



ECLO Operations Report

EMERGENCY CENTRE FOR LOCUST OPERATIONS

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In Our Next Issue

A workshop on the importance of FAO representations in the countries affected by locusts is organised in Dakar, Senegal. This topic will be reported in **our next** issue.

This Operations Report is available at FAO's website:
<http://www.fao.org/news/global/locusts/donor/donor.htm>

Preparation for the summer campaign

A summer campaign is jointly organized

FAO has presented three provisional scenarios for the 2005 summer campaign to control the Desert Locust: an optimistic scenario, a probable scenario and a worst-case scenario.

A workshop held in Bamako, Mali, at the end of April, brought together the countries most affected by the locust crisis in addition to the World Bank within the framework of its Africa Emergency Locust Project (AELP), the *Commission de lutte contre le criquet pèlerin pour la région occidentale* (CLCPRO) and FAO. The workshop allowed **planning the activities** in the different countries according to the preliminary action plans and the most probable scenario, taking into account the funds available within each country in addition to the funds provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Bank and FAO.

The exercise has satisfied the needs defined in the action plan of each country and will subsequently allow initiating the essential steps for providing supplementary material in the event of the worst-case scenario.

The important role of the donors

A number of **donors** participated in a **coordination meeting** that followed the workshop. The African Development Bank, Belgium, the Canadian International Development Agency, the European Commission, France, Germany, Morocco, the Netherlands, USAID and the World Bank developed nine recommendations for the preparation and follow-up of the 2005 summer campaign.

The recommendations

1. Make available detailed information on the trigger mechanisms to allow switching from one scenario to the other.
2. Establish autonomous national units for controlling the Desert Locust.
3. Develop a plan for the rational management of existing pesticide stocks, accompanied by an environmental evaluation.
4. Harmonize the programmes for training different partners.
5. Consult with the donors if the fund utilisation differs from that in the project document.
6. Implement the EMPRES programme in the Western Region as soon as possible.
7. Extend the AELP/World Bank monitoring and evaluation system to all locust control operations.
8. The next step related to the 2005 summer campaign will be the upcoming meeting of the EMPRES/Western Region Liaison Officers.
9. The planning workshop followed by a donor coordination meeting should be repeated when appropriate.

The current Desert Locust situation as of 31 May is available at the FAO website:

<http://www.fao.org/news/global/locusts/locuhome.htm>



FAO respects health and the environment

During Desert Locust control operations in Africa, pesticides are used to reduce locust populations in order to protect crops and ensure adequate food security in the affected countries.

The strengthening of national capacities in locust monitoring and control are crucial. In this context, FAO has launched several initiatives on health protection and the protection of the environment, funded by the European Commission, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands and Sweden

Quality control measures

A regional workshop on Training of Trainers on quality control of treatments against the Desert Locust and the safety measures to be taken in order to protect human health and the environment was held in Mauritania from 13 to 23 April 2005, with participation of 21 people from the Ministries of the Environment, Health and Agriculture from Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal.

The workshop addressed the potential impact of spraying near water, on fauna and flora as well as to the identification of non-targeted most vulnerable species that require monitoring during the treatments. Two other modules focused on the calibration of ground and aerial sprayers and the use of kits of cholinesterase tests.

The workshop falls within the scope of national capacity building in six countries, which will make it possible to form competent national teams for monitoring the quality of the spraying. These teams will also be responsible for conducting national training programmes. It is anticipated that national monitoring teams in the six countries participating in the programme will be operational by August 2005.

Empty drum disposal and pesticide management

National action plans on the disposal of empty drums, best management practices of pesticide stocks, and as the organisation of public awareness campaigns on the avoidance of using empty containers have been launched since the beginning of the year in Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal.

A workshop on empty drum disposal and pesticide stock management will be held in June in Nouakchott, Mauritania, for 14 northwest African countries affected by the Desert Locust.



FAO provides training on the control of the Desert Locust

During a period of three weeks, 21 participants from several locust-affected countries (Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Djibouti, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal) were trained on major topics relating to the Desert Locust. The participants met at ICRISAT (International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics) centre in Niamey, Niger, from 14 March to 6 April 2005. The trainees expressed satisfaction with the topics presented and the trainers provided by FAO.

The training course entitled « *Ce qu'il faut savoir, ce qu'on doit transmettre sur le Criquet pèlerin* » (What we need to know and share about the Desert Locust) treated different aspects of the bio-ecology of the Desert Locust, survey and control operations, safeguarding of human health and the environment and management of the campaign. The trainees as National Trainers will organise training courses in their country during May and June. This programme that was funded mainly by the European Commission and Spain allowed the future trainers to formulate their national training scheme.

National training

Three five-day national training courses are being conducted in Sahelian countries before the beginning of the 2005 summer campaign. With the support of international consultants, 600 national technicians are being trained on Desert Locust survey and control. The knowledge of these technicians will be strengthened and they will be able to face the challenges that the new campaign could bring. The first national sessions have begun on 2 May; others will take place in June.

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Funding update as of 7 June 2005

- FAO had received US\$67.1 million from donors to which the Organization had contributed a further US\$6.3 million of its own funds.
- US\$6.8 million had been pledged by donors.
- US\$2.1 million is being negotiated with donors.
- The total budget allocation for locust control operations is US\$80.2 million.
- US\$41.2 million (56.1 percent of funds received) had been committed for locust control operations.
- The balance of funds received is US\$32.2 million.

For more information on operations, activities and funding updates, go to:

<http://www.fao.org/news/global/locusts/donor/donor.htm>