

Code: TCP/INT/3202 (D)

Title: IMPROVING MANAGEMENT OF MIGRATORY AND OTHER LOCUSTS IN THE CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA

Countres: Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

Starting date: March 2009

Expiring date: February 2011

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OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSISTANCE

The strategic long term objective is to reduce the occurrence and intensity of locust outbreaks in the Caucasus and Central Asia, thus preventing damage to crops and rangeland as well as related impact on food security and livelihood of the most vulnerable rural communities.

The immediate objective is to improve national and regional locust management in the Caucasus and Central Asia through regional cooperation.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The immediate project beneficiaries are the national control units and plant protection services of the concerned countries, whose technical capacities will be strengthened and updated through intra-regional exchanges, joint activities and the FAO technical assistance.

The ultimate beneficiaries of this approach are the communities living in locust outbreak and invasion areas of the Caucasus and Central Asia, including the most vulnerable ones in rural areas, whose food security will be preserved through improved crop and rangeland protection.

Expected outputs:

- an analytic report is produced, which provides a clear picture of current locust situation and of its management in the Caucasus and Central Asia, with detailed information on common issues, gaps, constraints and challenges, especially in areas near/across the borders, and of countries' needs and expectations regarding the main features of regional cooperation;
- a report is produced following the regional consultation, in which ways and modalities for regional cooperation, as discussed and agreed on by countries, as well as the resulting implementation schedule are presented;
- standard forms for survey and control operations are discussed, agreed on and used by countries for national collection of locust information;
- consistent national bulletins, whose format is discussed and agreed on by countries, are issued on a monthly basis from April to October 2009 and 2010 and despatched at regional level;
- a technical document is produced following a regional technical workshop, which reports on countries' discussions on technical issues, national locust situations, latest developments regarding environmentally friendly control strategies/techniques, etc. and include an inventory of existing technical and scientific documentation on locusts;
- assessment of locust situation is conducted in at least two countries (beneficiaries from the TCP project having required specific assistance or facing a critical situation);
- on-the-spot technical advice is delivered to countries and relevant equipment is procured for better locust monitoring and control, thus contributing to strengthen and update technical capacities of national control units and plant protection services;
- information and communication material on current locust situations and management in the Caucasus and Central Asia (including webpage, articles, etc.) is produced and despatched to media and other stakeholders.

National Counterparts

Ministries of Agriculture

Funding Source

FAO Technical Cooperation Programme

Budget

USD 322 000