



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Urgent action for capacity building to control desert locust infestation in the Islamic Republic of Iran

To further enhance national technical capacity for early warning, monitoring and management of desert locust

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The Islamic Republic of Iran is now experiencing the worst desert locust outbreak in the last 50 years. According to the latest surveys eight out of 31 provinces of the country, including its two primary breadbasket regions have been invaded by this pest; it is also expected that the number of affected provinces to increase by two as the infestation upsurge more over the following months.

Considering the current scale of infestation and the reproduction rate of this migratory pest, if not properly controlled in the country, it may multiply by 16-20 folds in each round of breeding and form mega sized swarms which could migrate to neighboring countries and endanger their food and nutrition security.

Also, given the multiple challenges the country is facing, including the heavy impact of

COVID-19, the unprecedented damages of 2019 spring floods and the economic downturn due to the imposed sanctions, the current desert locust upsurge in the country is of particular concern, since it can put millions of additional livelihoods at risk, and threaten the environment and economic development in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Expected results

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) implements an emergency Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) to strengthen the capacity of Iran's Plant Protection Organization in controlling and monitoring desert locust as the most important migratory pest in the country. This capacity-building shall contribute to controlling the expected future desert locust outbreak and mitigate its destructive effects.



FAO'S CONTRIBUTION

As the specialised United Nations agency leading the global efforts in improving food and nutrition security and sustainable development in the agricultural sectors, FAO offers financial supports and technical expertise to its member countries, assisting them in managing the threat posed by the desert locust.

In this regard, FAO focuses on strengthening national capacities, both in terms of knowledge/skills and equipment, for better management of this pest, including the implementation of timely control and preventive interventions, all aimed to contribute to the reduction of animal and plant pests and diseases, especially in Asia-Pacific region.

FAO in close collaboration with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, implements various components of this emergency TCP project, including organising 16 training workshops for national and local experts and supplying requisite equipment needed to equip two desert locust control centres in the country.

Project objectives

- Training 320 plant protection officers and managers on desert driving, Ultra Low Volume (ULV) sprayer maintenance, and desert locust survey and management.
- Developing a digital educational platform to provide information (text, graphics, photos and videos) on desert locust biology and behaviour, survey, reporting, control, and safety.
- Developing and deploying a digital platform to improve the country's operational capacity for data collection, early warning and rapid response.
- Procuring control (ULV), safety, data management and communications equipment and necessary chemicals (pesticides) for field offices and local experts.
- Developing an integrated desert locust management strategy.
- Fielding the recommended guidelines to improve monitoring and disaster risk reduction of desert locust infestations.



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Main partner

Both financially supported and technically facilitated by FAO, this project is being implemented in close partnership with the Plant Protection Organization of the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as the national counterpart of the project which has the overall responsibility for the management of plant pest and disease in the country.

Budget

Fully provided by FAO, in total the Organization has allocated USD 500 000 budget in the scheme of an emergency TCP project to provide the country with vital knowledge, skills and equipment for detection, tracking and rapidly responding to desert locust infestation.

Contact

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Iran's Plant Protection Organization
The Ministry of Agriculture Jihad



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