

REPORT OF THE

Held in Amman, Jordan
29 July - 1 August 1972

**THIRD SESSION OF
THE COMMISSION FOR
CONTROLLING THE DESERT LOCUST
IN THE NEAR EAST**



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Meeting Report No.
AGP: 1972/M/6

REPORT OF THE
THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMISSION FOR
CONTROLLING THE DESERT LOCUST
IN THE NEAR EAST

Held in
Amman, Jordan
29 July - 1 August 1972

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Rome, 1972

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>	
INTRODUCTION	1	
PARTICIPATION IN THE SESSION	2	
AGENDA	4	
SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS		
Desert Locust Situation during 1971/72:		
Near East	5	
Eastern Africa	6	
South-West Asia	6	
Forecast	6	
Desert Locust Survey and Control during 1971/72 and Plans for Future	6	
Report of the Executive Committee	8	
Administrative Budget and Accounts - FAO Trust Fund 9409 - Accounts for the Year ended 31.12.70	8	
Provisional Accounts for the Year ended 31.12.71	8	
Programme of Work and Budget for 1973 to 1977	9	
Anti-Locust Survey and Control Resources	9	
Assistance to People's Democratic Republic of Yemen	9	
Assistance to Oman	10	
Desert Locust Information Service	10	
DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION	10	
APPENDIX I - Report of the Second Session of the Executive Committee of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Near East		11
ANNEX I - Programme of Research for 1972/73	17	
APPENDIX II - Trust Fund 9409 - Statement of Account as at 31.12.70	18	
APPENDIX III - Trust Fund 9409 - Provisional Statement of Account as at 31.12.71	19	
APPENDIX IV - Trust Fund 9409 - Budget for the Five-Year Period 1973-1977 expressed according to FAO Expenditure Codes	20	
APPENDIX V - Trust Fund 9409 - Statement of Contributions from Participating Governments as at 30.4.72 ...	21	
APPENDIX VI - Anti-Locust Survey and Control Potentials Available in the Countries of the Near East	22	
APPENDIX VII - List of Working Papers	23	

INTRODUCTION

The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, convened the Third Session of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Near East in Amman from 29 July to 1 August 1972. He invited all the Member Governments of the Commission to be represented by delegates and the Governments of Saudi Arabia and Oman, and the League of Arab States and the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) to be represented by observers.

The Session was opened by His Excellency Mr. Omar Abdullah, Minister of Agriculture, who welcomed the participants on behalf of the Government of Jordan. He congratulated the Member Governments of the Commission for maintaining the recession and commended the role of FAO in this regard. He, however, warned that there should be no cause for complacency on account of the present recession because any relaxation of efforts to meet this dastardly enemy of mankind would be dangerous. He appreciated the programme of surveys and control being carried out every year by all the Member Countries under the overall coordination of FAO and stated that this was an excellent example of international cooperation. He stressed the need of an all out cooperation in the field of research in the Desert Locust invasion area and expressed the hope that the various national anti-locust organizations within the region would continue to fully cooperate in matters of survey and control, in technical aspects and coordination of research.

Mr. M. Osman Yassein, Resident Representative of the UNDP in Jordan, speaking on behalf of the Director-General of FAO of the United Nations, thanked the Government of Jordan for their kind invitation to convene the Session in Amman and for providing numerous facilities. He explained the locust situation prevailing in various parts of the locust invasion area with special reference to the Arabian Peninsula and the Eastern African Region and apprised the Member Governments of the control measures being taken in the Somali Democratic Republic. He also congratulated the Member Governments for the constant surveillance of their respective areas and hoped that this policy would be continued to save crops from the ravages of the Desert Locust. He briefly described the important developments made so far in the assessment of locust populations by aerial photography and in remote sensing.

Officers of the Session

The following officers were elected:

Chairman: Dr. Khalil Lubani, Jordan

Vice-Chairman: Mr. Gharib Khamis Gharib, Kuwait State

The work of preparing the draft report was entrusted to the FAO Secretariat. Mr. Gurdas Singh and Mr. A. Khasawneh of the FAO Secretariat acted as Technical Secretaries.

Acknowledgements

Before the closing of the Session the participants thanked the Government of Jordan for their kind hospitality and expressed their appreciation for the manner in which the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman had conducted the proceedings.

PARTICIPATION IN THE SESSION

The following delegates from Member Countries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, observers and members of the FAO staff participated in the Session and contributed to the discussions summarized in this report: -

Delegates from FAO Member Countries

Arab Republic of Egypt

Mohamed Fahmi Leheta
Director
Locust and Grasshopper Research Department
Ministry of Agriculture
Dokki, Cairo

Jordan

Khalil Lubani
Under-Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture
Amman

Jawad Dajani
Director of Plant Protection and Production
Ministry of Agriculture
Amman

Hani Haddadin
Chief of Plant Protection Section
Ministry of Agriculture
Amman

Shawkat Kassem
Chief of Plant Quarantine Division
Ministry of Agriculture
Amman

Ahmad Jafar Said
Chief of Desert Locust Branch
Ministry of Agriculture
Amman

Kuwait State

Gharib Khamis Gharib
Head of Plant Protection
Agriculture Department
Kuwait

Lebanon

Anis Jalloul
Director of Plant Protection and Quarantine
Ministry of Agriculture
Beirut

Qatar

Sultan R. Al-Kuwari
Director of Agriculture
Ministry of Industry and Agriculture
Doha

Mohamed Fouad Thabet
Head of Plant Protection Section
Ministry of Industry and Agriculture
Doha

Observers

Saudi Arabia

Fuad Ramadan Kalkuttawy
Director
Desert Locust Research and Survey
Ministry of Agriculture and Water
Jeddah

Oman

Mohamed Al-Taie
Incharge of Research
Department of Agriculture
Economy Ministry
Muscat

FAO Staff

Gurdas Singh
Senior Officer
Locust Control and Emergency Operations
Plant Production and Protection Division
FAO, Rome, Italy

Sardar Singh
FAO Regional Plant Protection Specialist
FAO Regional Office for the Near East
P.O. Box 2223
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt

Ahmad Khasawneh
FAO Regional Locust Officer
FAO International Locust Centre
P.O. Box 327
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

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 during 1971/72 and Forecast
6. A Review of the Desert Locust Survey and Control Activities carried out during 1971/72 and Plans for Future
7. Consideration of the Report of the Executive Committee
8. Accounts for 1970 and 1971, and Programme of Work and Budget for 1973 to 1977
9. Anti-Locust Survey and Control Potentials Available in the Near East Countries
10. Special Surveys of the Red Sea Coast (eastern) and of Sudan Coast
11. Assistance to People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and Oman
12. Any Other Business
13. Date and Place of Next Session
14. Adoption of the Report.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

Desert Locust Situation during 1971/72

1. The Commission received from the FAO Secretariat a summary of the Desert Locust situation in the countries of the region during 1971/72. This information was supplemented by the delegates and observers.

Near East

2. In the Sudan mixed populations of the Desert Locust and Locusta were recorded to a maximum of 20,000 adults per ha. in early March 1971, in cotton and millet cultivations along southern coastal plains. Control was undertaken in mid-March and early April 1971; concentrations of fledglings were also found in the first week of May 1971. A small scale scattered population was reported in the summer breeding area from early July onwards, but summer breeding failed to cause any appreciable population increase. By late October the resultant adult population had vacated the summer breeding area. No locusts were reported in January 1972. A few individuals were recorded in February from the coastal plains and others in April in flood plain cultivations.

3. On the northern coastal plains of the Yemen Arab Republic control operations which started in February continued until early May 1971. Very low densities persisted until December. A few adults were reported in February, March and April 1972 in the Tihama.

4. In the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen control operations continued on a very small scale on the coastal plains until May 1971. Some control was carried out against late instar hoppers in millet cultivations in the same area during August, but elsewhere in the coastal plains populations continued to be small and very scattered. In January, February and March 1972 isolated locusts were seen on the western coastal plains. In March they were seen near Mukalla and in Hadramaut. Hoppers started to appear West of Aden on 14 March. Scattered locusts continued to appear in the western area in April and May; they were found in Dathina and Abyan in May.

5. In Saudi Arabia desert locust adults were reported in April and May 1971 from the northern Tihama but by June 1971 numbers were very low. They persisted along the coastal plains of the Red Sea during the second half of 1971 and January 1972. Winter breeding began on a very small scale in December on the southern Tihama. The desert locust population also persisted in irrigated cultivations in the Qassim area of central Saudi Arabia, and control was carried out in this area against hoppers over a total of 375 ha. in September 1971. Widespread rainfall was recorded in central and northern Saudi Arabia during January 1972 but only three locusts were reported from Quwayyah. A very few locusts were reported in February and March 1972 in northern Tihama, in March and April in Hijaz and central Arabia, and in April onwards in southern Tihama.

6. A few adults were seen in the south-eastern desert of the Arab Republic of Egypt in December 1971 and thereafter no Desert Locust populations were reported.

7. In Oman ground surveys did not detect any locusts in January 1972. In early March 11 mature adults were found in the south of the Hajar Mountains near Bahala Mudhaibi and Wahiba sands. Two adults were found in April at Sohar and Quraiyat in Oman. In May isolated and scattered locusts were seen in nine places between 23.30N-56.10E and 22.20N-56.30E

with maximum density of 29 per 100 paces. In June immature locusts and fledglings were seen in Lak Shaba area over two sq.km. In addition, fifth instar hoppers and two marching hopper bands were seen in the area. It was reported that the area had received good rainfall in June and July thus providing continuous favourable ecological conditions for the locust populations to multiply further resulting into a dangerous situation.

8. In the United Arab Emirates no locusts were reported in January 1972. In March one adult locust was reported from Abu Dhabi. No locusts were reported in April and thereafter.

9. Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar and the Syrian Arab Republic continued to be reported free of any locust populations.

Eastern Africa

10. A number of small swarms were formed in Eritrea, Ethiopia, in May 1971 and probably moved westwards and dispersed. Summer breeding was not successful but scattered locusts appeared at low densities along the northern Red Sea coast until February 1972. Locust populations were low along the northern Somali Republic coast in December 1971 but increased in February and March 1972. Scattered hoppers and some concentrations were reported during March and April and were controlled. Only low numbers of adults were seen in April.

South-West Asia

11. Indo-Pakistan summer breeding in 1971 was on a small scale. Hoppers occurred from May to November but their numbers and densities were always very low. Low-density adult populations were reported in West Rajasthan, India, in December 1971, January, February, April and May 1972. In Pakistan isolated locusts were reported from Afghanistan in May 1972 and from southern parts of Iran in May and September 1971, and in March and May 1972.

Forecast

12. A majority of the locust populations present in Oman might move southwards to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and the Yemen Arab Republic, and the remainder might persist in Oman due to favourable ecological conditions created by continuous rainfall from February 1972 onwards. It would be necessary to keep areas of People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Yemen Arab Republic and Oman under strict surveillance during the coming months.

13. Locust populations present in Qunfida (Saudi Arabia) and adjoining areas need to be watched if suitable ecological conditions continued to prevail in that area.

Desert Locust Survey and Control during 1971/72 and Plans for Future

14. The countries of the region continued to maintain surveillance of their respective areas for the Desert Locust populations and carried out control operations wherever necessary. Details of the same are given below: -

Country	Period	Area treated in ha.	Quantity of insecticides used	Remarks
People's Democratic Republic of Yemen	May 1971	0.3	50 BHC dust	III to V instar hoppers
"	Aug. 1971	?	500 BHC dust	III to V instar hoppers
Saudi Arabia	Sept. 71	375	1200 bait	IV to V instar hoppers
"	June 72	2580	250 BHC dust	adults

15. To cope with the recent developments in the locust situation in Oman, the Commission was informed that FAO had deputed a Locust Officer for a period of one month to assess the locust situation in Oman (para. 7) and to organize control operations if necessary. Two Land Rovers, two Exhaust Nozzle Sprayers, 1975 litres of Dieldrin and 750 litres of Aldrin had been delivered in Muscat from Doha (Qatar) reserve. It was understood that at the instance of the FAO Regional Locust Officer, the Government of Saudi Arabia had decided to airlift substantial quantities of bait and other material to Oman. Arrangements were also in hand to send the Pakistani team (now in Sharjah) to assist in control operations if required. In order to assess the locust situation and to coordinate operations in Oman, the FAO Regional Locust Officer was going to Oman immediately after the Commission's Session.

16. The Commission appreciated the prompt action taken by FAO to cope with the locust situation in Oman and also thanked the Government of Qatar for their cooperation and assistance in speedy dispatch of insecticide and transport from Doha reserve to Muscat. The Commission, recognizing the wisdom of maintaining strategic reserves of insecticides and equipment, which proved very handy in such situations, requested FAO to make appropriate arrangements to replenish and strengthen the reserve at Doha. In case of any shortfall in the allotment for such expenditure in 1972 budget, FAO might incur additional expenditure from the unobligated balance of the Trust Fund 9409. The Commission also thanked the Government of Saudi Arabia for their assistance to Oman.

17. There was an extensive programme for survey throughout the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This programme was carried out by the Saudi Arabian teams under the direction of the locust research station and in cooperation with the FAO International Locust Centre. All the breeding areas of Saudi Arabia were thus kept under watch from September 1971 until now. In addition to normal surveys, considerable amount of information on ecological conditions was collected by the locust research station. In addition, the FAO Regional Locust Officer surveyed the northern Tihama, the eastern part of the country, and also the interior.

18. In the Yemen Arab Republic the FAO Locust Officer kept his area under constant survey and the International Locust Centre at Jeddah informed about the situation. Last June, the FAO Regional Locust Officer, with officers from the locust research station in Jeddah, visited Yemen and surveyed some of the areas with the FAO Locust Officer there.

In the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen the breeding areas were kept under regular surveys. The FAO Regional Locust Officer carried out surveys in October in Southern Yemen and he again visited it in February 1972 and made several trips to the breeding areas for checking the areas reported to have locust populations.

19. In other countries of the region, particularly in Egypt and the Sudan, survey work was carried out by ground teams supported by aerial survey whenever needed.

20. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the present policy of survey and control had substantially contributed towards continued recession. In certain areas survey work needed to be strengthened. It was recommended that a special survey of Oman should be arranged during the appropriate seasons by a joint team composed of officers from Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia with the FAO Regional Officer as coordinator. Each Government would provide one to two vehicles and one locust officer, whereas POL and subsistence allowance would be paid from the Commission's Trust Fund. It was understood that such a survey team would fully cooperate with the Pakistani team if the latter was in the area at that time.

21. The Commission learnt with great interest that the Government of Pakistan had sent a survey team to the United Arab Emirates this year. This had helped to form a detailed assessment of the locust situation there.

22. The Commission emphasized the need for constant vigilance in all the countries of the region in view of the developments reported from Oman and the Somali Republic, and recommended that adequate resources be kept in readiness to undertake control operations at a short notice.

Report of the Executive Committee

23. The Commission considered the report of the Executive Committee and endorsed the recommendations contained therein (Appendix I).

24. The Commission decided that in future the Executive Committee should consider the programme of work and budget of the Commission prior to its submission to the Commission for approval.

25. In order to provide better coordination in the field of research, the Commission recommended that consideration should be given to arrange exchange visits of research workers of the various field research stations in the region.

Administrative Budget and Accounts - FAO Trust Fund 9409 - Accounts for the Year ended 31 December 1970

26. The Commission formally adopted the final statement of accounts (Appendix II) as at 31 December 1970 which had undergone no change since their submission to the Second Session of the Commission.

Provisional Accounts for the Year ended 31 December 1971

27. The Commission examined the provisional statement of accounts as at 31 December 1971 (Appendix III) and noted that final accounts for the year 1971 would be presented to the Commission at its Fourth Session in 1973 for adoption and onward transmission to the Director General of FAO.

Programme of Work and Budget for 1973 to 1977

28. Article IV of the Agreement establishing the Commission requires the Commission to consider and adopt the programme of work and budget for the ensuing financial period and to transmit it to the Director General of FAO for submission to the Council of the Organization prior to implementation.

29. The Commission noted that since its First Session held in 1969, when the matter of annual contributions from Member Governments had been agreed upon, the practice of approving expenditure budget for one year at a time had proved unsatisfactory, as certain expenditure such as fellowships was spread over a number of years. The Commission, therefore, decided that the overall programme of work and budget should henceforth be planned over a five-year period commencing 1 January 1973, with the provision that it would be reviewed at the annual sessions of the Commission and that savings under any of the expenditure headings could be utilized to meet shortages under any other headings. Similarly, unspent surplus at the end of any one calendar year would be available to supplement allocations under the same headings or any other headings as might be required. The Commission, subject to the above, approved the programme of work and budget for a five-year period commencing 1 January 1973, as given in Appendix IV.

30. While approving the programme of work and budget for 1973 to 1977, the Commission recognized that its implementation would depend upon the actual and timely receipt of contributions from all concerned. The Commission emphasized the need for paying the contributions on or before 1 January each year, as delayed payments could interfere with the implementation of the agreed programme. The present status of contributions from participating Governments is given in Appendix V.

31. The Commission decided that the reserve of unobligated funds might be accumulated up to the equivalent of US\$ 300,000.

Anti-Locust Survey and Control Resources

32. The Commission reviewed the position of survey and control potentials available in the countries (Appendix VI).

Assistance to People's Democratic Republic of Yemen

33. The First Session of the Commission held in Baghdad (February 1969) had recommended that special attention should be paid to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and the Yemen Arab Republic in the future programme of work of the Commission. Accordingly, at the time of the Second Session, the Commission agreed to earmark an amount of \$10,000 per year for 1971 and 1972 out of the \$33,000 provided for annually under "Survey and Reconnaissance" component as operational cost towards survey and control in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. Similar provision was made for the Yemen Arab Republic from the country IPF under the Desert Locust project. This enabled both countries to keep their areas under constant watch and to undertake control operations in 1971.

34. The Commission noted with appreciation that the Government of Kuwait State had provided funds for purchase of two vehicles and offered pesticide and additional equipment to the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

35. The Commission noted that there was some difficulty in continuing the FAO Desert Locust and Plant Protection Project in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen from 1973 onwards. Keeping in view the importance of the work in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, the Commission was strongly of the opinion that the Government would include the Project in their country IPF, agreed to a further allocation of funds amounting to \$10,000 per year for 1973 and 1974 from the "Survey and Reconnaissance" component of the budget, if it was possible for FAO to make suitable arrangements for proper implementation of survey and control activities in the Republic.

36. The Commission noted with satisfaction that in the case of the Yemen Arab Republic the proposed country programming for 1973 to 1975 included the post of a Locust Officer as well as a provision for operational cost and other miscellaneous expenditures.

Assistance to Oman

37. The Commission agreed that two Land Rovers, two exhaust nozzle sprayers and the quantity of insecticide provided from Doha reserve might be considered as assistance to Oman. In addition FAO would arrange to provide training through fellowships and advisory visits; if necessary, essential survey equipment might also be provided. Any additional expenditure involved might be met from the unobligated balance of the Trust Fund.

Desert Locust Information Service (DLIS)

38. The Commission received a summary of the report of the Expert Consultation on DLIS and endorsed the recommendations contained therein.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION

39. The Commission proposed that the next Session might be held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, on a date to be decided by the Director General of FAO in consultation with the host Government. This Session of the Commission would be preceded by the next Session of the Executive Committee of the Commission.