central Region

The Executive Committee considered document CRC/EX/99/8, containing the conceptual framework for cooperation between the Commission and the EMPRES programme which was adequately formulated in accordance with the Commission's Twenty- second Session recommendations.

The Committee expressed satisfaction with the contents of the framework which meets the standard required by the Commission, secures full cooperation between the activities of the commission and EMPRES, optimizes the use of financial

and human resources, and avoids duplication of the activities of the two organizations that serve almost identical objectives.

The Committee noted that, despite its existence since July 1998, the framework has regrettably not been implemented in a satisfactory manner. It recommended the endorsement of the framework and the consideration of the possibility of the addition of a paragraph relating to coordination that calls for the formulation of a joint programme of action between the Commission and EMPRES which clearly specifies the responsibilities and obligations of each party in the execution of the programme.

11- Publications

The Executive Committee reviewed document CRC/EX/99/9, which reflected the status of preparations of publications approved by the Commission at its Twenty-first Session, as recommended by the Publications Task Force.

The Committee stressed that these publications should be prepared as soon as possible for the benefit of all those working in the field of Desert Locust control in the Central Region. It urged the Commission and Member countries to cooperate fully, make every effort and provide all information needed for the preparation of those publications.

The Committee called on the Secretariat to make available to Member countries all necessary information and publications on Desert Locust control.

12- Annual Accounts for the Years 1998/1999

The Secretariat presented document CRC/EX/99/10, which reflected the Secretariat account No 9409, the annual budget for the years 1998/1999, the final expenditures for the year 1998, the provisional expenditures and commitments for 1999 and the status of contributions as at 31 August 1999 (Annex 2). After studying the budget, the Committee noted that the balance carried forward was US\$ 1,314,270.21 and the total, with the addition of contributions, amounted to US\$ 1,536,683.10 The final expenditure for the year 1998 amounted to US\$ 50,324.20. The total contributions received amounted to US\$ 222,412.89

After reviewing the status of the Secretariat account No. 9409 and the status of contributions as at 31 August 1999, the Executive Committee expressed appreciation of Member countries which paid their contributions regularly and particularly commended Syria for settling most of its arrears. On the other hand, the Executive Committee noted that the continuation of arrears due from several Member countries, which brought the total arrears as at 31 August 1999 to US\$ 1632,910.63, constituted a breach of Member countries' commitment. The Executive Committee therefore recommended that FAO urge Member countries to pay their contributions regularly and settle their arrears as soon as possible.

13- Date and Venue of the Next Session

The Executive Committee proposed to meet the following year prior to the Twenty-third Session of the Commission at the same venue as the meeting of the Commission.

14- Adoption of the Report

The report of the Executive Committee was unanimously approved.

15- Closure of the session

The Chairman of the Executive Committee thanked the Government of Jordan for the hospitality extended to the participants in the Session, commended the participants for their active participation in the discussion of the Agenda items, and complimented the Secretariat for the excellent preparations for the Session. The participants thanked the Ministry of Agriculture for the hospitality and warm reception, and also thanked the chairman of the Committee for efficiently steering the deliberations.

Mr. El Tohami ben Halima, Secretary of the Commission for Controlling Desert Locust in North West Africa, thanked the Committee for inviting him to attend the Session and stressed the importance of the continuation of cooperation between the two organizations.

Mr. Mazen El- Khasawna, Under-secretary General of the Jordanian Ministry of Agriculture, commended the Committee for its constructive deliberations and valuable achievements and expressed the hope that all Member countries would fully cooperate in the implementation the Committee's recommendations, so that the threat of the Desert Locust was adequately contained. He concluded by wishing the participants a safe return to their home countries.

Twenty – third Session of the**Executive Committee****List of Participants****Yemen**

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International Trust Fund 9409
Annual Budget for the years 1998/99

Final Expenditures for the year 1998 and
Provisional Expenditures and Commitments for 1999
(in US\$)

	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>Budget year 1998</u>	<u>Budget Year 1999</u>
<u>Receipts</u>			
Balance Carried Forward		1,194,655.74	1,314,270.21
Contributions ¹	250,000	<u>230,797.14</u>	<u>222,412.89</u>
	<u>250,000</u>	<u>1,425,452.88</u>	<u>1,536,683.10</u>
<u>Budget Component</u>	<u>Budget 1998/99³</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Expenditures/ Commitments</u>
1100 Personnel Services (Short-Term Experts)	7,500	481.11	-376.02
1300 Admin. Support Pers.	<u>16,000</u>	<u>6,672.06</u>	<u>7,479.24</u>
<u>Sub-total Personnel</u>	<u>23,500</u>	<u>7,153.17</u>	<u>7,103.22</u>
2000 Duty Travel (Delegates, Teams, and Consultants)	50,000	72,621.16	23,197.00
3000 Contracts	47,000	4,988.83	-
4000 Gen. Op. Expenses	20,000	14,916.19	23,244.00
5000 Expendable Equipment	25,000	-	-3,880.57
6000 Non-Exp. Equipment	25,000	-	-7,103.00
8000 Training	34,279	-1,287.61	5,000.00
9100 Project Serv. Costs	25,221	12,790.93	2,813.55
	-----	-----	-----
Total	250,000	111,182.67	50,374.20⁴
Unallocated Balance	-	1,314,270.21	1,486,308.90

¹ Annual contributions of Governments including interests

² Subject to the total commitment at any given time, not exceeding the contribution pledged at that time, the Director-General shall have discretionary power to shift allocations from one expenditure item to another, as may be necessary to meet the changing locust situation. All such variations shall be reported and justified when submitting annual accounts to the Commission.

³ Approved in April 1998

⁴ As at 15 September 1999

Final Expenditure for the year 1998

1100	<u>Personnel Services</u>	
-	Trust Fund Pool Charges	407.40
-	Mission costs (TEC), Locust Consultant, Jeddah, October 1997	73.71
	Sub-total	481.11
1300	<u>Administrative Support</u>	
-	Secretary, G-3, RNE Office, Cairo, June-Dec. 1998	6,672.06
2000	<u>Duty Travel</u>	
-	Travel HQ Officer to Saudi Arabia and Yemen from 22/3 to 3/4/98 to discuss locust situation, improve communication system and organise regional training course	5,306.95
-	Locust Workshop in Yemen, March/April 1998	27,858.30
-	Chairman's round-trip travel to member countries to recover unpaid contributions	1,655.07
-	Secretary's round-trip travel to member countries to recover unpaid contributions	1,552.07
-	Chairman's travel to Syria to discuss government's contribution to Central Region Commission's Trust Fund, 23 to 26/3/98	933.00
-	Travel costs to Ismailia of driver/disbursing officer for payment of DSA to participants in training course on aerial and ground application of pesticides (RNE)	194.00
-	22 nd Session of the Executive Committee, Cairo 23 to 25/6/98 (travel costs member countries)	6,718.48
-	Joint EMPRES/Commission workshop on Locust Control Technologies, Cairo, November 1998 (CMTA 277965/RNE)	28,403.29
	Sub-total	72,621.16

3000	<u>Contracts</u>	
-	Letter of Agreement in support of a training course on aerial and ground application of pesticides for Desert Locust Control, Cairo, November 1998	5,305.04
-	Surrender unspent funds from 1997 for local consultant to work on establishment of agro-meteorology network in support of Desert Locust Activities	-317.51
-	Field charge against LOA above	1.30
	Sub-total	4,988.83
4000	<u>General Operating Expenses</u>	
-	Circular State Letter of Invitation for the 22 nd Session of the Executive Committee	556.00
-	Translation of the above letter in Arabic	138.00
-	General Operating Expenses, Regional Office for the Near East (CMT 0150878)	800.00
-	Locust Workshop, Yemen (PCM/AA 0100314)	6,500.00
-	Hospitality cost 22 nd Session of the Executive Committee, Cairo	2,454.87
-	National Training Course on Desert Locust Control October 1998, Iraq	5,000.00
-	Joint EMPRES/Commission workshop on Locust control Technologies, Cairo, November 1998	60.50
-	Surrender unspent balance CMT 117162/96 for distribution of locust control equipment donated by IDB to various member countries	-593.18
	Sub-total	14,916.19
8000	<u>Training</u>	
-	Recover unspent balance from 1997 training charges (Ascot, UK)	-106.68
-	Recover unspent balance from 1997 training charges	-1,180.93
	Sub-total	-1,287.61

9100 Project Servicing Costs

- March-December 1998

12,790.93

GRAND-TOTAL

111,182.67

Provisional Expenditures for the year 1999¹

1100	<u>Personnel Services</u>	
-	Trust fund Pool Charges	10.88
-	Surrender unspent balance against travel authorisation Locust Consultant (1997)	-386.90
	Sub-total	-376.02
1300	<u>Administrative Support</u>	
-	Secretary, G-3, RNE Office, Cairo	7,479.24
2000	<u>Duty Travel</u>	
-	Travel costs and DSA for participants in the joint locust survey Sudan/Egypt (CMT 0158128 to RNE)	15,207.00
-	Chairman's attendance at the 35 th Session of the DLCC Rome, May 1999	2,586.00
-	Secretary's attendance at the 35 th Session of the DLCC Rome, May 1999 (raised in Cairo)	n.a.
-	23 rd Session of the Commission, Amman, Jordan 18-20 October 1999 (travel costs delegates)	5,404.00
	Sub-total	23,197.00
4000	<u>General Operating Expenses</u>	
-	Joint Desert Locust Survey, Sudan, March 1999	6,000.00
-	Translation of letter to Permanent Representative of Yemen to FAO, April 1999	406.00
-	Reproduction of RC joint survey report	120.00
-	Translation/editing of PRIFAS-CIRAD Locust Control Book from French into Arabic (Cairo)	10,000.00
-	Miscellaneous expenditures incurred by DL Research Section, Dokki, Cairo	3,718.00

¹ As at 15 September 1999

-	General Operating Expenses 23 rd Session of the Commission, Amman, Jordan, 18 to 20 October 1999	3,000.00

	Sub-total	23,244.00
5000	<u>Expendable Equipment</u>	
-	Surrender unspent balance for 1996 subscriptions CMT 114413/96	-3,880.57
6000	<u>Non-Expendable Equipment</u>	
-	Surrender unspent balance for 1994 equipment costs	-7,103.00
8000	<u>Training</u>	
-	National Training Course on Desert Locust Control Jordan, June/July 1999	5,000.00
9000	<u>Project Servicing Costs</u>	
-	January to May 1999 ²	2,813.55

	PROVISIONAL GRAND-TOTAL³	50,374.20

² Latest figure not available due to introduction of ORACLE (from June 1999)

³ As at 15/09/99

Trust Fund No. 940900 MTF/INT/007/MUL
 Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region

Annex 2/Section D

Status of Contribution as at 31 August 1999
 (in US\$)

Member Governments	Outstanding as at 31/12/1995	Contributions* for 1999/00	Received in 1996	Received in 1997	Received in 1998	Received in 1999 **	Outstanding as at 31/08/99
BAHRAIN	8,750.00	8,750.00	8,750.00			0.00	35,000.00
EGYPT	0.00	32,540.00	32,540.00		65,080.00	0.00	32,540.00
IRAQ	373,750.00	28,750.00				0.00	488,750.00
JORDAN	56,887.50	14,357.50	14,357.50		28,715.00	0.00	71,245.00
KUWAIT	25,000.00	25,000.00	50,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00
LEBANON	127,977.39	11,212.50	30,183.88	-201.38		0.00	142,844.89
OMAN	83,000.00	10,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	93,000.00
QATAR	150,000.00	12,500.00	12,500.00			12,500.00	175,000.00
SAUDI ARABIA, Kingdom of	66,052.50	44,035.00	44,035.00	44,035.00		44,035.00	110,087.50
SUDAN	327,931.04	18,667.50				0.00	402,601.04
SYRIA	87,773.46	16,687.50				104,627.89	49,895.57
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	26,250.00	26,250.00	52,500.00		26,250.00	26,250.00	26,250.00
YEMEN ***	-2,143.39	1,250.00	1,200.00	-5,290.02	1,250.00	0.00	5,696.63
TOTAL	1,331,228.50	250,000.00	251,066.38	68,543.60	156,295.00	222,412.89	1,632,910.63

* Fiscal year begins in July

** As at 31/08/99

*** Minus sign indicates overpayment to be deducted from next contribution

REPORT OF THE FAO
COMMISSION FOR
CONTROLLING THE
DESERT LOCUST IN
THE CENTRAL REGION
23RD SESSION OF ITS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTE