

REPORT OF THE

Held in Rome, Italy
6 to 9 June 1966

**TENTH SESSION OF THE
FAO DESERT LOCUST
CONTROL COMMITTEE**



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

REPORT OF THE
TENTH SESSION OF THE
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Rome, Italy
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Plant Production and Protection Division
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Rome, Italy June, 1966

MR/48113

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INTRODUCTION

The Ninth Session of the FAO Desert Locust Control Committee which was held in Rome, Italy, from 29 June to 3 July 1964, recommended that its next Session should be convened by the Director-General during June 1965. Since there were no urgent matters to be considered, the Director-General decided to convene this Session from 6 to 9 June 1966 in conjunction with the Fourteenth Session of the FAO Technical Advisory Committee on Desert Locust Control. He invited the following Governments to be represented by Delegates:

Afghanistan	Morocco
Algeria	Niger
Cameroun	Nigeria
Central African Republic	Pakistan
Chad	Portugal
Dahomey	Saudi Arabia
Ethiopia	Senegal
France	Sierra Leone
Ghana	Somali Republic
Guinea	Spain
India	Sudan
Iran	Syrian Arab Republic
Iraq	Tanzania
Israel	Togo
Ivory Coast	Tunisia
Jordan	Turkey
Kenya	Uganda
Kuwait	United Arab Republic
Lebanon	United Kingdom
Libya	United States of America
Mali	Upper Volta
Mauritania	Yemen

He also invited the representation of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the World Meteorological Organization (W.M.O.), and invited the League of Arab States, the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA), the Organisation Commune de Lutte Antiaoridienne et de Lutte Antiaviaire (OCLALAV), the International African Migratory Locust Organization (OICMA) and the International Red Locust Control Service (IRLCS) to be represented by observers.

The Director-General regretted that he was informed by the Governments of Chad, Kuwait, Lebanon, Togo, and the International Red Locust Control Service (IRLCS) and the World Meteorological Organization (W.M.O.), that they were unable to send representatives.

The Session was opened by Mr. Oris V. Wells, Deputy Director-General, who welcomed the delegates and other participants and stressed the importance of the matters to be discussed. He informed the members of the Desert Locust Control Committee that the recommendations made at the Ninth Session had been considered by the Director-General and necessary action had been taken to establish an International Trust Fund with the view to continue certain activities, started or strengthened with the Special Fund support. He further added that the terms of reference of the FAO Desert Locust Control Committee and the FAO Technical Advisory Committee had been modified to enable these bodies to discharge their responsibilities connected with the above Trust Fund.

He noted with satisfaction that the recession in the Desert Locust plague which commenced in 1963 still continued. He stated that this was due to action taken by various national and regional Organizations to keep their areas under constant watch, by organizing special reconnaissance surveys and by controlling rapidly-developing

locust populations. He, however, warned the Committee that, despite all these concerted efforts, the plague could resurge at any time from certain areas and it was, therefore, necessary to be prepared for such emergency. He hoped that the Committee would keep this in view while discussing future action.

Officers of the Session

The Committee unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairman: Mr. H.M. Abbas (Pakistan)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. A.K. Balinda (Uganda)

Drafting Committee

Delegates of: France, Nigeria, Somali Republic, United Arab Republic and the United States of America, Chairman, FAO Consultant and members of the FAO Secretariat.

Mr. Gurdas Singh, Mr. H.J. Brédo, Dr. K. Lubani and Mr. F.M. Leheta of the FAO Secretariat served as Technical Secretaries.

Acknowledgements

At the conclusion of the Session the members of the Committee wished to place on record their keen appreciation of the efficient and tactful manner in which the Chairman had conducted the proceedings. The delegates also thanked the FAO Secretariat for the efficient way in which it had performed its various duties.

PARTICIPATION IN THE SESSION

The following delegations from Member Nations of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, the United Nations, observers and members of the FAO staff participated in the Session and contributed to the discussions summarized in this report.

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AGENDA

1. Opening of the Session
2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman
3. Election of the Drafting Committee
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. The Desert Locust Situation during 1965/66 and forecast
6. International Campaign in the Arabian Peninsula during 1965/66 and future plans
7. The status of Regional Desert Locust Control Organizations
8. Establishment of the FAO North-West African Desert Locust Research and Control Sub-Committee
9. Dissolution of the FAO Eastern African Desert Locust Control Sub-Committee
10. Review of the work and achievements of the UNDP Desert Locust Project
11. Report on action taken on recommendations of the Ninth Session of the DLCC concerning a program to be followed on certain aspects of the UNDP Desert Locust Project after its conclusion
12. Unspent balance of the UNDP allocation - utilization thereof
13. Other business
14. Date and place of the next session
15. Adoption of the Report.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

The Desert Locust Situation

General Features during 1965/66

1. During 1965, Desert Locust populations reached their lowest level for the past 27 years, with swarms reported in seven countries but fully confirmed in only two and hopper bands in only five countries. During February and March 1966, control operations were undertaken against hopper bands or concentrations in four different countries.

Recent Situation in 1966

2. In the western region, numbers of solitariform and solitarigeste scattered locusts showed a slight increase during April 1966 in Niger, but remained very low in Mali and Chad. A few isolated locusts were also seen in southern Algeria.

3. In eastern Africa, two populations on the Red Sea littoral of Ethiopia were identified during the early part of 1966. The first, a grey solitariform population, appeared to have originated in the Danakil depression of Ethiopia, and accumulated in cultivated wadis on the Red Sea littoral. The second population, also morphometrically solitariform, but distinct from the first, appeared to have been derived from scattered breeding during December in the north eastern parts of the Somali Republic; and to have been swept into the Red Sea Basin during a period of strong southerly winds during January and early February, where it became concentrated into a small swarm at the Red Sea Convergence Zone, the latter being located at Wadi Teclai where it was associated with rains. Small scale gregarious breeding followed in this area. Breeding also occurred in neighbouring areas of the Sudan.

4. A few (seven) mature locusts, morphometrically gregarious and with bright yellow males, were collected in early April 1966 in the Hail area of Saudi Arabia. Other locusts recorded in the Arabian Peninsula were a few near Jeddah and Taif, and others in Trucial Oman. There were also reports of small numbers of locusts in some areas in the Red Sea littoral of Yemen during February, March and April 1966. Scattered mating locusts were reported to have been controlled in Chaghi District of West Pakistan at the end of March 1966.

5. About half a dozen yellow locusts were seen at sea, off Bushehr in Iran, in late May 1966, and a small swarm was reported in Muscat in early June 1966.

Forecast

6. Locust populations are likely to move during June and July into the vicinity of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone, where dry northerly winds meet humid south-westerlies along a belt extending across southern Mauritania and Senegal through Mali, Niger, Chad, Sudan, Ethiopia, the northern Somali peninsula and southern Arabia to West Pakistan and north-western India. Concentrations of locusts are likely to appear in parts of this belt, more particularly in its central and eastern sections, where occasional small swarms and possibly gregarious breeding may occur.

Surveys During the Present Recession

7. The Committee emphasized the need for continued vigilance, especially during the present recession, in order to obtain all possible information on Desert Locust populations by carrying out regular, systematic and seasonal surveys, and endorsed the recommendations made by the Fourteenth Session of the FAO Technical Advisory Committee, held in Rome, Italy, from 26 May to 3 June 1966 (Report, PL/1966/M/3, para. 11).

8. The Committee also drew attention to the desirability of using light traps during surveys as recommended by the Fifth Symposium on the Physiological, Behavioural and Quantitative Ecology of the Desert Locust, held in Bikaner, India, in March, 1965 (Report UNSF/DL/M/8 para.29).

9. Recognizing the important contribution that local inhabitants of areas susceptible to Desert Locust infestation could make to the effectiveness of the national and regional reporting services, the Committee urged Member Countries to promote campaigns to familiarize rural populations with the various stages of growth of the Desert Locust to permit them to distinguish the Desert Locust from other insect species. It was agreed that films and other forms of visual aid were effective educational media, and delegates were reminded that FAO had some useful films in stock which were available on temporary loan to any Member Country. In addition, simple reading material in the appropriate vernacular should be prepared by national organizations for wider circulation.

Status of Regional Anti-Locust Organizations

10. The Committee noted with appreciation the further progress made in setting-up the various regional Desert Locust Control Organizations, a summary of which is given below.

South-West Asia

11. The Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Eastern Region of its Distribution Area in Southwest Asia was fully established on 14 December 1964 after the receipt of the instrument of acceptance from all the Member Governments, viz, Afghanistan, India, Iran and Pakistan. Two Sessions of the Commission, in December 1964 and March 1966, have been held (Meeting Reports PL/1964/9 and PL/1966/M/1).

Eastern Africa

12. The Forty-Third Session of the FAO Council, in October 1964, while considering the Draft Agreement for the establishment of the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) within the framework of FAO under Article XV of its Constitution, as approved by the Council of the DLCO-EA, decided that the DLCO-EA might continue to operate under its present convention and retain the co-operation with FAO in accordance with the Relationship Agreement now in force; or the DLCO-EA might invite the FAO Council to reconsider the Draft Agreement if the Council of the DLCO-EA accepted, without modification, the original text of Article VII.6(c) and Article IX.1 proposed by FAO.

13. The above question was considered at the Sixth Regular Session of the Council of the DLCO-EA held in Mogadiscio, Somali Republic, in February 1965. The Council unanimously decided to adopt the original version of Articles VII.6 (c) and IX.1, and instructed the Director of the DLCO-EA to dispatch the text so amended to the Director-General of FAO, with a request to place the Draft Agreement, as amended, before the FAO Council for its consideration.

14. The Forty-Fourth Session of the FAO Council in June 1965 approved the Agreement establishing the DLCO-EA within the framework of FAO under Article XV of its Constitution. The Director-General sent the Agreement in August 1965 to the Member Governments of the DLCO-EA for signature. All the Member Governments of the DLCO-EA had now signed the Agreement, and it would become effective as soon as it was signed by the Director-General of FAO.

Near East

15. The Seventh Session of the FAO Desert Locust Control Committee, held in Addis Ababa in April 1962, recommended that FAO convene a meeting of the countries of the

Near East and other countries concerned to consider establishing a permanent Near East Regional Organization as defined by the Seventh Session of the FAO Technical Advisory Committee in 1957 (Report 1957/14, para.36). This recommendation was reiterated by the Eighth (1963) and Ninth (1964) Sessions of the Desert Locust Control Committee and subsequently considered and supported by the countries directly concerned, at the Twenty-Third Session of the FAO Arabian Peninsular Desert Locust Control Sub-Committee, held in Amman, Jordan, in July 1964 (Report PL/1964/6 paras.68-72).

16. In accordance with the recommendations of the above Committees, the Director-General of FAO of the United Nations convened a Special Meeting, at the kind invitation of the Government of Lebanon in Beirut, Lebanon, in March 1965, to consider a Draft Agreement for establishing a Near East Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust (Report PL/1965/3).

17. The Meeting unanimously decided that a Regional Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Near East should be established within the framework of FAO under Article XIV of its Constitution. It considered the Draft Agreement prepared by FAO for the above purpose. The Meeting agreed upon the amended text and decided to submit it through the Director-General of FAO to the FAO Council or Conference for consideration, approval and subsequent submission to Member Nations concerned for acceptance.

18. Accordingly, the Director-General submitted the Agreement for establishing a Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Near East, to the Forty-Fourth Session of the FAO Council (June, 1965). The Agreement was approved without amendment. Subsequently, the Director-General sent this Agreement to the Governments concerned for depositing the instrument of acceptance. It was hoped that the Commission would be established by the end of 1966.

West Africa

19. It was reported that the Organisation Commune de Lutte Antiacridienne (OCLA) and the Organisation Commune de Lutte Antiaviaire (OCLAV) had emerged to form a single organization known as Organisation Commune de Lutte Antiacridienne et de Lutte Antiaviaire (OCLALAV) with two distinct divisions, one for control of Desert Locust and the other for weaver-birds.

Northwestern Africa

20. In accordance with the recommendation of the Ninth Session of the Desert Locust Control Committee held in 1964 (Meeting Report PL/1964/4, para.18), FAO convened a Second Meeting of the Northwest African Countries for Controlling the Desert Locust at Rabat, Morocco, in February 1965. This Meeting was attended by delegates from Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia and by an observer from OCLALAV (Meeting Report PL/1965/2).

21. The four countries decided to establish a Trust Fund, to be administered by FAO, and agreed to contribute voluntarily each year a sum of \$30,000 to meet the cost of joint action in research and surveys to be carried out in north-western Africa in close cooperation with OCLALAV.

22. The Meeting recommended the formation of a Sub-Committee, to be known as "FAO Northwest African Desert Locust Research and Control Sub-Committee".

23. The Director-General of FAO invited participation of the four countries concerned to establish the Trust Fund and requested payment of their share of contribution. The Government of Algeria deposited its contribution.

24. In order to discuss further action on survey and research in Northwest African countries, an informal meeting of Technical Officers of the countries have agreed to carry on common survey and research programs in close cooperation with OCLALAV.

Establishment of the FAO Northwest African Desert Locust Control Sub-Committee

25. The Committee considered the recommendation made by the Governments of Algeria, Libya, Tunisia and Morocco at the second FAO Meeting of Northwest African Countries for Controlling the Desert Locust, February 1965 (Report PL/1965/2 para.23) that a Sub-Committee to be known as "FAO Northwest African Desert Locust Research and Control Sub-Committee" be established.

26. The Committee welcomed the proposal and approved the establishment of the Sub-Committee to be known as "FAO Northwest African Desert Locust Research and Control Coordination Sub-Committee" with the following terms of reference:

- i. to keep the Desert Locust situation under review within North-west Africa and neighbouring countries;
- ii. to coordinate locust surveys and research work within the Member Countries in close collaboration with the Organisation Commune de Lutte Antiacridienne et de Lutte Antiaviaire (OCLALAV);
- iii. to promote the coordination of the Desert Locust control campaigns within the Member Countries.

27. The Committee heard with satisfaction that the four Governments concerned (Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, Morocco) had agreed to establish a Trust Fund with an initial budget of \$30,000 per annum to meet the operating costs of any joint action concerning survey and research on the Desert Locust in Northwest Africa. The Trust Fund (Trust Fund No.169) would be administered by the Director-General of FAO, and \$8,400 had already been received in respect of the first year's contributions from Algeria.

Dissolution of the FAO Eastern African Desert Locust Control Sub-Committee

28. The FAO Eastern African Desert Locust Control Sub-Committee was established in 1957 and since then three Sessions had been convened. At its last Session in October 1961, the Director-General of FAO suggested that the question of establishing a regional locust control organization be considered to supplement national efforts. Following negotiations with the Governments concerned, the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) was formed in 1962 and action had since been taken to bring this Organization within the framework of FAO under Article XV of the FAO Constitution.

29. The Committee reviewed the work done by the Sub-Committee and agreed that with the establishment of the DLCO-EA, its purpose had been fulfilled. After having placed on record its appreciation of the work done, the Committee decided to dissolve this Sub-Committee.

International Campaign in the Arabian Peninsula

30. The Committee received from FAO an account of the anti-locust campaign in the Arabian Peninsula and noted with satisfaction that various interested countries continued to participate in the 1965/66 campaign by sending self-contained missions.

31. All the visiting missions together with the Saudi Arabian national team, kept their allotted areas under constant surveys. The Committee considered this was a good example of continued collaboration and mutual assistance between various countries. It was impressed, in particular, by the major role played by the national Saudi Arabian teams in the International Campaign.

32. The FAO Locust Officer in Yemen continues to assist the national anti-locust teams in Desert Locust Survey and control.

33. The Committee considered the proposals made by FAO for future anti-locust campaigns in the Arabian Peninsula and reaffirmed the recommendation of its Ninth Session (Report PL/1961/1 para.35) that International Campaigns in Saudi Arabia should be maintained at least at the present level.

Review of the Work and Achievements of the UNDP(SF) Desert Locust Project

34. The Committee discussed certain matters arising from the report of the Fourteenth Session of the FAO Technical Advisory Committee on Desert Locust Control (Meeting Report PL/1966/M/3).

35. The Committee was impressed by the size and scope of the training program and congratulated the UNDP(SF) Desert Locust Project and FAO on the execution of this large and valuable program carried out over the past six years.

36. The Committee endorsed the views expressed by the Fourteenth Session of the FAO Technical Advisory Committee on Desert Locust Control (Report, paras.74-75) about the plan for survey of Desert Locust populations in the central region presented by the Government of the United Kingdom, and suggested that Governments might comment on this plan at the next Session of the FAO Technical Advisory Committee on Desert Locust Control.

Action taken on the Recommendation of the Ninth Session of the Desert Locust Control Committee

37. The Committee appreciated the action taken by the Director-General regarding the modification of the terms of reference of the FAO Technical Advisory Committee and the Desert Locust Control Committee, and in establishing an International Trust Fund to ensure continuity of certain activities, begun or strengthened during the period of UNDP support, at an international level. It was encouraged to note that most of the countries had already committed funds amounting to approximately US\$ 70,000 and hoped that the remaining countries would reply in the affirmative as soon as possible. The Committee requested the Director-General to issue appropriate reminders in this respect.

38. The Committee regretted that certain Governments and territories had informed the Director-General that they were not interested in participating in the Project. It considered that these countries were an integral part of the Desert Locust invasion area and that their participation in the Project was very desirable. It requested the Director-General to approach these Governments once again for reconsideration of their previous decision.

Utilization of the Unspent Balance of the UNDP(SF) Desert Locust Project

39. The Committee considered the question of utilization of the unspent balance of the UNDP(SF) Desert Locust Project, and heard with great interest a statement by the representative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). He indicated that the UNDP was prepared to make available the unspent balance from the Project for the continuation of certain aspects of the Project and especially of those included in the Report of the Ninth Session of the Desert Locust Control Committee in the program under the International Trust Fund (Meeting Report PL/1964/4 para.67). In accordance with its Plan of Operation, the Project is scheduled to conclude in June 1966.

40. The Committee considered that the International Trust Fund, which had been established for the continuation of certain activities of the Project, was a permanent arrangement and noted that this Fund should be maintained and accumulated as a reserve during the period when the funds from the UNDP unspent balance are available.

41. The Committee recommended that the Director-General of FAO should prepare proposals for utilization of the unspent balance and convene a special conference, in about three months' time, of the participating Governments of the UNDP(SF) Desert Locust Project

to discuss such proposals and to present suggestions for the future strategy in Desert Locust control.

42. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the UNDP for its enthusiastic support and willingness to consider further financial assistance for the control of the Desert Locust at regional and international levels. The representative of the UNDP indicated, that after the interim period, participating Governments in consultation with FAO may propose plans for the Development Program to contribute further to the Desert Locust control program. In this connection, the Committee noted that in case of international projects the International Trust Fund might be taken as a part of the usual counterpart contribution. As regards regional projects, the counterpart contributions of the Governments could consist mainly in kind, while the cash contribution in U.S. dollars would amount to only 15% of the foreseen expert costs.

Other Business

43. The Committee considered the question of the publication in English, French and Arabic of recent Desert Locust bibliography, if possible with abstracts. It requested FAO to investigate the possibility of preparing, financing and distributing such a publication to relevant governments and organizations.

44. In accordance with the recommendation of the Twelfth Session of the FAO Technical Advisory Committee on Desert Locust Control (Report PL/1964/1 para.60) the Committee requested FAO to arrange for printing of the Locust Handbook in Arabic.

45. The Committee requested the Secretariat that in future, if the Desert Locust Control Committee Session immediately follows the Technical Advisory Committee, sufficient time should be allowed between sessions for the participants of the Desert Locust Control Committee to study the report of the Technical Advisory Committee.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION

46. The Committee recommended that the Director-General of FAO should convene the next session of the Committee in 1967 at a place and date to be determined by him.

LIST OF WORKING PAPERS

<u>Working Paper No.</u>	<u>Subject</u>
LCC:10/1	Report on Action Taken on Recommendations of the Ninth Session of DLCC concerning Programme to be followed on Certain Aspects of the UNSF Desert Locust Project after its Conclusion
LCC:10/2	Status of Regional Anti-Locust Organizations
LCC:10/3	Report on the International Campaign in the Arabian Peninsula during 1965/66 and Future Plans
LCC:10/4	The Desert Locust Situation during 1965 and early 1966
LCC:10/5	Status of Government Participation (in cash and kind) as at 31.3.66
LCC:10/6	Statement of Total Estimated Expenditure