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联合国
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Продовольственная и
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Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL COMMITTEE

Thirty-ninth Session

Rome, 10-13 March 2009

Actions Taken in the implementation of the 38th DLCC Recommendations (Agenda Item 8)

Nineteen recommendations were made during the Thirty-Eighth Session of the DLCC in November 2006 (see Annex 1). Most of the recommendations were to be implemented by FAO but some depended on actions by locust-affected countries. Progress made in their implementation is recorded below.

R 1: The Training-of-Trainers approach should be continued and should focus on practical exercises. National Master Trainers should be staff of the Locust Control Units in the front-line countries. The national training programmes should cover the staff of all relevant agricultural and other national units that would participate in locust control. These relevant units should be identified in the context of national contingency plans.

The efforts of locust-affected countries supported by the EMPRES (Desert Locust) Programme and the three Regional Locust Commissions to introduce the Training-of-Trainers (ToT) approach are continuing. In all three Regions many national Master Trainers have been trained making it increasingly possible to draw upon a source of well-qualified Master Trainers as co-trainers in regional and national training courses. In almost all countries, Master Trainers are increasingly organizing and conducting national training courses on the technical aspects of locust operations. For control, the courses include: applying pesticides as recommended, handling pesticides safely, and safeguarding spray teams, inhabitants and the environment. Training connected with early warning system organized by specialized national trainers includes: standard survey and reporting procedures, locust data collection, transmission, management and mapping systems (eLocust2 and RAMSES).

The ToT concept is based on principles of adult education and learning-by-doing. Thus training on survey, control and safety issues is addressed, as recommended, to all target groups potentially involved in locust operations. A Master Trainers Training Manual was developed interactively at a series of participatory training courses on locust monitoring and control. This manual contains teaching material and visual aides and acts as a guide for training in all three Regions. Additional manuals have been provided for training on more specialized issues. Quest

Teams, for example, receive a standard reference manual for monitoring cholinesterase levels in pesticide workers, which is published in French and in English. Regular staff training and retraining is at the heart of all preparedness and contingency planning solutions. The training needs of staff from other government departments, who will be mobilized in times of increased locust activity, are being addressed in the national contingency planning workshops.

R 2: All parties should only use/purchase those pesticides listed for Desert Locust control by the Pesticide Referee Group, and that meet national regulatory requirements; pesticides should be properly labelled in the language of the recipient country; locust-affected countries should promote the registration of more pesticides for Desert Locust control in order to increase the choice.

FAO revised its pesticide procurement rules for DL control to purchase only pesticides listed by the Pesticide Referee Group, which meet the national registration requirements. Only brand products may be procured, and are to be labelled according the instructions given by FAO to the suppliers. FAO established a list of all pesticides that are registered in all locust-affected countries as a quick reference and to facilitate triangulation of pesticides from one country to another in need.

R3: ULV organophosphate pesticides should be used for locust control only by properly trained staff who could follow best practices and whose health could be monitored, and should NOT be provided to farmers.

FAO and the Regional Commissions are taking every opportunity to discourage countries from involving farmers in locust control operations and are not supporting national training courses in which ULV pesticide application is being taught to farmers. Nevertheless, FAO recognizes the importance of farmers in the locust control system, especially where breeding areas are close to crops. In these cases farmers are trained to identify and report Desert Locust observations and on environmental safety aspects.

R4: Plastic containers should NOT be used for locust pesticides.

FAO no longer procures pesticides for locust control in plastic containers.

R5: FAO and countries should negotiate terms with pesticide companies for contracts that included the removal of empty containers.

To date, negotiations between FAO and pesticide companies have failed to reach agreement on including provision for the removal of empty pesticide containers into contracts for purchasing pesticides. A temporary alternative was the installation of drum rinsing and crushing machines to secure safe removal and disposal of empty pesticide barrels wherever funding allows. Such machines have been installed and used with good results in Algeria, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Senegal, Tunisia, Ethiopia and Yemen. Drum crushers already purchased for Chad and Niger will be installed in the near future. Unfortunately, this equipment cannot be supplied to Sudan until embargo restrictions associated with its export are lifted.

R6: Donors should continue to support the development of alternatives to conventional chemical pesticides.

Developing additional alternatives to chemical pesticides is an extremely expensive and long process with uncertain outcome. It is therefore advisable to focus donor support on the introduction of already available alternatives in terms of training, sensitization and infrastructure. It took more than 20 years of research to develop and test the mycopesticide Green Muscle™ and Insect Growth Regulators. Both products have proven their efficacy in several small and large-scale trials under operational conditions and now should be actively promoted for use both in

preventive control and in ecological sensitive areas. In addition, the pheromone phenyl-acetonitrile (PAN) has the potential to considerably reduce the application rate of chemical pesticides without reducing locust mortality.

R7: Locust-affected countries should cooperate fully with ICIPE, IITA and FAO and other relevant institutions to test these products.

Locust-affected countries are actively participating in testing alternatives to conventional pesticides whenever and wherever possible. National scientists from Egypt, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sudan and Yemen have graduated in various aspects of alternative control technologies and are now providing the basis for further beneficiary-driven research in this area.

R8: Locust-affected countries that already had QUEST teams should institutionalize them in order to ensure their availability when locust control occurs.

The QUEST approach (Quality, Environmental Protection, and Safety of Treatments) has been widely accepted by the affected countries in the Western and the Central Regions. Countries have become more conscious of environmental issues and interested in specialized teams monitoring the contamination level of pesticide operators using AChE-TestMate® kits. They are highly interested in keeping the QUEST teams as part of their national Locust Control Units (LCU) either as full staff or under secondment from the Ministry of Health and from the Ministry of Environment during field missions. The question of sustainability of the QUEST approach has been addressed. In periods of fewer or no Desert Locust activities most countries expressed their wish to use QUEST teams during control operations of other insects such as swarming grasshoppers and cotton pests.

R9: FAO should investigate the feasibility of extending the QUEST approach to other regions.

FAO is actively pursuing the dissemination of the QUEST approach to other countries specifically in the Central Region. A regional training on the use of the AChE-TestMate® kits was conducted in Yemen in June 2008. Trainees came from Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan and Yemen and received equipment needed for the testing blood contamination levels. Follow-up training and equipment replacement depend on additional funding being found and FAO and the Regional Commission are seeking funds to sustain and expand the QUEST approach.

R10: All aircraft used for locust spraying should be equipped with GPS Track Guidance systems for precision spraying.

It has become part of FAO's standard tender procedures to consider only companies who offer aircraft equipped with track guidance systems. FAO and the Regional Commissions are actively encouraging member countries and regional locust control organizations to deploy only aircraft with track guidance systems for locust control.

R11: FAO, in close consultation with countries, World Bank and the EC, should explore the possibilities for contractual arrangements with pesticide companies that would ensure that locust pesticides were available in an emergency situation, at short notice, in the required quantity, and could be delivered to the required location

FAO and CropLife International (CLI), representing pesticide manufacturers, discussed issues of timely delivery of pesticides obviating the need to hold large stocks for locust control that could become obsolete between locust emergencies. The meeting agreed that FAO should take the lead in establishing a committee to develop a strategy and to establish logistics for the timely production and delivery of the pesticides during a locust emergency. Because of the huge amount of pesticide stocks left from the 2003-5 campaign in the Sahelian countries the issue has not been followed further, but all efforts made to reduce the risk that these pesticides are becoming obsolete. Through triangulation of excess resources, donated by Mauritania and Mali

the quantity of remaining stocks could be reduced and immediately made available for locust control in Yemen, Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique. This triangulation of resources was made possible by the Pesticide Management System, developed by FAO's Programme on the Prevention and Disposal of Obsolete Pesticides and the new interagency collaboration with WFP.

In order to build on this experience the DLCC session should consider the suggestion to establish advance in-principle agreements with the locust affected countries for pesticide triangulation in the onset of future locust emergencies.

R12: A Working Group should be established to review the recommendations of the multilateral Independent Evaluation Mission that were in the second and third categories, including recommendations 7, 23a), and 26a) and b), and that it should have the same composition as the one that had worked during the Session. All the participants agreed to be part of the Group

R13: The Evaluation Mission Steering Committee should be requested to monitor the progress of the implementation of the recommendations. The Working Group would report to it, as would other parties involved in implementing recommendations. The Committee should meet regularly in order to fulfil its role.

The DLCC Working Group, established during the 38th session, reviewed the 31 recommendations of the Multilateral Independent Evaluation Mission of the 2003-5 Desert Locust campaign and presented its findings to FAO in mid November 2006. FAO management accepted with minor clarification/amendment all 20 recommendations addressed directly to the Organization, and agreed with the remaining 11 directed to affected countries and their regional commissions. The Full Steering Committee was unable to meet and discuss FAO Management responses. Instead meetings were held, first in February 2007 with the technical representative of the Steering Committee's Chair Government and secondly in April 2007 with representatives of most Steering Committee member countries at a seminar entitled "Transboundary Pest and Diseases and other Disasters: From Early Warning to Building Back Better".

More details are provided under Agenda Item 9, "Towards a more effective response to Desert Locusts and their impacts on food security, livelihoods and poverty - Multilateral Evaluation of the 2003-2005 Desert Locust Campaign".

R14: A task force should be established to design a Desert Locust Emergency Fund. The task force will consist of about six people representing locust-affected countries (which would eventually benefit from the Fund), the donors and FAO.

R15: The task force will: i) draw up terms of reference for a study that will identify viable options, including those available in the UN system, Regional Institutions, or the Banks, for design and governance of a Desert Locust Emergency Fund; ii) identify resources to undertake the study; and iii) present findings of the study to the next DLCC meeting.

R16: The process of preparing the study will include consultation with representatives of stakeholders relevant to the Desert Locust Emergency Fund (benefiting countries, donor agencies, FAO).

R17: The Task Force will consist of:

A representative of the European Union

A representative of the World Bank

Mr Garba of Niger

Mr Ould Babah of Mauritania

Mr Khalil of Sudan

A representative of FAO

The ad hoc working group established by the DLCC in 2006 representing affected countries, donors and FAO prepared Terms of Reference (ToRs) for a study that would identify viable options for a Desert Locust Emergency Fund and identified the Priority Solidarity Fund of France as a possible source for funding the study. No response was received following the initial call for consultants made by publishing the ToRs in the Official Journal of the European Union and the Official Journal of the French Republic. Only one unsatisfactory proposal that ignored many important aspects of the study came when the ToRs were sent directly to individuals and to national and international consultancy firms.

In addition, participants at the mid-term workshop to review the World Bank funded ‘Africa Emergency Locust Project’, recommended that the World Bank finance a feasibility study for establishing national Desert Locust funding mechanisms in each of the participating countries (Burkina Faso, Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Chad).

The response to calls for specialist consultants to design procedures and governance for a Desert Locust emergency funding were extremely disappointing as detailed below. FAO Secretariat suggests that the DLCC considers whether new mechanisms such as the United Nation Emergency Response Fund (CERF), used successfully in the smaller crisis in 2007 might provide a more certain way forward.

R18: The DLCC TG should be replaced by consultation with technical experts using Internet-based tools (emails, fora, networks, etc.) and, where appropriate, face-to-face expert consultation. The consultation process would be organized by the Secretariat. It was requested to ensure maximum transparency of the selection of the experts, with special attention to the affected countries.

FAO accepts and welcomes this recommendation and supports internet based exchange among technical experts wherever appropriate. One of encouraging examples was the initiative by DLIS in 2007 to create the web-based “On-line community for national locust officers” to discuss and share experience and knowledge related to RAMSES, use of eLocust2, data management and analysis among Locust Information Officers and facilitate finding quick solutions to difficulties.

R19. The Director-General of FAO should:

- *officially contact the countries concerned and should appeal to them to settle their annual contributions to the DLCC Trust Fund for 2006, and should invite them to propose a schedule for settling the total amount that they may have in arrears;*
- *officially contact the Government of Nigeria and should request it to settle the arrears that existed at the time of its withdrawal from the DLCC.*

The DLCC Member countries were reminded three times (on 24/11/06, 12/9/2007 and 21/5/2008) by official letters from the Director-General FAO to settle their annual contributions and arrears.