

REPORT OF THE

**Held in Amman, Jordan
13-16 October 1980**

ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION FOR CONTROLLING THE DESERT LOCUST IN THE NEAR EAST



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Meeting Report No.
AGP/1980/M/6

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THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION
FOR CONTROLLING THE DESERT LOCUST
IN THE NEAR EAST

held in
Amman (Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan)
13 - 16/10/1980

Plant Production and Protection Division
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Rome 1980

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INTRODUCTION

The Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Near East held its eleventh session in Amman from 13 to 16 October 1980 at the kind invitation of the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The Director-General invited the following member States of the Commission to attend this session: Bahrein, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. He also invited Turkey, the Arab League, the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, the Palestinian Liberation Organization and the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa to attend as observers.

The session was opened by Mr. Marwan Doodine, Minister of Agriculture in Jordan, who welcomed the participants and emphasized the necessity of safeguarding the agricultural resources in the Region by pest control and, more particularly, by control of the desert locust. He expressed Jordan's interest in this joint responsibility and his country's readiness to continue along this line. He expressed his interest in following the participants' discussion and hoped that there would be positive results for the benefit of the region.

Mr. SalahJum'a, FAO Regional Representative, then welcomed the participants on behalf of the Director-General, Mr. E. Saouma, and thanked the Government of Jordan for its invitation to hold this session in Amman. He appreciated the measures and preparations taken by the Government for securing the success of the meeting and pointed out the important role of the Commission in the control of the desert locust. He wished every success for the meeting, the recommendations of which will receive the fullest consideration of the Director-General of FAO.

Officers of the Session

<u>Chairman:</u>	Dr. Hani Haddadin (Jordan)
<u>Vice-Chairman:</u>	Dr. Aladdin Daoud Ali (Iraq)

Drafting Committee

Delegates of Iraq, Jordan and Kuwait. Messrs R. Skaf, A. Khasawneh, M. Talhouni and M. Shafi acted as technical secretaries.

Acknowledgements

Participants expressed their appreciation to the Chairman for conducting the session in an efficient manner and their appreciation of the assistance provided by the Secretariat. They also thanked the Government of Jordan for its hospitality and the facilities provided for the meeting.

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AGENDA

1. Opening of the Session
2. Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Commission
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Election of the Drafting Committee
5. The Desert Locust Situation 1979-80
 - (i) Significant developments in 1980 and forecast
 - (ii) Arrangements to strengthen locust survey and control activities to maintain recession
6. Special surveys carried out in strategic areas during 1980 and future plans
7. Anti-locust survey and control potential available in member countries of the Commission and steps to strengthen it
8. Assistance to member countries of the Commission
9. Consideration of the Report of the Executive Committee
10. Election of the five members of the Executive Committee

11. Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee
12. Any other business
13. Date and place of next Session
14. Adoption of the Report.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

The Desert Locust Situation 1979-1980

1. The Commission received a report on the locust situation in the Region from the Secretariat.
2. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In December 1979, the only report of locust activity received was from Jizan and Qunfidah on the southern Tihama which indicated that a very few solitary adults had been observed south of Qunfidah and south-east of Jizan. However, the number of adults increased during January 1980 when densities ranged between 170-300 per hectare south of Qunfidah. In addition, hoppers in this area were reported at a density of one per three bushes over approximately 100 square kilometers, particularly in Wadi El Ahsiba and Wadi Luma areas. Scattered adults at low densities continued to be present east of Jizan.
3. During February, March and April solitary locusts were reported at varying densities but did not exceed 1,000 adults per hectare in Qunfidah area (Wadi El Ahsiba). Meanwhile solitaries continued at a low level in the Jizan area. In late April small numbers of adults were reported in Najran, Asir and Abha districts. During May a few hoppers and adults were reported to the south of Jizan over an area of about 13 square kilometers. These were completely controlled. In the Qunfidah area very few solitaries were reported on cultivated plants.
4. In May hoppers were reported at Wadi Dhalam (2558N - 2710E) south of Dhiba on the northern Tihama at densities estimated at 3-5 hoppers per square meter over an area of about 20 x 10 kilometers. Control measures were immediately applied and by the end of May the area was reported to be clear of locusts.
5. During June, July and August the Kingdom was reported to be free from locust activity, and ecological conditions were reported to be unsuitable for breeding due to very high temperatures and dry conditions.
6. Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. In the Yemen Arab Republic, very few solitary adult locusts and some hoppers were reported between December 1979 and March 1980 in Wadi Hayran and Wadi Habl north of Hodeidah and toward the border with Saudi Arabia. From April until August the Tihama was reported free from any locust activity and very dry conditions prevailed. In the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen only very few solitary locusts were reported on the western coast of the country between December 1979 and March 1980. On 17 June 1980 an immature swarmlet was seen flying north-east near the border with the Yemen Arab Republic. Small numbers of locusts were seen in a few localities between July and September.

7. Eastern Region of Arabian Peninsula. United Arab Emirates and The Sultanate of Oman were reported free from any locust activity from December 1979 to September 1980. FAO recruited a locust officer for four months to undertake surveys in the Emirates. He reported that the areas was free until early June, when his mission was concluded.
8. Sudan. During December 1979 4,000 - 5,000 solitarious locusts per hectare were reported over 2,000 hectares, in the Tokar Delta on the Red Sea coast. Control operations were in progress. During January, February, March and April, hoppers, fledglings and adults at densities of up to 7,000 per hectare and probably swarmlets were present and continued in the same area and in the northern sector, although control measures were in progress from December to the end of May. By the end of May all infestations were successfully controlled in Khor El Deib near the Egyptian border.
9. Again, locust activity started from June, July and August at Wadi El Deib in spite of dry conditions. Small numbers of adults were reported from a few locations in the interior between May and August and a few adults were seen in the northern sector of the area in late September.
10. Egypt. Solitary adults were reported from September 1979 to January 1980 in Abrak and Sheik Shazly district. In March 1980 solitary locusts were reported at Wadi El Deib at densities ranging from 200 to 1,050 per square kilometre. By April, control operations against groups started. During May 1980 three mature swarms were reported at Abu Ramad in Wadi El Deib (2250N/3550E) with hoppers of different instars. Control operations were undertaken against these swarms until the end of May 1980 when control operations were successfully concluded. Again in June and July scattered locusts were observed at Abu Ramad.
11. Other Regions. The delegate of DLCO-EA presented a report on the locust situation in Eastern Africa; the region was free from locust concentrations. He indicated survey and control operations continued to be very difficult to undertake in the Red Sea area within the border of Ethiopia and in the Ogaden region. Rains occurred on the Red Sea coast in Eastern Africa.
12. The locust situation in South-West Asia does not present any danger to the region in spite of rains and of the presence of solitary individuals in summer breeding areas.
13. The locust situation in North-West and West Africa remained calm apart from some concentrations in Air Mountains (Niger) and Adrar des Iforas (Mali) which were controlled between July and September.
14. Breeding is likely to start on the Red Sea coast of southern Tihama of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Yemen Arab Republic and in coastal areas of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. If rainfall is received early in these strategic areas, breeding will start in November or December 1980 and will continue in early 1981. The scale will depend on the rainfall received and the suitability of ecological conditions. The eastern part of Arabia has been subjected to locust invasions from India and Pakistan depending on the size of infestation during the monsoon period and the rainfall received. Few escapes are expected by the end of 1980.
15. The Red Sea coasts are subject to locust invasion from the interior of Sudan and Ethiopia, depending on the development and build-up of locusts there and the suitability of ecological conditions, but this year such an invasion will be on a small scale.
16. In Sudan, the Red Sea area will continue to have locust activity especially at Tokar delta and Khor El Deib; if rainfall is heavy there during winter and ecological conditions suitable for successful breeding, the possibility of invasion from Eastern Africa is very likely.

Arrangements to Strengthen Locust Survey and Control Activities to Maintain the Recession

17. The Commission recommended that capable staff should be made available in each country of the Region and especially in the countries of the Eastern Arabian Peninsula, more particularly the United Arab Emirates and Oman.
18. The Commission recommended that equipment and supplies of insecticides for locust control should be maintained even during recession periods.
19. The Commission recommended continuation of the exchange of reports and information among member States and to use modern methods in the transmission of locust information. Remote sensing represents one of the advanced methods of surveillance.
20. The Commission reiterated its recommendations made at previous sessions concerning finding alternative insecticides to replace Dieldrin and BHC and insisted on undertaking research on this subject at the locust research stations of the region. Results achieved in this respect should be utilized and distributed to all countries of the region.

Special Survey Carried Out in Strategic Areas During 1980 and Future Plans

21. In accordance with the recommendations (Para. 22, 10th. session held in Rome, 5 - 7 December 1979) FAO approached the Government of Egypt to release Mr. Josef T. Awad, Locust Officer from the Ministry of Agriculture, Cairo for a four month period to survey strategic and seasonal breeding areas in the United Arab Emirates. The Government of Egypt released Mr. Awad for the requested period and his mission lasted from 4 February to 29 May 1980.
22. Mr. Awad surveyed all strategic areas of the United Arab Emirates during his mission. The Ministry of Agriculture of the Emirates provided him with all necessary facilities needed for survey and he was accompanied by a local officer for training and assistance. General inspection of the area was carried out by the vehicle transect method and areas with more suitable vegetation cover were closely examined on foot. His report at the conclusion of his mission was excellent and included the following:
 - No locust activity was observed during the course of the survey. As a result of the heavy rains in February and March ecological conditions became favourable for breeding. Vegetation and ecological conditions, however, became dry during April and May.
 - Mr. Awad trained those who accompanied him on field trips on survey methods and on reporting ecological conditions and other relevant matters. He also showed local officers some slides and films on locust control.
 - Mr. Awad again emphasized the need for establishing a well organized section for locust control in the Emirates and for training and using aerial units for all survey and control operations. These recommendations were, in fact, given due importance by FAO during the last seven years and again FAO is following these matters with the Government of the Emirates to fulfill these objectives, particularly to have an FAO locust officer posted there, to be financed by the Emirates.

Future Plans

23. The Commission was informed that the Government of United Arab Emirates was attaching increasing importance to locust control by establishing a nucleus for locust control within the plant protection service, equipped with vehicles and supplies. However, there is still a need for a fulltime locust expert to cover locust surveys in the Emirates and Oman due to their strategic importance. The Commission, therefore,

agreed to appoint an officer on the Commission Trust Fund for one year, after which the Government of United Arab Emirates would finance this project. It requested FAO to contact the authorities concerned for implementation.

24. The Red Sea coast bordering Egypt and Sudan in the Jebel Alsaba and Wadi Di-ib areas are of crucial importance for locust breeding. Considering their difficulty of access and the necessity of studying its ecology, the Commission recommended that a joint Egypto-Sudanese team undertake a survey in this area and requested FAO to coordinate this operation.

Anti-Locust Survey and Control Potential Available in the Member Countries of the Commission

25. Annex I gives the situation of total potential available at present in the Member Countries of the Commission.

26. The Commission was informed about the constitution in the Yemen Arab Republic of a locust control section at Hodeidah, having its own budget and staff trained in survey and control measures. The Commission expressed its satisfaction about this measure which secures the continuity of operations in this strategic area.

Assistance to Member Countries of the Commission

27. The Commission continued in 1980 to provide its assistance to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen amounting to \$20,000 for operational costs of the locust control project.

28. The Commission requested from the Secretariat a detailed statement of expenditure concerning the expedition and recommended that the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen take over this responsibility in the future.

29. The financing of the locust projects in Hodeidah and Aden was expected to be stopped by UNDP on 31 December 1980. FAO requested their extension for three additional years within the 1982-1986 programme cycle and UNDP agreed provided both Governments accept the inclusion of the locust project in their respective IPFs. As the Governments agreed to include the locust project in their IPFs in the 1982-1986 cycle, UNDP decided exceptionally to finance the two projects until 31 December 1981.

Consideration of the Report of the Executive Committee

30. The Commission reviewed the report of the 10th Session of the Executive Committee (see Annex II) and approved it. This concerned in particular:

- the necessity of paying arrears of contributions
- increasing member countries contributions by 25%
- training and exchange visits
- research and provision of assistance to Dokki research station (\$15,000)
- organization and coordination of a joint survey between Egypt and Sudan
- programme for work and budget for 1981.

31. The Commission agreed to the proposed increase of 25% in the annual contribution by member countries and requested the FAO Secretariat to approach the Governments concerned in order to implement this decision, starting in 1981.

32. The Commission recommended that Governments of the Region keep the staff working in locust control and research and try all their best to achieve this objective.

33. All member countries should have equal chances in making use of training programmes and exchange visits; this rule should be respected as far as possible.

34. The Commission welcomed the invitation of the Government of the Yemen Arab Republic to hold the group training course at the regional level in 1981 and requested the Regional Locust Officer to approach the authorities concerned for necessary arrangements.

35. The Commission requested FAO to provide national training centres with necessary demonstration equipment such as films, slides, photographs, documents, equipment and other information aids.

Election of Members of the Executive Committee

36. The Commission unanimously elected Saudi Arabia, Yemen Arab Republic, Sudan, Iraq and Kuwait members of the Executive Committee for 1981 and 1982.

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee

37. The Commission elected Saudi Arabia and Kuwait as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively for the year 1980-1981 until the next ordinary session of the Commission.

Other Business

38. The Commission requested that the Secretariat include in future a new item in the Agenda entitled: "Implementation of the Previous Session's Recommendations".

39. It is also hoped that working papers be prepared in a way indicating the background of the problem with an evaluation of priorities and costs involved.

40. The Commission learned with great regret of the death of Mr. Mohammed Hussein, the well-known Arab locust specialist who left a substantial impact in the field of desert locust research and control.

41. It also expressed its satisfaction for the appointment of Mr. Rafik Skaf as Senior Officer of the Locust Group at FAO Headquarters.

42. The Commission learned that Mr. Mohammed Talhouni, locust expert in Hodeidah, decided to leave FAO at the end of 1980 and recorded its full appreciation for the continuous efforts he spent in the Yemen Arab Republic.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION

43. The Director-General of FAO will decide on the place and date of the twelfth Session of the Commission.

ANNEX I

ANTI-LOCUST SURVEY AND CONTROL POTENTIAL AVAILABLE IN THE MEMBER
COUNTRIES OF THE COMMISSION

<u>Country</u>	<u>Insecticides</u> (Tonnes)	<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Aircraft</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Bahrain	Malathion 96% ULV 8	Dusters Power 2 Sprayers Hand 32	Light 8 Heavy	---	General 16
Egypt	Dieldrin 20% - 3 BHC Dust 10% - 16 BHC Liquid - 5 BHC Bait - 300 Fenitrothion 96% - 2	Exhaust Nozzle Sprayers 5 Power Sprayers 30 Hand Dusters 40 Power Duster 8	Light 30 Medium 30 Heavy 8	---	Tech. 80 General 200
Iraq	Malathion 96% ULV 6 Dieldrin 20% - 2	Exhaust Nozzle Sprayers 20 Power Sprayers 20 Knapsacks 1,000	Light 50	FW 10	Tech. 50 General 100
Jordan	Dieldrin 20% - ?	Exhaust Sprayers 2 Power Dusters 2 Hand Dusters 40 Sprayers (Hand) 10	Light 8 Heavy	---	Tech. 15 General 50
Kuwait	Dieldrin 20% - 13 BHC Dust 10% - 59	Power Sprayers 32 Dusters Power 9 Hand 15	Half- Trucks 7 Jeeps 3		Tech. 33 General 20
Lebanon	BHC Solution 12 Others 5	 Sprayers Hand 140	Light 5 Heavy	Helicopter 1	Tech. 22 General 20
Oman	Dieldrin 18/20% 20.5 Malathion 96% 10 BHC Dust 10% 17	Exhaust Nozzle Sprayers 2 Sprayers Hand 25 Power 50	Light 6 Heavy 4	---	Tech. 12 General 160

ANNEX I (Cont.)

<u>Country</u>	<u>Insecticides</u>	<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Vehicle</u>	<u>Aircraft</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Qatar	Dieldrin 18/20% 0.4	—	Heavy 1	—	General 2
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Malathion 96% ULV 150 Dieldrin 20% 150 Fenitrothion L100 45 BHC 20% (2.6%) 250	Exhaust Nozzle Sprayers 90 Power Sprayers 80 Power Dusters 140	Light 100	—	Tech. 120
Syria	Dieldrin 18/20% 4.2 BHC Dust 10% 400 BHC Solution 9.5 Aldrin 5 DDVP 2.5	Exhaust Nozzle Sprayers 13 Dusters Power 204 Hand 230 Sprayers Hand 256	—	FW 8	—
United Arab Emirates	Dieldrin 18/20% 20 Malathion 96% ULV and 57% ULV — 15 BHC Dust 10% — 3 BHC Solution — 1 Others (Mala- thion etc.) — 3	Exhaust Nozzle Sprayers 15 Power Sprayers 10	Light 10	FW 2	Tech. 4 General 15
Yemen Arab Republic	Dieldrin 18/20% 58 Fenitrothion 96% ULV — 5 BHC 25% Dust 170 Dimethoate E.C. 40% — 80	Exhaust Nozzle Sprayers 35 Dusters Hand 136 Power Sprayers 133	Light Heavy 18	—	Tech. 4 General 14
People's Democratic Republic of Yemen	Dieldrin 20% 23 Fenitrothion 96% 4 BHC Dust 10% — 88 Acrodel 15% — 9	Exhaust Nozzle Sprayers 22 Dusters Hand 49 Power 9	Light 15 Heavy 2	—	Tech. 5 General 26
Sudan	Malathion 96% 2250 Gallons Malathion 57% 10,000 Gallons Dieldrin 20% 4,000 Gallons Fenitrothion L100 5495 Gallons BHC Dust 115,886 kgs. Baits 1,632,000 kgs.	Exhaust Nozzle Sprayers 20 Power Sprayers 300 Dusters Power 40 Hand 500	Light 33 Heavy 40	Cessna Piper 2 Helicop- ters 2	Tech. 200 Administra- tion 18 Drivers 60