

APPENDIX I

Report of the First Session of the  
Executive Committee of the  
Commission for Controlling  
the Desert Locust in  
Northwest Africa

held in  
Tripoli, Libyan Arab Republic  
28-30 April 1973

## INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the recommendation of the First Session of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in North-West Africa, the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Libyan Arab Republic, convened the First Session of the Executive Committee of the Commission from 28 to 30 April 1973 in Tripoli.

The Session was opened by Mr. Mustapha Labiod, Chairman of the Committee. At the very outset, Mr. Labiod paid tributes to the late Professor R.G. Pasquier and stated that his death had deprived the science of Entomology of one of its most eminent men, best known for his work in the field of Acridology with particular reference to the Desert Locust. One minute of silence was observed by the Committee as a mark of respect to the late Professor. Mr. Labiod welcomed all the participants to the Session and drew the attention of the members of the Committee that this body had to prepare recommendations for consideration of the Commission. He pointed out that it would be the Committee's duty to examine in detail all matters and to prepare a report for submission to the Commission during the forthcoming Session.

### Officers of the Session

Chairman : Mr. M. Labiod, Tunisia

Vice-Chairman : Mr. Ali Khaled, Libya

The work of drafting the report was entrusted to the FAO Secretary along with the Representatives of Algeria, Libyan Arab Republic and Tunisia. Mr. Gurdas Singh and Mr. Nezil Mahjoub of the FAO Secretariat acted as Technical Secretaries.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SESSION

Members of the Executive Committee

Algeria

Ramdane Kellou  
Sous-directeur de la protection des végétaux  
Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Réforme Agraire  
Algiers

Said Zitoune  
Ingénieur agronome  
Protection des végétaux  
Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Réforme Agraire  
Algiers

Libyan Arab Republic

Mustafa Ibrahim Muafa  
Assistant Director  
Plant Production Department  
Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform  
Tripoli

Ali Khaled  
Chief  
Plant Protection Section  
Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform  
Tripoli

Lufti Salem Sadik  
Chief  
Desert Locust Control Bureau  
Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform  
Tripoli

Ali Mohamed Murgani  
Desert Locust Officer  
Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform  
Tripoli

Mustafa Souyouty  
Desert Locust Expert  
Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform  
Tripoli

Tunisia

Mustapha Labiod  
Senior Engineer  
Head  
Plant Protection Division  
Agricultural Production Department  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Tunis

Tunisia (continued)

Mohamed Lahbib El Adjmi  
Ingénieur à la division de la défense des cultures  
Ministère de l'Agriculture  
Tunis

Observers

France

Pascal Tirot  
Chargé des questions acridiennes et aviaires  
Sous-direction des relations internationales et de la  
coopération technique  
Ministère de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural  
78, rue de Varenne  
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FAO Staff

Gurdas Singh  
Senior Officer  
Locust Control and Emergency Operations  
Plant Protection Service  
Plant Production and Protection Division  
FAO, Rome, Italy

Nezil Mahjoub  
FAO Regional Locust Officer  
c/o PNUD  
B.P. 823  
Algiers, Algeria

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Election of the Drafting Committee
4. Annual accounts for 1971 and 1972 and programme of work and budget for 1973
5. Technical and Scientific Matters :
  - (a) Training and fellowships
  - (b) Locust surveys
  - (c) Locust handbook
  - (d) Any other technical matters
6. Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for 1973/74
7. Date and Place of Next Session
8. Adoption of Report

## SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

### Programme of work and budget and annual accounts

#### Programme of work and budget for 1973-1977

1. The programme of work and budget for 1973-1977 was transmitted to the Director-General of FAO for submission to the 27th Session of the Finance Committee, held 22 May-2 June 1972. The Finance Committee noted the desirability of programming over several years, considered the extended programme of work and budget as approved by the Commission at its First Session, and noted that the submission was in compliance with the provision of the Organization's Basic Texts. Since the locust situation had not radically changed, the Committee did not envisage any changes in the Programme of Work and Budget approved at the First Session of the Commission.

#### Accounts for the Year ended 31 December 1971

2. The First Session of the Commission held in Algiers, March 1972, approved provisional accounts for the year ended 31 December 1971. As these have since been finalized and certified by FAO's external auditors without change, the Committee recommended for its adoption (Annex I).

#### Provisional accounts for the Year ended 31 December 1972

3. The Committee examined the provisional statement of accounts for the year 1972 (Annex II), and noted that the final accounts for the year 1972 would be presented to the Committee at its next Session for adoption. The figures given in the statement of accounts for the year ended 31 December 1972 were provisional in that they were subject to examination by FAO's external auditors.

#### Main items of expenditure in 1972 against the approved budget

	\$
Costs of 1st Session of Commission Algiers, 1972	3 514
Local services and operating expenses, Algiers	2 681
Supplies	118
Equipment	1 080
Training	10 781
	<hr/> 18 174

The amount committed for equipment was for purchases to equip the Regional Locust Secretariat with survey vehicles (Land Rover Station Wagon, Land Rover pick-up and spare parts), and with training equipment (cine projector, screen copy machine). The expenditure had remained within the budget estimate for each component.

Contributions to the Trust Fund No. 9169 of the Commission

4. At the date of the meeting the position of contributions outstanding was as follows :

	<u>1973 contributions outstanding</u>
Algeria	17 080
Libya	12 200
Morocco	18 910
Tunisia	11 628 (++)
	<u>59 818</u>

(++) \$ 1 172 paid in excess during 1972 and adjusted in 1973 contributions.

Members were requested to bring their contributions up to date.

Fellowships and Training

5. The present status of the long-term high-level fellowships awarded under the Trust Fund of the Commission (No. 9169) was as follows :

<u>Name of fellows</u>	<u>Country of origin</u>	<u>Country of study</u>	<u>Commencing date</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Total</u>		
				1970	1971	1972	
Said Zitoune	Algeria	France	1970 (2½ years)	1 200	3 842	5 451	10 493
Abdul-Kadir Abdulla Azzy	Libya	U.K.	1971 (3 years)	-	2 269	3 784	6 053
Abderrahmane Hafroui	Morocco	France	1972	-	-	1 546	1 546
				1 200	6 111	10 781	18 092

6. Mr. Said Zitoune concluded his fellowship at the University of Paris successfully in February 1973. The Committee expressed its congratulations to him. Mr. Azzy of Libya had obtained his M.Sc. and had been admitted for Ph.D. studies, which were progressing well. Mr. Hafroui had started his higher studies in France in 1972 and his first report had shown good progress. A candidate from Tunisia would begin his studies in autumn 1973. Thus, as agreed at the First Session of the Commission, three fellows, the maximum to be covered by the budget, would be pursuing their studies in 1973-74.

7. The Committee emphasized the need for a longer period than two years for high-level fellowship and noted with satisfaction that the initial period of two years could be extended as may be needed in individual cases.

8. The Committee thanked the Governments of France and U.K. for providing facilities for high-level fellowship candidates and their cooperation in this matter.

9. A course in locust survey and control organized for trainees from the Member countries was planned to take place in Algeria from 17 March to 15 April 1973. Due to the sudden death of Prof. Pasquier, the course was postponed to 26 March 1973. Nominations were received from Algeria (1), Libya (4), Morocco (3) and Tunisia (3), plus three participants from OCLALAV. The programme was carried out by Mr. G. Popov who was appointed as a short-term consultant to provide training in collaboration with the FAO Regional Locust secretariat and the national anti-locust organization of Algeria for providing material and

technical assistance which contributed to the success of the course. A short report would be issued in due course. The Committee suggested that in future such courses should be of a longer duration than one month.

#### Administrative Support

10. The Committee took note of the difficulties in obtaining funds from UNDP for the Administrative Support component of the North-West Africa Regional Locust Project REM.70/433. This had been later approved for 1973 but there was a possibility of a cut in this part of the budget in future years. It was agreed that FAO should continue its efforts to obtain funds from UNDP, which were considered necessary to maintain properly the Regional Officer's secretariat in order to ensure prompt action even in the absence of the Regional Officer from Algiers. In the last resort such staffing might be financed from the Trust Fund, but only if there was no possibility of receiving the support from within the UNDP project budget. The Committee, therefore, suggested to the Commission to authorize FAO, under such conditions, to utilize the Trust Fund for this purpose and charge expenditures to the existing budgetary provision under Personal Services.

11. The Committee requested FAO to review the requirements of the Members with regards to radio equipment and take appropriate steps to provide such additional equipment wherever necessary.

#### Special Survey

12. In continuation of the special survey undertaken in October 1971 in south-east Mauritania, a survey was organized by OCLALAV under the guidance of the late Professor Pasquier (FAO consultant) to cover areas of north-west Mali and the area east of Nema in south-east Mauritania, which has never been hitherto surveyed.

13. The team comprised two OCLALAV senior officers, two survey officers, one locust officer from Madagascar and the necessary auxiliary staff. Followed by a ground survey which gathered information on the state of vegetation.

14. The survey lasted from 17 September to 13 October 1973. The survey team travelled approximately a distance of 1 500 km, forming a rectangle delimited by 16-19° latitude north and 0-7° longitude west, the main route being Gao-Tombouctou-Nema with two major traverses to the north : one from Tombouctou on the road of Araouane until Bou Djbeha, the other to the northwest of El Bassriye well. It is a sahelo-saharian region characterized by a subdesert and desert climate with sand dunes and with an average altitude of 200 metres.

15. During the survey, daily meteorological observations were made and observations on locusts were made in the daytime as well as during the night. Vegetation studies were made in 30 different localities and soil and humidity in 60 places.

16. Although at the time of the survey, generalized drought was dominant from Gao to the Atlantic, green vegetation was still present over wide areas such as north of Tombouctou along a distance of 100 km, comprising mainly dense *Farcesia*. A few locusts were also observed. In this area, rains generally occur late in September-October as compared to the normal rainy season.

17. West of Tombouctou, very few locusts were seen between Sahel and the Sahara sands. However, detailed vegetation observations were made. As already shown during the 1971 survey of Nema, it is now established that the Desert Locusts are found late in the year in southeast Mauritania. OCLALAV is therefore advised to undertake surveys every year in this region for a period of 15 days at the end of the rainy season. Such surveys are extremely difficult to carry out and one might envisage even use of camels to explore particularly the sandy area extending 50-60 km north of Akle-Mseiguile region.



18. Recognizing the importance of special surveys the Committee reiterated earlier recommendations of the Commission made at its First Session (Report, para.26) that similar surveys should be organized to cover areas considered important.

#### Locust Handbook

19. The Commission at its First Session (Report, para. 32) recommended that a small Locust Handbook could be prepared for guidance of field locust officers and surveyors. Accordingly, the FAO Regional Locust Officer prepared a draft Locust Handbook based on the document prepared by OCLALAV on the subject, which was written under the guidance of late Prof. Pasquier, and submitted to the Committee. The Committee considered that there was not sufficient time to review this document at this Session and recommended that this may be circulated to the Governments, and should be considered at the next Session of the Committee. It was recommended that in the meanwhile the various survey forms should be printed in Arabic, English and French and circulated to the Member Governments for their use.

20. It was agreed that it will be useful to add a chapter in the Handbook on identification of various types of locusts possibly with illustrations, to include a map showing locust migrations within the region and its relation with its other neighbouring areas and to add detailed information on vegetation found in the locust breeding areas of the various member countries. In addition, steps should be taken in due course to prepare a second volume of the Handbook to cover all matters concerning locust control.

#### Future Reporting and Forecasting

21. The Committee was informed that the present arrangements for issuing the monthly locust situation Summary would continue till the end of June 1973. Thereafter, this responsibility would have to be taken over by the various regional bodies under the general coordination of FAO. With the view to improve the knowledge of the officers engaged in this work, a training course was held for six weeks at the Centre for Overseas Pest Research, London, and a short technical visit to Paris organized in which the Regional Locust Officer, Algiers, participated. The Committee emphasized the need for Member countries to send their monthly locust situation reports by the quickest mean to the FAO Regional Locust Officer, Algiers, so that he could prepare and issue a summary at the beginning of every month.

#### Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for 1973/74

22. The Committee elected Morocco and Algeria as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively for 1973/74.

#### DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

23. Normally the sessions of the Executive Committee precede the sessions of the Commission. It was recommended that the same practice be followed unless an extraordinary session of the Executive Committee was to be convened earlier.

Annex I

COMMISSION FOR CONTROLLING THE DESERT LOCUST IN NORTH-WEST AFRICA

TRUST FUND No. 9169

Final Statement of Account for 1971  
(expressed in US dollar equivalents)

Balance as at 1 January 1971 108 457

Receipts :

Government of Algeria (1970 and 1971)	16 800	
Government of Libya (1970 and 1971)	12 000	
Government of Morocco (1971)	9 184	
Government of Tunisia (1971)	6 320	
Interest credited 1971	4 134	48 438
		<u>156 895</u>

Cash expenditure :

Personal services	823	
Travel	1 513	
Contractual services	10	
Grants and subsidies	6 109	
	<u>8 455</u>	
Project Servicing Costs 14 %	1 183	9 638

Balance as at 31 December 1971 147 257

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Annex II

COMMISSION FOR CONTROLLING THE DESERT LOCUST IN NORTH-WEST AFRICA

TRUST FUND No. 9169

Provisional Statement of Account as at 31 December 1972  
(expressed in US dollar equivalents)

Receipts

Balance as at 1 January 1972			147 257
Sums received from the Government of :			
	Morocco	(1972)	18 899
	Libya	(1972)	12 200
	Tunisia		
		(part 1972)	6 584
	Algeria	(1972)	17 080
Interest credited 1972			<u>4 897</u> <u>59 660</u>
<u>Deduct :</u>			206 917

Cash Expenditure 1972

Personal Services	2 778	
Official Duty Travel	878	
Contractual Services	2 067	
General Operating Expenses	344	
Supplies and Materials	118	
Furniture and Equipment	1 080	
Fellowships	10 781	
	<u>18 046</u>	
Project Servicing Costs 14 %	2 527	
		<u>20 573</u>
Balance as at 31 December 1972		<u>186 344</u> =====