

R E P O R T
of the
FIFTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
of the
COMMISSION FOR CONTROLLING THE DESERT LOCUST
IN THE NEAR EAST

held in Kuwait

26-28 August 1975

I N T R O D U C T I O N

The Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, at the kind invitation of the Government of the State of Kuwait, convened the Fifth Session of the Executive Committee of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Near East, at Kuwait from 26 to 28 August 1975.

The Session was opened by Mr. Ibrahim Abdullah Madini, who, in his capacity as Chairman of the Executive Committee, welcomed all the participants and thanked the Government of Kuwait for the kind invitation to convene this Session in Kuwait. He stated that the executive Committee had a very important role to play in technical as well as financial matters and to prepare appropriate recommendations for submission to the Commission. He hoped that all participants will, as usual, make useful and constructive contributions to these discussions.

Officers of the Session

Chairman:	Mr. Ibrahim Abdullah Madini (Saudi Arabia)
Vice Chairman:	Mr. F.M. Leheta (Arab Republic of Egypt)

The work of drafting the Report was entrusted to the FAO Secretariat. Mr. Jean Roy, Dr. J.S. Gill, and Mr. A. Khasawneh, staff members of the FAO acted as technical secretaries.

Acknowledgement

At the closing of the Session, the delegates expressed their warm appreciation of the kind hospitality and the facilities provided by the Government of the State of Kuwait. They also thanked the Chairman for the efficient and courteous manner in which he had conducted the proceedings. The Chairman and the Delegates expressed their special thanks for the expert guidance and clarifications provided by Mr. Gurdas Singh, FAO Consultant. The efficient secretarial assistance rendered by the FAO staff was also highly appreciated.

PARTICIPATION IN THE SESSION

Members of the Executive Committee

Arab Republic of Egypt

Mohamed Fahmi Leheta
Senior Researcher
Locust and Grasshopper Research
Ministry of Agriculture
Dokki, Cairo.

Jordan

Jawad Dajani
Director
Department of Plant Production and Protection
Ministry of Agriculture
Amman.

Qatar

Mohamed Fouad Thabet
Head of Plant Protection Section
Ministry of Industry and Agriculture
Doha.

Saudi Arabia

Ibrahim Abdullah Madini
Director, Locust Control and Plant Quarantine
Locust Research Station
Jeddah.

Sudan

Hassen Hanid Medani
Entomologist, Locust Control & Research Section
Plant Protection Directorate
P.O.Box 14
Khartoum North.

Observer

Gharib Khamis El-Gharib
Head, Plant Protection & Quarantine Section
Agriculture Department
Ministry of Public Works
Kuwait.

FAO Staff

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Mr. Gurdas Singh
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Via Jullundur
Punjab
India.

Interpreters

K. Annabi
A. El-Borai (Mrs.)
N. Arafat (Mrs.)
N. Salem (Mrs.)

A G E N D A

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Election of the Drafting Committee
4. Programme of Work and Budget for 1976 and Accounts for 1974
5. Coordination of Desert Locust Research in the Region
6. Training and Fellowships
7. Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee for 1975/76
8. Any Other Business
9. Date and Place of Next Session
10. Adoption of the Report

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Programme of Work and Budget for 1976

1. The Committee took note of the five years budget, 1973-77, (Annex. I) approved by the Third Session of the Commission and examined by the FAO Finance Committee, as required under Article IV of the Agreement establishing the Commission. The Committee, taking into consideration the present locust situation in the Region did not envisage any change in the programme of work and budget and recommended to the Commission the adoption of the budget for 1976 as approved at its Third Session.

Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 1974

2. The Committee examined the statement of accounts for the year ended 31 December 74 (Annex. II) and recommended to the Commission its formal adoption.

Expenditure against the approved budget

3. The Committee considered the main items of expenditure in 1974, and noted that the main items of expenditure, apart from training and equipment (paras 4 and 5 below), were salaries and local operating costs of the Fifth Session of the Commission held in Jeddah, September, 1974 (\$9,734), contributions to local operating and continuing control costs in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (\$23,853), and to special survey and control operations in the Arabian Peninsula (\$32,072).

4. Against the approved budget, the expenditure under Code 10 Personal Services, and Code 20 Travel, exceeded the provision; whereas Code 30 Contractual Services, Code 40 General Operating Expenses, Code 55 Supplies and Materials, Code 67 Furniture and Equipment, and Code 80 Fellowships, all showed less expenditure than provided for. Funds were utilized according to the discretionary powers vested by the Commission in the Director General of FAO as was deemed necessary i.e. to cover extra needs for special survey travel of teams, per diem, and local assistance.

Equipment and Supplies

5. Purchase in 1974 of expendable supplies included:

Insecticides	(PDR Yemen)	\$8,225
Radio parts	(PDR Yemen)	841
Insecticides	(Sudan)	2,519
Micronair	(Sudan)	2,628
Radio parts	(Egypt)	4,019

\$18,232

Non-expendable equipment included as major items:

Radio and generators	(PDR Yemen)	\$ 7,487
Laboratory and Radio	(Egypt)	6,089
Dusters	(Oman)	536
Increase on Truck	(Qatar)	753
Radio parts	(Yemen A.R.)	280

\$15,145

Research and Training Grants

6. Mr. Samir I. Hamman (ARE) and Mr. Ghaffer Karrar of Sudan were expected to conclude their long-term fellowships in the United Kingdom in October and December 1975 respectively. Mr. Saeed Ba'ankoud of the PDR Yemen terminated his fellowship in the Sudan in September 1974. Mr. Shawkat Bashraf (Jordan) also concluded his fellowship in the U.K. in August 1974.

7. From 1974, training grants were being funded from Trust Fund 9.462 of the Training Project in Crop Pest Control with Special Reference to Desert Locust Control and Research. A sum of \$125,000 was transferred in 1974 to this Fund from the Trust Fund 9.409 to cover costs of trainees from member countries of the Commission, as discussed and approved by the Fifth Session of the Commission. In 1975, a similar sum had been transferred from the Trust Fund 9.409 to Trust Fund 9.462. Near East Countries were benefitting from training facilities as shown below:

Individual Fellowships

(short-term)

Al-Alawi (Bahrain)	
Metraweh (Egypt)	
Sheet (Iraq)	
Alwan (Iraq)	
Khasawneh (Jordan)	
Mawlawi (Lebanon)	
Hejazi (Lebanon)	
Swaid (Saudi Arabia)	
Assad (Saudi Arabia)	
Mahmoud (Syria)	\$52,360

Individual Fellowships

(long-term)

Ibrahim (Egypt)	
Al-Momen (Iraq)	
Al Hamad (Jordan)	
Al Alwani (Saudi Arabia)	\$51,330

Group Study Tour 1974

Haddadin (Jordan)	
Audhali (PDR Yemen)	
Madini (Saudi Arabia)	\$ 9,657

Training Course in Radio Maintenance (Beirut 1974)

9 participants from Egypt, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen Arab Republic	\$16,493
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Training Course in Crop Pest and Desert Locust Control (Jeddah 1975)

35 participants from Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon,
PDR Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, United Arab Emirates, Yemen
Arab Republic \$28,816

Training Course in Aerial Survey and Spraying Techniques
(Nairobi 1975)

7 participants from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Sudan, Syria \$ 9,779
\$168,435
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8. Mr. S. Hadramy (Saudi Arabia) made an exchange visit to the Indian Anti-Locust Organisation in February 1975.

9. Details of costs of high-level fellowships up to 1974 awarded under T.F. 9.409 are given in Annexure IV.

Reserves

10. It will be seen that reserves in the Trust Fund of the Commission (T.F. 9.409) which stood at \$312,104 on 31 December 1973, were at a level of \$175,521 on 31 December 1974 (Annexure II). Expenditure in 1974 (excluding contribution to the training project from the reserves) equalled contributions received and this situation is expected to continue during 1975/76 in view of high prices of equipment needed in the countries of the region, and of travel and salaries. It would be advisable for the rates of contribution to be revised as from 1 July 1976 so that the new budget for the next five year period, to be presented to the next Session of the Commission in 1976, can provide adequately for continuation of the work of the Commission.

Resource Mobilisation

11. The Committee took note of the fact that, because of the changes in the world economic situation, the cost of commodities and services required to implement the programmes of the Commission had increased considerably; and that, unless further resource mobilisation was undertaken, the locust control potential in the Region was bound to be affected adversely. Since the role of the Near East Commission was crucial to sustain locust recession, the Committee emphasized the need not only to maintain the present tempo of the Commission's activities but also to accelerate them in future.

12. The Committee, therefore, discussed the three main factors on the basis of which the scale of contributions from Member Countries to Trust Fund 9.409 was fixed in 1969. Firstly, the frequency of desert locust infestation has not changed much; secondly, the crop area liable to damage has increased considerably due to extension of agriculture; moreover, the potential damage in case of a future locust outbreak is likely to be very high due to heavy investment on modern agricultural inputs. Thirdly, the capacity to pay of some member countries had undergone significant change. Accordingly, the Committee suggested for consideration of member governments, the following

revised scale of contribution to be effective from 1 July 1976:

Member Country	Present Contribution in US\$	Proposed Contribution in US\$
Arab Republic of Egypt	26,032	26,032
Bahrain	4,784	7,000
Iraq	16,464	23,000
Jordan	11,486	11,486
Kuwait	12,486	20,000
Lebanon	8,970	8,970
Oman	5,506	8,000
Qatar	5,506	10,000
Saudi Arabia	16,154	35,228
Sudan	14,934	14,934
Syria	13,350	13,350
United Arab Emirates	10,500	21,000
Yemen Arab Republic	4,224	640
Yemen PDR of	360	360
Total	151,066	200,000

Contributions

13. The Committee noted that certain member countries were in arrears and requested them to expedite payment of their contributions to facilitate implementation of the approved programme of the Commission.

Coordination of Research

14. The Committee discussed the research work being carried out at different stations within the Region, salient features of which are reviewed below:

Arab Republic of Egypt

15. The research on the following topics was carried out at the Dokki Research Station, Cairo, Egypt. Some of these studies were undertaken in collaboration with various Research Institutes and Egyptian Universities, by research fellows and other students as part of their M.Sc. or Ph.D. degrees.

- a. Factors affecting embryonic development in the desert locust (a study for Ph.D.)
- b. Neuro-endocrine control of lipid metabolism in relation to phase and reproduction in the desert locust (a study for Ph.D.).
- c. The relation between densities and colouration in the desert locusts

- d. The effect of sub-lethal cumulated doses of some insecticides on the desert locust (a study for M.Sc.).
- e. Nutrition coefficient for different plants and its relation with the respiratory coefficient in the desert locust development (a study for M.Sc.).
- f. The effect of Gamma Radiation on the development of different stages of the desert locust (in cooperation with the Isotope Centre, Cairo).
- g. Natural mortality of the desert locust under laboratory conditions.
- h. Polymorphism in the desert locust in relation to density, temperature, and food (a study for M.Sc.).
- i. Studies on the biological control of the desert locust.
- j. Anti-feeding compounds:
 - (i) The effect of natural compounds of some plants on the development of the desert locust;
 - (ii) The use of some chemicals as Anti-feedants or feeding deterrents.
- k. Toxicological studies on the desert locust.
- l. Aircraft spraying techniques and the distribution of droplets.

Saudi Arabia

16. The Committee noted that the locust research work could not make much headway because the staff remained very busy with control operations, but noted with satisfaction that the staff would be suitably strengthened very soon to permit undertaking of research alongside control work.

Sudan

17. The Committee was informed that because of the pre-occupation of staff with control of locusts and other crop pests, much time could not be devoted to research activities. However, it was planned to strengthen the staff, consistent with the availability of resources and technical personnel, to carry out research work in future.

Future Plans

18. While agreeing to the importance of control operations in checking the multiplication and spread of locusts to other areas and their finding preference over research work, the Committee re-emphasized the equally important and complimentary role of research and hoped that more attention would be devoted to this work in future, by augmenting staff resources where necessary.

19. The Committee noted with concern that a coordinated Programme of Research Work as decided at the Fourth Session of the Commission (Report. Para 14) could not be prepared because of various reasons, and recommended that such a Programme should be prepared by FAO Regional Locust Officer as soon as possible and made available for discussion at its Sixth Session.

20. To facilitate the formulation of a Co-ordinated Plan of Research Work, the Committee recommended that the officers in-charge of the research stations at Jeddah, Cairo and Khartoum along with the FAO Regional Locust Officer should meet preferably at Khartoum to work out a mutually agreed programme of work. Such a meeting should be preceded by visits of officers concerned to other stations in order to acquaint themselves with the available facilities and research in progress.

Application of Remote Sensing Techniques to Locust Survey

21. The Committee expressed its keen interest in FAO Project Proposals to explore the possibility of improving desert locust survey techniques by application of remote sensing techniques via Earth Satellites. It was planned to obtain information on rain, soil moisture, soil type and vegetation cover, etc., over selected target areas from LANDSAT imagery at fortnightly intervals; and co-relate this information with actual 'ground truth data' collected by ground survey teams. In case of a significant positive co-relation being established between the two sets of data, it might be possible to reduce the area of surveillance considerably and direct ground survey parties to areas suspected of harbouring locusts to undertake speedy control operations. The Committee commended the Project to the Commission for its consideration and financial support.

Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee

22. The Committee unanimously decided that Qatar and Sudan should be Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively for 1975/76 (till the next Session of the Committee).

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION

23. The Sixth Session of the Executive Committee should be held in conjunction with the Seventh Session of the Commission on a date to be decided by the Commission.

ANNEXURE I

COMMISSION FOR CONTROLLING THE DESERT LOCUST IN THE NEAR EAST

TRUST FUND NO. 9409

Budget for the Five-Year Period 1973-1977 expressed according to FAO Expenditure Codes

<u>Code</u>		<u>1973</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>Total</u>
10	<u>Personal Services</u> short-term experts, local staff, interpreters and assistance	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	125,000
20	<u>Travel</u> Delegates, teams, FAO staff to Sessions, regional co-ordination, consultants	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	50,000
30	<u>Contractual services</u> Printing, processing reports	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	25,000
40	<u>General operating expenses</u> Miscellaneous, rent, communications, hospitality	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	50,000
55	<u>Supplies and materials</u> For field surveys, POL, vehicle maintenance	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	150,000
67	<u>Equipment</u> For field projects	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	100,000
80	<u>Fellowships and grants</u> Individual and group training	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	125,000
		125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	625,000
92	<u>Project Servicing Cost</u> *	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000	65,000
		138,000	138,000	138,000	138,000	138,000	690,000
	Unallocated	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	8,000
		139,600	139,600	139,600	139,600	139,600	698,000

* 5% on Codes 55 and 67, 14% on other components

To the extent that pledged contributions from member countries are not paid, it may be necessary to scale down expenditure allocation proportionately.

Subject to the total commitments at any given time not exceeding the total contribution pledged and received at that time, the Director General shall have discretionary powers to vary the allocations between one expenditure heading and 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.

TF 9.409 - International - Desert Locust - Commission for Controlling
the Desert Locust in the Near East

Statement of Account as at 31 December 1974
(expressed in US dollar equivalents)

Receipts

Balance as at 1 January 1974		312,103.97
Transfer to TF 9.462 (Training Project)		125,000.00
		<hr/> 187,103.97
Amount received in 1974 (from member Governments)	145,674.00	
Interest credited	<u>5,282.95</u>	<u>150,956.95</u>
		<hr/> 338,060.92

Deduct:

Cash Expenditure 1974

10. Personal Services	49,888.27	
20. Official Duty Travel	30,242.32	
30. Contractual Services	1,656.35	
40. General Operating Expenses	9,127.14	
55. Supplies and Materials	23,075.12	
67. Furniture and Equipment	8,500.75	
70. Acquisition and Improvement of Premises	-	
80. Fellowships, Grants and Contributions	<u>22,581.49</u>	
	145,071.44	
Project Servicing Costs $\left. \begin{array}{l} 5\% \text{ on code 50-60} \\ 14\% \text{ on rest} \end{array} \right\}$	<u>17,468.16</u>	<u>162,539.60</u>
Balance as at 31 December 1974		<hr/> <hr/> 175,521.32

ANNEXURE III

Trust Fund No.9.409 - International - Desert Locust Commission for
Controlling the Desert Locust - Near East

Pledge Position as at 30 June 1975

	Outstanding Contribs. 1969-70, 1970-71, 1971-72	Outstanding Contribs. 1972-73	Outstanding Contribs. 1973-74	Outstanding Contribs. 1974-75	Outstanding Contribs. 1975-76	Total Due at 30.6.75
Bahrain	-	-	-	-	4,784.00	4,784.00
Egypt	-	-	-	26,032.00	26,032.00	52,064.00
Iraq	-	-	-	-	16,464.00	16,464.00
Jordan	-	-	-	-	11,486.00	11,486.00
Kuwait	-	-	-	-	12,796.00	12,796.00
Lebanon	-	2,372.39	8,970.00	838.00	8,970.00	21,150.39
Oman	-	5,506.00	5,506.00	5,506.00	5,506.00	22,024.00
Qatar	-	-	-	-	5,506.00	5,506.00
Saudi Arabia	-	-	-	-	16,154.00	16,154.00
Sudan	-	-	-	14,934.00	14,934.00	29,868.00
Syria	-	-	50.00	13,350.00	13,350.00	26,750.00
United Arab Emirates	-	-	-	-	10,500.00	10,500.00
Yemen Arab Republic	12,672.00	4,224.00	4,224.00	4,224.00	4,224.00	29,568.00
Yemen, People's Dem. Rep.	-	360.00	360.00	360.00	360.00	1,440.00
Total	\$ 12,672.00	12,462.39	19,110.00	65,244.00	151,066.00	260,554.39

ANNEXURE IV

DETAILS OF FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED UNDER TRUST FUND NO. 9409

<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Country of study</u>	<u>Subject of study</u>	<u>Date of start</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>		<u>Balance Committed</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
					<u>1972</u>	<u>1973 1974</u>		
<u>Long-term high-level fellowships</u>								
Ghafter Karrar	Sudan	U.K.	Locust Research	1972 (3 years)	1,723	5,044 4,895	9,583	21,245
Saeed Ba'ankoud	PDR Yemen	Sudan	Locust Control & Plant Protection	1972 (2 years)	2,060	6,204 4,476	-	12,740
Samir Ismail Hamman	A.R.E.	U.K.	Locust Toxicology	1972 (3 years)	* -	5,260 4,744	4,885	14,889
Shawkat Qasem Bashmaf Jordan		U.K.	Plant Protection	1973 (1 year)	-	2,642 3,620	-	6,262
					3,783	19,150 17,735	14,468	55,136

* financed from TF 9161 during 1972

Appendix II
AGP: DL/NE/75/5

SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION FOR CONTROLLING THE DESERT
LOCUST IN THE NEAR EAST - KUWAIT 30 AUGUST-2 SEPTEMBER 1975

ANTI-LOCUST SURVEY AND CONTROL POTENTIALS AVAILABLE IN
MEMBER COUNTRIES

<u>Name of country</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Insecticides</u>
Bahrain	16	31 High pressure sprayers & napsack sprayers 2 Dusters	4 Vehicles	1800 oil solution of Malathion and DDT/Lindane
Egypt	386	4 sprayers 21 power duster 97 hand duster 166 napsack, solo.	35 Landrover 50 half truck 4 Jeep 6 truck	Berit 1044586 kgs. BHC Dust 64995 " DDT/Lindane 1124 lit. Aldrin 1782 kgs. BHC 64876 "
Iraq	20	2 Aircraft 20 Powersprayer 100 Napsack sprayers 10 Exhaust nozzle sprayer	20 different types and sizes	BHC Dust 50 MT Bran 50 MT Melathion 5% 10000 lit
Jordan	50	33 tractors 2 winug	8 vehicles	Bran 30 MT BHC 25% 1 MT BHC 7% 20 MT
Kuwait	43	23 power duster 29 power sprayer 20 hand dusters 13 exhaust sprayers	13 landrover 13 medium 14 lorries	Dieldrin 20% 1590 gal Aldrin 396 " Dieldrin 18% 825 " BHC Dust 80 ton
Lebanon	22 tech. 20 others	60 power sprayer 80 napsack	1 Aircraft 5 Landrover	Diptrex & dimethoate 5 tons BHC 12000 kgs
Oman	nil	2 power duster napsack sprayer	2 Landrover	Dieldrin 20% 1200 lit. BHC 3000 kgs.
Qatar	2		2 Landrover 1 Toyota 1 Lorry	Dieldrin 20% 380 lit. Bran 1 ton BHC 1200 tons
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	80	10 Power duster 10 Exhaust sprayer 2 micro sprayer 1 Helder sprayer 2 Napsack sprayer	21 Jeep 6 Lorry 4 Pickup	BHC Dust 300 M/ton Bran 1360 tons Dieldrin 20% 27720 lit Malathion 97% 9520 lit

Contd....

Appendix II (Contd.)

<u>Name of country</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Insecticides</u>
Sudan	400	1000 Battery Sprayers 250 Motor dusters and sprayers 25 Landrover & Exhaust sprayers	15 Heavy 10 Medium 15 Light	Bran 3500000 kg Malathion 96% 1000 kg Malathion 57% 1000 kg BHC 7% 500000 kg BHC(w.p) 80000 kg Dieldrin 25% 2000
PDR of Yemen	29	3 Power duster 149 Hand duster 16 Exhaust Sprayer 1 Microsprayer Napsack/solo	10 Landrover 4 Lorry	Bran 200 tons BHC Dust 40 Dieldrin 1135 kg Malathion 495 Aerodol 3755 Afrol 2.25
United Arab Emirates	17 Tech. 73 Lab.	7 Powersprayer 1 Islander Aircraft	7 Landrover Uniwing 7 horsprayer	BHC 2 tons and other

Appendix III

List of Working Papers

- | | | |
|------------------|---|---|
| AGP: DL/NE/75/1 | - | Provisional Agenda |
| AGP: DL/NE/75/2 | - | Programme of Work and Budget |
| AGP: DL/NE/75/3 | - | A. Review of the Desert Locust Survey and Control Activities carried out by Member Countries during 1974/75 and Plans for the Future. |
| AGP: DL/NE/75 /4 | - | Special Survey carried out in Strategic Areas |
| AGP: DL/NE/75 /5 | - | Anti-locust Survey and Control Potential available in Member Countries |
| AGP: DL/NE/75 /6 | - | Report of the Fifth Session of the Executive Committee |

