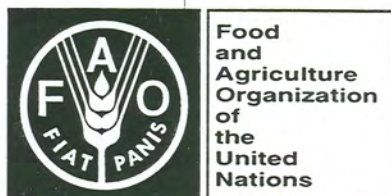


**REPORT**

Rome,  
Italy,  
3-5 March  
1997

# **FAO Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Eastern Region of its Distribution Area in Southwest Asia**

**Eleventh Session  
of the Executive Committee**



**Report of the  
Eleventh Session of the Executive Committee**

**FAO Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Eastern Region  
of its Distribution Area in Southwest Asia**

**Rome, 3-5 March 1997**

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
Rome, 1998**

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## 1. OPENING

1. The meeting was opened by Mr. N. A. Van der Graaff, Chief, Plant Protection Service, who welcomed the participants on behalf of the Director-General. He expressed sympathy to the participants from Iran and from Pakistan in connection with the earthquake which just occurred and requested that one minute's silence be observed as a mark of sympathy.

2. Mr. Van der Graaff wished the meeting every success and assured all present that FAO stands ready to help the Commission in its efforts to control the Desert Locust. He did, however, emphasise that it is of the utmost importance that the countries learn to help themselves and the most important input has to be from the Member Countries.

3. A list of participants appears as Appendix I

## ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

4. The following delegates were elected:

Chairman:	Ratan Lal Rajak, India
Vice Chairman:	Yousef Rigi Ladez, Iran

## ELECTION OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE

5. The drafting Committee was composed of one representative from each country and was assisted by the FAO Secretariat.

## AGENDA

6. The Agenda, as approved, is given as Appendix II.

## SEQUENCE OF THE SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

7. The participant from Pakistan informed the meeting of an error in the numbering of the Commission's Executive Sessions. He explained that the first Executive Committee session was held in Teheran in March 1966 and thereafter a session of the Executive Committee was held on a yearly basis up and until December 1973 (8th Session). No session of the Executive Committee was held from 1973 to 1994. The Commission at its nineteenth meeting recommended that a session of the Executive Committee be held and in this connection a meeting was held on 23-25 January 1995. This Session was of course the 9th Session and not the 1st Session as erroneously shown. Likewise the session of the Executive Committee which was held in Islamabad in June 1995 was the tenth session and not the second session. Consequently the present session is the eleventh session and not the third session.. The Secretariat. **was requested** to take the necessary action to correct this error.

## STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 20TH SESSION OF THE SOUTHWEST ASIA COMMISSION

8. The Executive Committee reviewed the status of the implementation of the recommendations of the 20th Session of the Commission. It thanked the FAO Secretariat for those recommendations which have been executed and requested it to **closely monitor the following recommendations:**

### **Recommendation 1.8.**

9. The Commission **recommended** that Afghanistan should have regular surveys during the spring months of locust breeding in Herat and convey its findings to Iran and Pakistan. However, in view of the calm locust situation the joint survey was not recommended in southern Afghanistan during 1997.

### **Recommendation 3.3 - Safe Disposal of Obsolete Pesticide**

10. The Commission **requested** the Director-General of FAO to include the South West Asian member countries in the project "Disposal of Obsolete Pesticide stocks" being executed in Africa and the Near East Region. The Commission was informed that there are stocks of obsolete pesticides which require safe disposal as they are posing serious health hazards to human and animal life and also polluting the environment. Contributions from the international community to solve this serious problem would be welcomed by the Commission's member countries.

### **Recommendation 4 - Restoration of Commission Seat**

11. The Secretariat post associated with the seat of the Commission was abolished by the FAO Conference in 1991. Since then the Locust Group at FAO Headquarters has assumed technical responsibility for the South West Asia Commission.

12. During his courtesy call to the ADG/AG, the Chairman raised the issue of the revival of the Commission seat with its Secretariat in the Region. The ADG agreed to look into and assist in resolving this long outstanding issue.

### **Recommendation 6.1**

13. The 33rd Session of the DLCC approved one long-term fellowship for the region and a **proposal** will be made at the next session of the Commission of one candidate taking into consideration that such a fellowship will be granted in rotation among member countries. The candidate must serve his national locust organization upon completion of this training according to the established rules of the DLCC. The cost of this high level fellowship will be funded under the DLCC Trust Fund 9161. The Commission may decide on the award of this fellowship to one country and the rotation to be followed for future awards. Alternatively, the cost of this advanced level fellowship may be utilized for 3-4 master level degrees to be obtained from institutions within the region.

### **Recommendation 9.3**

14. The supply of GPS to Member Countries was discussed and it was **agreed** that 20 units would be provided to each of India and Pakistan and 10 units to Iran under TF 9161. Furthermore, 10 sets of ground to air communication (UHF) Walkie-talkie radios will be supplied to Pakistan.

15. Allocation of vehicles to Member Countries : It was **recommended** by the Commission that one vehicle be allocated to Afghanistan. Other member countries should also get one vehicle each.

16. It was **decided** to supply one vehicle to each member country during 1996. The conditions in Afghanistan are not yet stable. It is likely that the vehicle may be mis-used. It was therefore agreed that presently one Toyota Vehicle double cabin will be supplied to Iran, Pakistan and India.

## FELLOWSHIPS/TRAINING

17. Several training activities were carried out during 1996 in member countries of the Commission. FAO organized a national workshop on Desert Locust Survey and ULV Control in Jaisalmer, India in September. A total of 16 participants from the Locust Warning Organization attended the five-day workshop. The workshop consisted of practical exercises and demonstrations carried out in the field as well as classroom presentations.

18. On-the-spot training was conducted during the Joint Survey of Baluchistan in I.R. Iran and Pakistan in April. FAO reviewed the basics of survey, map and compass reading and use of geographic positioning systems (GPS) with the two Iranian and two Pakistani survey officers. The four week duration of the survey allowed participants to practice and fine tune their skills on a daily basis.

19. A national workshop similar to that held in India will be **organized** in I.R. Iran in 1998.

20. An analysis of the reporting by member countries of the Commission was undertaken to identify strengths and weaknesses, and areas in which improvement is required. Reports received from each country during the entire year were evaluated according to regularity, timeliness and quality. Regularity meant that reports were received for all periods of the year. The results of the study indicate that all member countries apart from Afghanistan have shown improvement in their reporting but there is still room for additional improvement in certain areas. Regarding the regularity of reporting, India and Pakistan consistently reported throughout the year whereas I.R. Iran reported about half of the time (mostly during the spring breeding season). Regarding the timeliness, nearly 90% of India's reports were received on-time, almost 60% of Pakistan's and 35% of Iran's. Nevertheless, there was improvement by all countries when compared to 1995. Regarding quality, about 85% of the reports received from Pakistan were considered to be of good quality, almost 70% of India's and about 35% of Iran's. Pakistan clearly improved their quality when compared to 1995. When compared to reporting by other locust affected countries, India and Pakistan ranked higher than most while Iran was in the lower half.

## EMPRES

21. The Committee reviewed the programme of the FAO Emergency Prevention System (EMPRES) which started two years ago. It was noted that EMPRES has, so far, been mainly active in the Central Region, which in the past was the main source of origin for Desert Locust outbreaks and upsurges. In that region a comprehensive programme, supported by various donors, was established and focuses on strengthening the preventive control capacity of key affected countries, as well as on improving survey and control methods and strategies. Activities have also started in the Western Region and the formulation of a comparable programme for that region is expected to be completed in the near future.

22. In South-West Asia, Desert Locust outbreaks and upsurges originated mainly in India and Pakistan in the past. Therefore, preventive control would be mainly required in those two countries. The main reasons that EMPRES did not have many activities in India and Pakistan was that very effective and very efficient locust control services already exist in both countries. South West Asia has also frequently suffered from the invasion of Desert Locust swarms from the West and will benefit from preventive control efforts in other regions, in particular in the Central Region. During the last two years, EMPRES contributed towards joint border surveys, training activities, and the establishment of e-mail connections.

23. The Committee concluded that in South West Asia it would be desirable for EMPRES to focus, in the future, on the strengthening of Desert Locust early warning activities and on training. The Committee **Recommended** that a regional workshop on Early Warning be organized under EMPRES. The workshop would:

- review Desert Locust survey needs and procedures in the region, including joint border surveys;
- take stock of current communication capacities in the region and identify areas which need improvement;
- discuss how remote sensing technology could contribute to improved monitoring of vegetation and rainfall in key Desert Locust breeding areas;
- review current knowledge on Desert Locust habitats and identify research needs.

#### **ACCOUNTS TF 9123**

24. The Commission examined the Budget and Workplan proposed by the Executive Committee. For further information please refer to Appendix III.

#### **AGENDA OF THE 21ST SESSION OF THE COMMISSION**

25. The Agenda of the 21st Session of the Commission appears as Appendix IV.

#### **DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

27. The Executive Committee recommended that the 12th Executive Session of the Commission should be held jointly with the 21st Session of the Commission during 1998. The precise date is to be decided upon by the Director-General of FAO.

#### **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

28. The Report of the 11th Session of the Executive Committee of the Commission was adopted unanimously.



LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**Afghanistan**

Mohammad Naim Moslemyar  
Permanent Representative of the Islamic State of Afghanistan to FAO  
Via Nomentana 20  
00161 Rome

**India**

Ratan L. Rajak  
Plant Protection Adviser  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Shastri Bhawan  
New Delhi

**Iran**

Rigi Ladez  
Head of Plant Protection in Sistan &  
Baluchistan Province  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Zaheden

**Pakistan**

Muhammad Shafi  
Adviser/Director-General  
Department of Plant Protection  
Ministry of Food & Agriculture  
Malir Halt  
Karachi 27

**FAO**

N.A. Van der Graaff, Chief, Plant Protection Service  
A. Hafraoui, Senior Officer, Locust, Other Migratory Pests & Emergency Operations Group,  
AGP

**Eleventh Executive Session of the Commission for  
Controlling the Desert Locust in the Eastern Region of  
its Distribution Area in Southwest Asia**

**AGENDA**

1. Opening
2. Election of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Executive Committee
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Sequence of the Executive Committee
5. Election of the Drafting Committee
6. Status of recommendations of the 20th Session of the Southwest Asia Commission
7. Fellowships/Training
8. EMPRES
9. Accounts TF 9123
10. Agenda of the 21st Session of the Commission
11. Date and place of the next meeting
12. Adoption of the report
13. Closure

TRUST FUND NO. 9123.00 - MTF/RAS/001/MUL  
Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust  
in South West Asia

Budget and Expenditures for the period 1995-96

(in US\$)

	Budget 1995	Budget 1996	Receipt/ Expend. 1995 (final)	Receipt/ Expend. 1996 (final)	Receipt/ Expend. 1997 (provis.)
<b>Receipts</b>					
Balance brought forward from previous year	-	204,370	267,582	279,176	204,117
Contributions	71,450	71,450	51,327	20,411	0
Interest	-	-	13,138	8,017	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>71,450</b>	<b>275,820</b>	<b>332,047</b>	<b>307,604</b>	<b>204,117</b>
<b>Code Personnel Services</b>					
1100 Short-term experts consultants	7,000	7,000	-	8,507	9,688
13000 <u>Admin. Support</u>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Travel</b>					
2000 Sessions of Commission, survey teams	15,000	45,000	25,485	13,942	8,376
<b>Contractual Services</b>					
3000 Letters of agreement, contracts	1,810	2,000	-	-	-
<b>General Operating Expenses <sup>A</sup></b>					
4000 Translation/printing/ incidentals	2,000	10,000	22,377	9,081	150
<b>Expendable Equipment</b>					
5000 Pesticides, supplies	7,000	7,000	384	3,381	50
<b>Non-Expendable Equipment</b>					
6000 Vehicles, GPS, other control means	20,000	133,000	-	55,327	-
<b>Fellowships &amp; Grants</b>					
8000 High-level and other frequencies	12,000	50,000	-1,430	5,500	-
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>64,810</b>	<b>254,000</b>	<b>46,816</b>	<b>95,738</b>	<b>18,264</b>
<b>Project Servicing Costs</b>					
9000 5% of codes 50 & 60, 13% of codes 10,20,30,40 & 80	6,265	21,820	6,055	7,749	2,370
Unallocated balance	375	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>71,450</b>	<b>275,820</b>	<b>52,871</b>	<b>103,487</b>	<b>20,634</b>
<b>RESERVE FUND</b>	-	-	<b>279,176</b>	<b>204,117</b>	<b>183,483</b>

TRUST FUND NO. 9123.00 - MTF/RAS/001/MUL  
Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust  
in South West Asia

Details of Expenditures incurred for 1995  
(in US\$)

2000	<u>Travel</u>	
-	1st session of the Commission's Executive Committee Rome, January 1995 (delegates' travel costs)	9,286
-	20th Session of the Commission and 2nd session of its Executive Committee, Islamabad, 21-28 June 1995 (delegates' travel costs)	5,733
-	Desert Locust survey at the Pakistan/Iran border (DSA of Pakistani team members)	8,788
-	Desert Locust survey at the Iran/Pakistan border, April/May 1995 (DSA of Iranian team members)	2,340
-	Recovery travel costs HQ Officer in 1994 (credit)	-200
-	Recovery travel costs delegates in 1994 (credit)	-462
	Sub-Total	25,485
4000	<u>General Operating Expenses</u>	
-	Desert Locust survey at the Pakistan/Iran border (April/May 1995)	4,000
-	Desert Locust survey at the Iran/Pakistan border (April/May 1995)	4,000
-	Desert Locust survey at the Pakistan/India border (September/October 1995)	10,000
-	Hospitality costs and miscellaneous expenses 20th session of the Commission	1,259
-	Reproduction and distribution of report 1st session of Executive Committee	1,303
-	Circular letter of invitation 20th session of the Commission	720
-	Reproduction and distribution of report 20th session of Commission	1,083
-	Trust Fund pool charges	12
	Sub-Total 4000	22,377
5000	<u>Expendable Equipment</u>	
-	Maps for Desert Locust survey and control operations in Iran (PO 5035)	384
8000	<u>Fellowships &amp; Training</u>	
-	Recovery travel costs of 4 Plant Protection Officers participating in IGR trial tests in Madagascar in May 1994	-1,430
9100	<u>Project Servicing Costs</u>	6,055
	GRAND-TOTAL 1995	52,871
		=====

TRUST FUND NO. 9123.00 - MTF/RAS/001/MUL  
Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust  
in South West Asia

Details of Expenditures incurred for 1996  
(provisional)  
(in US\$)

<b>1100</b>	<b><u>International Experts/Consultant</u></b>	
-	Reimbursable Loan Agreement with NRI, UK, for the services of the consultant on spray application techniques, H. Dobson, at the Workshop on Desert Locust Survey and Control, Jaisalmer, India, 23 to 27 September 1996	8,495
-	Trust Fund Pool charges	12
	Sub-total 1100	8,507
<b>2000</b>	<b><u>Travel</u></b>	
-	DSA Indian trainees attending the above-mentioned workshop	3,231
-	Travel costs of Chairman for technical discussion at FAO Headquarters on the Commission's recommendations, March 1996	2,631
-	Travel costs of Chairman for his attendance at the 21st session of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region, Cairo, Egypt, 26 to 28 May 1996	1,384
-	DSA Pakistani team members for Desert Locust surveys at the Pakistan/Iran border during April/May 1996	5,831
-	DSA Pakistani team members for Desert Locust surveys at the Pakistan/Iran border September/October 1996	3,000
-	Recovery delegates' travel costs in 1995	-2,135
	Sub-total 2000	13,942
<b>4000</b>	<b><u>General Operating Expenses</u></b>	
-	Fuel and miscellaneous expenses DL survey at the Pakistan/Iran border in April/May 1996	4,000
-	Fuel and miscellaneous expenses DL survey at the Pakistan/Iran border in September/October 1996	5,000
-	Trust Fund pool charges	81
	Sub-total 4000	9,081
<b>5000</b>	<b><u>Expendable Equipment</u></b>	
-	Training material for India Workshop	500
-	Maps for Pakistan (PO 51915)	881
-	Field supplies for Desert Locust border survey in Pakistan (September/October 1996)	2,000
	Sub-total 5000	3,381
<b>6000</b>	<b><u>Non-Expendable Equipment</u></b>	
-	1 Toyota 4WD Hi-Lux Pick-up Double Cabin, diesel, for India (ref PO 51739)	17,648
-	Customs clearance costs for Toyota above	2,000
-	1 Toyota 4WD Hi-Lux Pick-up Double Cabin, petrol, for Iran (ref PO 51784)	15,600
-	10 GPS (Global Positioning Systems) for Iran (ref PO 51671)	3,635
-	5 GPS for Afghanistan (ref PO 51673)	1,969
-	20 GPS for Pakistan (ref PO 51677)	7,212
-	20 GPS for India (ref PO 51678)	7,263
	Sub-total 6000	55,327

8000 Training

- Training costs for India Workshop 5,500

9100 Project Servicing Costs 7,749

PROVISIONAL TOTAL -----  
103,487  
=====

TRUST FUND NO. 9123.00 - MTF/RAS/001/MUL  
Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust  
in South West Asia

Details of Expenditures incurred for 1997  
(provisional)  
(in US\$)

<u>1100</u>	<u>International Experts/Consultant</u>	
-	Reimbursable Loan Agreement with NRI, UK, for the services of the consultant on spray application techniques, H. Dobson, at the Workshop on Desert Locust Survey & Control, Chabahar, Iran, 6 to 15 March 1997	9,688
<u>2000</u>	<u>Travel</u>	
-	3rd Session of the Commission's Executive Committee, FAO Headquarters, 3 to 5 March 1997 Delegates' travel costs	8,376
<u>4000</u>	<u>General Operating Expenses</u>	
-	Circular letter of invitation to the 3rd session of the Executive Committee, FAO HQ, March 1996	150
<u>5000</u>	<u>Expendable Equipment</u>	
-	Purchase Order 51915 (1996)	50
<u>9100</u>	<u>Project Servicing Costs</u>	2,370
	PROVISIONAL TOTAL 1997	----- 20,634 <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> As at February 1997

TRUST FUND NO. 9123.00 - MTF/RAS/001/MUL  
Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust  
in South West Asia

Status of Contribution as at 31 December 1996  
(expressed in US\$)

Member Governments	Outstanding 31/12/1995	Contribution due for 1996	Received up to 31/12/1996	Total Outstanding 31/12/1996
Afghanistan	11,000.00	2,750.00	5,500.00	8,250.00
India*	8,110.39	27,000.00	7,885.95	27,224.44
Iran	259,928.91	25,000.00	-	284,928.91
Pakistan	51,129.50	16,700.00	12,524.99	55,304.51
<b>TOTALS</b>	<u>330,168.80</u> =====	<u>71,450.00</u> =====	<u>25,910.94</u> =====	<u>375,707.86</u> =====

\* 25% paid in local currency through Imprest/Account.



**Twenty-First Session of the Commission for Controlling the  
Desert Locust in the Eastern Region of its  
Distribution Area in Southwest Asia**

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1. Opening of the Session
2. Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Commission
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Election of the Drafting Committee
5. The Desert Locust situation 1996-97 and outlook to the end of 1997
6. Review of the Desert Locust survey and control activities carried out by the Member Countries during 1996-97.
7. Anti-Locust survey and control potential available in Member Countries of the Commission
8. Review of recommendations of the 20th Session and progress made
9. Review and approval of the Report of the Eleventh Session of the Executive Committee
10. Commission activities in the Region
11. Assistance to Member Countries
12. Accounts TF 9123 and programme of work and budget 1996-97, workplan 1997-98
13. Status of the Commission \*
14. Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee
15. Other business
16. Date and place of next Session
17. Adoption of the report