

REPORT

**Beirut,
Lebanon
20–24
September
2010**

**FAO Commission for
Controlling the Desert
Locust in the Central
Region**

Twenty-Seventh Session



Report of the

Twenty-Seventh Session

**COMMISSION FOR CONTROLLING THE DESERT LOCUST
IN THE CENTRAL REGION**

Beirut, Lebanon, 20 – 24 September 2010

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,
Rome 2010**

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Group photo of participants in the 27th Session and the 31st Executive Committee Meeting of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region, held in Beirut, Lebanon, 20-24 September 2010

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**Report of the Twenty-Seventh Session
COMMISSION FOR CONTROLLING THE
DESERT LOCUST IN THE CENTRAL REGION
Beirut, Lebanon, 20 – 24 September 2010**

Summary of recommendations

Recommendations related to the Secretariat:

1. Ethiopia with the support of DLCO-EA should prepare a project proposal to support Desert Locust operations in northern Somalia for submission to FAO to identify a donor to fund the project.
2. In case of emergencies in which FAO provides pesticides to countries for locust control, the ownership of these pesticides should remain with FAO in order that the remaining pesticides can be re-exported to other countries when needed, provided that these pesticides are either registered or allowed to be used in the countries.
3. Inventories of obsolete and unwanted Desert Locust pesticides should be prepared in detail, updated every year, and sent to the Commission for further submission to the specialized unit at FAO for advice.
4. Front-line countries should only activate the minimum number of eLocust2 units, and more units be activated based on locust activities and only when needed in order to avoid unnecessary cost on the Commission Trust Fund.
5. The Secretariat of the Commission should address the staffing problem in the Locust Unit to the concerned authorities of the Ministry of Agriculture in Eritrea persuading them to spend the necessary efforts to sustain the qualified staff at the Locust Unit to support survey and control operations in the country.
6. In view of staffing changes in the Locust Unit in Ethiopia, the meeting recommended that the Ethiopian representative to send a report indicating the staffing and organizational situation at the Locust Unit.
7. The concerned organization in Iraq should be approached to bring to an end the usage of the ENS in pest control.
8. Addresses of independent laboratories should be circulated to all member countries.
9. Yemen to send sample of pesticides for analysis in one of the independent laboratories, in order to cross check the analysis results obtained locally.
10. The Secretariat of the Commission should cover the cost of travel of the Sudanese survey team from Khartoum to Cairo and vice versa and the Department of Desert Locust of Egypt to transport the Sudanese team to the borders to conduct the joint survey. Another survey team from Sudan should be ready to conduct a joint survey with an Egyptian team inside the Sudanese border.

11. The Secretariat of the Commission to correspond with the concerned department in FAO HQ Rome, to raise the grade of the Administrative Assistant in Cairo, giving justifications.
12. One locust officer from Oman should participate in the Iran/Pakistan Joint Survey during the portion of the survey that is carried out along the Iranian coast facing Oman. The Commission will cover the costs of the participant for the first year and, thereafter, the Government of Oman should assume this responsibility.
13. The current Secretariat of the Commission to continue working in the Commission after April 2011 and to correspond with the FAO Director General with this request through the concerned channels.
14. The Executive Committee meeting is to be conducted between the two sessions only if the need arises and with consultation with the Chairman of the Commission, the Executive Committee and the Secretariat of the Commission, and to continue to hold the Executive Committee Meeting with the Session.
15. The Secretariat of the Commission to convey the commandment and appreciation of the member countries for the valuable information provided in the “Locust Emergency Response Toolkit eLERT” website, expressing their gratitude to the Locust group at FAO Headquarters.

Training:

16. The Commission should continue to support short-term training courses at the national level with the support of qualified national co-trainers with experience from member countries in the Central Region.
17. In view of the fact that Sudan did not conduct national training courses during the previous three years, the Commission should address this issue to the concerned authorities to review the reasons and to resolve them.
18. In view of the benefits acquired from the National Train of the Trainers (TOT) training courses in Eritrea and Saudi Arabia, for example, it is recommended to continue such training courses as per member countries request.
19. Regional (TOT) training courses should be conducted every three years, selecting participants as per their capacities and member countries requirement.
20. In view of the suspension of the Desert Locust Diploma at the University of Khartoum for the front-line countries (Egypt, Eritrea, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Yemen) efforts should be made to include the Desert Locust academic course (biology, survey and control operations) in the last academic year of the University of Agriculture as practiced at the Sudan University of Sciences and Technology.
21. The Committee agreed on selecting the candidate from Sudan, Ibrahim Gomaa Mohamed Adam, to benefit from the M.Sc. sponsorship, according to the criteria. In case the Sudanese candidate is unable to benefit, the Egyptian candidate, Osama Taha, would benefit.

22. Technical staff from front-line countries to participate in a Maintenance Workshop on Spray Equipment in Agadir in Morocco in coordination with the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region.
23. Member countries, especially front-line countries, should send feedback on the benefit of the CD on contingency planning and to send the national contingency plan, similar to the one presented by Egypt, by October 2010.

Research:

24. The increase of the ceiling of the Commission's financial support to research to US\$ 20,000 instead of US\$ 15,000.
25. The Secretariat of the Commission should correspond with the Directors of Locust Control Centres and Directors of Plant Protection Departments of the member countries to continue their efforts to encourage research institutes in their country to submit research proposals in Desert Locust topics, and the Secretariat of the Commission will follow up this recommendation.

Publications:

26. The Glossary in Arabic and English should be produced and distributed to all member countries and concerned authorities.
27. In view of its importance, the Glossary should be produced in French language, and it is important to expedite this translation.
28. In view of the problems encountered with the CRC-EMPRES website server, an amount of US\$ 3,000 is to be allocated for a server for the Commission's website.
29. The Secretariat of the Commission should make copies of the DVD on the documentary film on Control Operations in Ethiopia during 2007/2008 and send it to member countries that did not participate in the 27th Session.

Recommendations related to the budget:

30. The work plan for 2010-2011 was endorsed by the member countries, with the cancellation of remote sensing.
31. Member countries that do not pay their contributions and settle their arrears should not be chosen in the Executive Committee.
32. The Secretariat of the Commission should send the CRC Trust Fund account details to member countries so as to avoid confusion with the account of the Desert Locust Control Committee (DLCC) Trust Fund.
33. A technical support staff should be seconded from the Department of Desert Locust Centre of the host country to the Secretariat of the Commission. The Commission should top up his/her monthly salary to the ceiling of not more than US\$ 1,000.
34. The Chairman of the Commission and the Chairman of the Executive Committee with the Secretariat of the Commission should visit the following member countries: Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and United Arab Emirates, to meet with the concerned

ministers and discuss the financial status of the Commission and raising the countries' contribution.

35. The Secretariat of the Commission should renew the Commission's request for support from the Islamic bank in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
36. Regarding Egypt's request for support to contingency planning, all items should be purchased except for the drum crusher due to its high cost of US\$ 100,000.
37. Regarding Lebanon's request for support to training, a laptop, digital projector and a digital camera should be purchased.
38. To raise the budget for the Emergency Fund from US\$ 100,000 (one hundred thousand US dollars) as recommended in the 26th Session of the Commission to US\$ 300,000 (three hundred thousand US dollars) in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Executive Committee.
39. The Secretary of the Commission is authorized, in consultation with the Chairman, to cover the cost of implementing any activities when these activities are not reflected in the Commission workplan.

**Report of the Twenty-Seventh Session
Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust
in the Central Region
Beirut, Lebanon, 20-24 September 2010**

Introduction

The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (F.A.O) invited the member countries of the Commission, Bahrain, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Egypt, Eritrea, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, United Arab Emirates and Yemen, to attend the Twenty–Seventh Session of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region in Beirut, Lebanon, 20 – 24 September 2010.

Invitations were also addressed to the Arab League Organization, the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA), the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region (CLCPRO) and the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in South-West Asia (SWAC). DLCO-EA and USAID declined the invitation for other commitments. Eritrea and Bahrain regretted their participation. (see Appendix 1 for the list of participants).

1) Opening Session

Mr. Hussein Nassrallah, Director of Coordination and Studies, Ministry of Agriculture in Lebanon, welcomed all guests in Lebanon and gave a brief background on the Commission. On behalf of the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Mr Ali Moemen, FAO Representative in Lebanon, expressed his thanks to H.E. Dr. Hussein Al-Haj Hassan, Minister of Agriculture of Lebanon, for hosting the 27th Session and its 31st Executive Committee, mentioning that the 26th Session of the Commission was scheduled to be held in Beirut, Lebanon, in 2008, but due to unpleasant circumstances during that period, FAO organized and conducted the session in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman. Now, after the improvement of the situation, and according to the recommendation of the 26th Session of the Commission, the 27th Session is organized in Lebanon. He mentioned that the working papers will deal with all the Commission's activities since the 26th Session held in 2008. Therefore, details of these papers will be further presented during the working session by the Secretariat of the Commission. He wished a successful meeting to the participants and invited H.E. the minister to deliver his speech.

H.E. Dr. Hussein Al-Haj Hassan, Minister of Agriculture of Lebanon addressed the opening session by welcoming the guests in Lebanon, expressed his pleasure in hosting the 27th Session and thanked them for choosing Lebanon to host this CRC session and its 31st Executive Committee Meeting of the Commission in Beirut. Dr. Al-Haj Hassan commended the regional cooperation and member countries coordination. He indicated that cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization is very important in order to achieve common interests and resolve a number of problems. He stressed on the importance of developing the cooperation and coordination between the member countries and FAO. He pointed out his country's readiness to cooperate in controlling the Desert Locust in spite of the limited resources of the Ministry. He stressed on the importance of early warning, speedy intervention, and use of safe alternative methods for control.

He finally thanked all and wished them a happy stay in Lebanon, and a successful meeting and declared the meeting open.

2) Report of the Chairman of the Commission

Mr. Mamoon Khamis Al-Alawi, the Chairman of the Commission in its 26th Session presented a brief report on the activities of the Secretariat of the Commission. In this respect, Mr Al-Alawi commended the valuable efforts of the Commission member countries during the locust control operations in the Central Region. He also commended the cooperation between the countries and the regional organizations in the region, in particular the cooperation between the Commission Secretariat and the Desert Locust Control Organization in Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) in Desert Locust survey and control during the outbreak in northern Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya. The cooperation with the Commission in the Western Region (CLCPRO) in the workshop on testing the spray equipment used for Desert Locust control, and with the Commission in South-West Asia (SWAC) in TOT training issues was also commended by the Chairman. He then reviewed various activities and visits covered by the Secretariat during the mentioned period (see Appendix 2).

3) Election of the Chairman and Vice Chairman

The delegate of the Government of Lebanon, Mr. Imad Nahhal, was unanimously elected as Chairman of the 27th Session of the Commission. Saudi Arabia delegate, Mr. Adnan Khan, was elected as Vice-Chairman.

4) Adoption of the Agenda

After reviewing and discussing the provisional agenda by the Session, the agenda was unanimously agreed upon as per the following:

1. Opening Session
2. Report of the Chairman of the Commission
3. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Election of the Drafting Committee
6. Report of the activities of the Secretariat of the Commission and follow up of the recommendations of the Twenty-sixth Session
7. Desert Locust situation from August 2008 to August 2010
 - a. Complementary reports from the countries
8. CRC activities
 - a. Training
 - b. Research
 - c. Publications
9. Complementary activities from the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region (CLCPRO)
10. Complementary activities from the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in South West Asia (SWAC)
11. Election of members and Chairman of the Executive Committee
12. Accounts for 2008 and 2009
13. Contributions and arrears of member countries to the Commission's Trust Fund
14. Work plan and budget for 2010-2011
15. Other business

16. Date and place of the next Executive Committee and the Session of the Commission
17. Adoption of the report of the 27th Session of the Commission
18. Closure of the Session

5) **Election of the Drafting Committee**

The representatives from Oman and Yemen were elected as members of the Drafting Committee. The Commission took the responsibility of the secretariat.

6) **Report of the Secretariat of the Commission on activities and follow up of the recommendations of the 26th Session of the Commission**

The Secretary of the Central Region Commission presented a comprehensive report, indicating the activities implemented and achieved during the period August 2008 to August 2010 (see Appendix 3). The participants discussed the following subjects:

- With regard to the recommendation to prepare and submit a project proposal to the Commission to support Desert Locust operations in Ethiopia and northern Somalia for further submission to FAO, this was not implemented. It was agreed to modify the recommendation as the following:

Recommendation: Ethiopia with the support of DLCO-EA should prepare a project proposal to support Desert Locust operations in northern Somalia for submission to FAO to identify a donor to fund the project.

- Concerning the recommendation about the provision of pesticides to countries and the ownership of these pesticides for re-exporting, and as it was stated in the Commission Establishment Agreement, the following modified recommendation was agreed:

Recommendation: In case of emergencies in which FAO provides pesticides to countries for locust control, the ownership of these pesticides should remain with FAO in order that the remaining pesticides can be re-exported to other countries when needed, provided that these pesticides are either registered or allowed to be used in the countries.

- The participants discussed the recommendation about the inventory of obsolete and unwanted pesticides, and it was agreed that the recommendation be modified as following:

Recommendation: Inventories of obsolete and unwanted Desert Locust pesticides should be prepared in detail, updated every year, and sent to the Commission for further submission to the specialized unit at FAO for advice.

7) **Desert Locust Situation from August 2008 to August 2010**

Mr. Keith Cressman, Senior Locust Forecasting Officer (DLIS), prepared a comprehensive Desert Locust situation report in the three regions (Eastern, Central and Western) since August 2008 to August 2010, with the emphasis on the Central Region.

In the Central Region, the Desert Locust situation remained calm until February 2009 when a local outbreak developed on the northwest coast in northern Somalia, producing

swarms that invaded Ethiopia in April and June. An outbreak also occurred on the southern coast of Yemen in March 2009, causing swarms to form and move into the interior where a second generation of breeding took place until June. Local breeding on the Red Sea coast in Saudi Arabia resulted in hopper band formation during the spring of 2010. All three of these events developed from unusually heavy rains that fell three to four months earlier. Ground control operations were carried out in Ethiopia (3,495 ha), Saudi Arabia (3,795 ha), northern Somalia (1,874 ha) and Yemen (6,015 ha). DLCO-EA assisted in the operations in Ethiopia and northern Somalia. Despite good rains in the interior of Sudan and along parts of the Red Sea coast during the summer of 2010, the present situation remains calm in the Region. During the forecast period, small-scale breeding is likely to occur during the winter along both sides of the Red Sea, especially on the Tihama coast in Yemen. As seasonal rainfall predictions do not agree on whether this year will be drier or wetter than normal, it will be important to carry out surveys on a regular basis in the winter breeding areas.

In the Western Region, control teams treated nearly 16,000 ha of small groups of gregarizing hoppers and adults in northwest Mauritania from November 2008 to February 2009. A local outbreak developed in northwest Mauritania in October 2009 that was brought under control by the end of the year after nearly 14,000 ha were treated.

In the Eastern Region, the situation remained calm as only small-scale breeding occurred in the summer breeding areas along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border in 2008, 2009 and so far in 2010.

After intensive discussion, the following was recommended:

Recommendation: Front-line countries should only activate the minimum number of eLocust2 units, and more units be activated based on locust activities and only when needed in order to avoid unnecessary cost on the Commission Trust Fund.

The Secretary of the Commission pointed out that the gaps in locust surveys and reports in Somalia and Eritrea were related to the absence of locust staff in the Locust Unit due to unforeseen circumstances, and to staffing changes in northern Somalia. He indicated that replaced staff in Eritrea will be trained by DLCO-EA and the Locust Control Centre in Egypt, as the newly appointed staff in northern Somalia are already trained by DLCO-EA in Ethiopia. Based on these developments, the meeting recommended the following:

Recommendation: The Secretariat of the Commission should address the staffing problem in the Locust Unit to the concerned authorities of the Ministry of Agriculture in Eritrea persuading them to spend the necessary efforts to sustain the qualified staff at the Locust Unit to support survey and control operations in the country.

a. Complementary reports on DL situation from member countries and observers

Egypt

The representative of Egypt presented a detailed report on the Desert Locust situation mentioning that although the locust situation was calm in the country, the surveys were conducted regularly, and that the Locust Control Centre issued the Desert Locust Bulletin every month. The Centre organized and conducted a number of training courses to raise the staff capabilities and skills. The Centre also utilized skilled Master Trainers for training purposes in the region. He also indicated that the Locust Centre in full

cooperation with the Commission organized a number of workshops, particularly, the workshop on testing spray equipment used in Desert Locust control operation and the workshop on RAMSES. The Locust Centre participated with the Commission and a FAO Australian consultant in producing a documentary film on Desert Locust Survey in recession periods in locust breeding areas in Egypt. He reported that the Centre had undergone routine maintenance of main and sub locust bases, vehicles and spray equipment and provision of pesticides. The representative of Egypt stated that pesticides are regularly analysed and checked for efficacy and ingredient degradation at registered laboratory in order to avoid accumulation of obsolete pesticides.

Ethiopia

The delegate from Ethiopia mentioned that although Ethiopia experienced local breeding and invasion by the Desert Locust, it is not considered as locust front-line country. The most serious locust threat in about four decades occurred in the country in September 2007. Immature swarms from Northwest Somalia invaded eastern Ethiopia. Locust breeding took place and infestations spread further into other areas of southern and central Ethiopia and even into northern Kenya, which has not experienced locust invasion for about half a century. The national capacity that existed at the time of the locust outbreak did not commensurate with the magnitude of the occurrence of the outbreaks and hence international assistance was solicited in addition to the government's efforts to manage the situation.

The pest outbreak continued in the following years but because there were improved awareness and preparedness as a result of the government and donor partnership efforts, the risk of the pest was not as significant as in the previous year. The Japanese grant, the FAO-TCP and the CRC support were the major assistance that was obtained in order to improve the locust survey and control activities in the country. With this assistance, capacity was strengthened in terms of human resource development and enhanced acquisition of field and office equipment. It is to be mentioned that Ethiopia paid its annual contribution to the Commission regularly. Similarly Ethiopia continued to inform the relevant stakeholders and donors through its monthly bulletin.

Recommendation: In view of staffing changes in the Locust Unit in Ethiopia, the meeting recommended that the Ethiopian representative to send a report indicating the staffing and organizational situation at the Locust Unit.

Iraq

Iraq was threatened by a number of locust invasions, the last being in 1988. The Iraqi representative indicated that locust activities were focused on training and raising the skills of technicians in survey and control operations in Jordan, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, the last being in Oman in 2010. He also mentioned that two plant protection officers were students in the post-graduate Diploma at the University of Khartoum. He informed the meeting that Iraq has established a centre to monitor locust activities in Karbalaa, and that the plant protection officers survey and monitor locust movements at the country entrance points, and locust activities in the neighbouring countries are followed by the periodic bulletins and Internet. He then mentioned that the country has various resources such as spray equipment for ground control, pesticides in addition to three Helicopters, expected to be supplemented in the future by other seven, but he reported the his country is in short of ground control equipment, GPS and HF radios to be used for survey and monitoring.

The meeting noted that the ENS sprayers are still in use in Iraq in pest control. FAO, EMPRES/CR and the Commission recommends not to use this type of sprayer in locust control because its impact on the environment pollution, high cost, damage to the vehicle and safety to the operator. Therefore, the meeting recommended:

Recommendation: The concerned organization in Iraq should be approached to bring to an end the usage of the ENS in pest control.

Kuwait

The delegate from Kuwait mentioned that his country has no threat of Desert Locust, mentioning that there is an allocated emergency fund for Desert Locust, and if not used it is reallocated for the following year. The Locust situation is being followed up through bulletins and periodic publications. He mentioned that two trainees were trained in the Commission sub-regional training course in Oman in 2010.

Lebanon

The delegate from Lebanon informed that the Desert Locust situation had been calm during the reporting period and the Plant Protection Department has been following the Desert Locust situation through the bulletins and periodic publications. He indicated that four trainees from the Ministry of Agriculture were trained on locust biology and survey and control operations in the sub-regional training course, organized in Syria during 2009, and one trainee in the regional TOT training in Iran in May 2010.

Oman

The representative from Oman gave a presentation on the Desert Locust situation during the reported period from May 2008 to August 2010, mentioning that the locust situation was calm in the governorates, but in view of the good rain that fell on different areas, scattered locust nymph individuals in various instars were reported during May and June 2010 in the Eastern areas, but no treatment was required. With regard to training, he reported that internal training courses were conducted and Oman participated in workshops and external training. The delegate from Oman said that his country hosted the 6th sub-regional training course in Muscat for 23 trainees from Gulf States and Iraq. He further mentioned that Oman strengthened the Locust Control Unit with all the requirements. A new Locust Unit was established in Thumrait (Dhofar) three technicians were recruited to undertake surveys and monitor locust along the area from Dhofar to the Yemeni border.

Qatar

The delegate from Qatar stated that the Desert Locust situation had been calm during the reporting period. The Qatar delegate informed that the activities of Desert Locust in the front-line countries were being followed up through the bulletins and periodical reports sent by the Commission. He further added that one agriculture engineer was trained on locust biology and survey and control operations and pesticides safety and handling in the sub-regional training course, organized in United Arab Emirates during May 2010.

Saudi Arabia

The representative of Saudi Arabia presented a comprehensive report on the Desert Locust situation in the Kingdom during the reporting period, indicating that ecological conditions improved favouring locust breeding in southern Jeddah along the Red Sea

coast; these areas were monitored and during the dry season limited control operation was carried out on 269 ha. After the heavy rain on the Red Sea coast and some of the interior, northern and southern parts of the Kingdom during November 2009, ecological conditions favoured locust breeding, and survey operations covered all the areas experienced rainfall during December. In February 2010, reports indicated that a few individual populations were copulating and laying eggs in Rabigh. As breeding continued until April 2010, necessary arrangements were made by the Locust Centre to contain the breeding by applying the preventive control strategy on 3,506 ha treated. Generally the locust situation was calm during the seasons of 2008-2009 and 2009-2010.

Syria

In his report the representative of Syria gave a background information on Syria relationship with the Commission since Syria joined in 1968, where his country is settling its contribution regularly.

He informed the meeting that Syria benefited from the Commission, where radios, ground and aerial spray equipment and pesticides were received in addition to various reports and alerts. In training, he mentioned that during the last two years Syria benefited from the Locust Diploma study at the University of Khartoum as well as Master study. He also reported that the sub-regional training course was hosted and organized in Syria and one trainee participated in the regional training course in Iran in May 2010. Since, Syria has an agricultural aerial fleet with 9 aircraft, Syrian Agricultural pilots participated in the regional Desert Locust aerial training courses.

Yemen

The representative of Yemen gave a comprehensive report on the Desert Locust situation in his country. He mentioned that abnormal heavy rain fell in Yemen in October 2008 on the summer breeding areas in Hadramout, Shebwa and Al Mahra, also some rain fell over the winter breeding areas, making areas favourable for locust breeding in February and March 2008 along 70 km of coastline. Ground control operations against hoppers and adults in the coastal areas covered 4,640 ha whereas 1,275 ha was only treated in the interior of the summer zones, utilizing 5,945 litre of pesticides.

The sixth joint border survey with Saudi Arabia was carried out in January 2009 with the participation of five locust officers from Yemen and six from Saudi Arabia; he reported that due to security measures the seventh joint border survey was not implemented. With regard to training, only one field day for 13 agricultural institute students was held demonstrating survey and control methods and information technology used in locust, also providing them with biology issues of Desert Locust. Six Yemeni locust officers participated in various five external training activities e.g. TOT, aerial control, eLocust2 and RAMSES and contingency planning workshop.

Active ingredient analysis of pesticide stocks of 33,000 litres of Dursban 24% and 7,000 litres of Fenitrothion 45%, resulted in the validity of these pesticides. 1,000 drums were crushed and disposed of.

Recommendation: Addresses of independent laboratories should be circulated to all member countries.

Recommendation: Yemen to send sample of pesticides for analysis in one of the independent laboratories, in order to cross check the analysis results obtained locally.

8) CRC activities

(a) Training

The Secretary of the Commission presented a comprehensive report on training activities including short, medium and long term trainings, either organized or supported or conducted by the Commission or the member countries (see Appendix 5).

He mentioned that training is considered to be continual and a priority activity of the Commission and should be continued. Hence, the following recommendation was made:

Recommendation: The Commission should continue to support short-term training courses at the national level with the support of qualified national co-trainers with experience from member countries in the Central Region.

Recommendation: In view of the fact that Sudan did not conduct national training courses during the previous three years, the Commission should address this issue to the concerned authorities to review the reasons and to resolve them.

Recommendation: In view of the benefits acquired from the National Train of the Trainers (TOT) training courses in Eritrea and Saudi Arabia, for example, it is recommended to continue such training courses as per member countries request.

Recommendation: Regional (TOT) training courses should be conducted every three years, selecting participants as per their capacities and member countries requirement.

Recommendation: In view of the suspension of the Desert Locust Diploma at the University of Khartoum for the front-line countries (Egypt, Eritrea, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Yemen) efforts should be made to include the Desert Locust academic course (biology, survey and control operations) in the last academic year of the University of Agriculture as practiced at the Sudan University of Sciences and Technology.

The Secretariat of the Commission presented the analysis of application received from member countries the announcement of the M.Sc. fellowship; the choice was between two candidates from Egypt and Sudan according to their fulfilment of the criteria, the meeting decided to form a small committee from representatives of Oman, Saudi Arabia and Yemen to select one from the two candidates:

Recommendation: the Committee agreed on selecting the candidate from Sudan, Ibrahim Goma Mohamed Adam, to benefit from the M.Sc. sponsorship, according to the criteria. In case the Sudanese candidate is unable to benefit, the Egyptian candidate, Osama Taha, would benefit.

With regard to the benefits acquired from the Spray Equipment Maintenance Workshop in February 2008, it was recommended:

Recommendation: Technical staff from front-line countries to participate in a Maintenance Workshop on Spray Equipment in Agadir in Morocco in coordination with the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region.

As the Secretariat of the Commission sent a CD (electronic assistance on contingency planning) and did not receive feedback from member countries on the extent of its benefit, it was recommended:

Recommendation: Member countries, especially front-line countries, should send feedback on the benefit of the CD on contingency planning and to send the national contingency plan, similar to the one presented by Egypt, by October 2010.

(b) Research

The Secretariat of the Commission presented a detailed report on the research activities in the previous period (see Appendix 6), and after long discussions, it was recommended:

Recommendation: The increase of the ceiling of the Commission's financial support to research to US\$ 20,000 instead of US\$ 15,000.

Recommendation: The Secretariat of the Commission should correspond with the Directors of Locust Control Centres and Directors of Plant Protection Departments of the member countries to continue their efforts to encourage research institutes in their country to submit research proposals in Desert Locust topics, and the Secretariat of the Commission will follow up this recommendation.

(c) Publications

The Secretariat of the Commission presented a comprehensive report on publications during the last two years, indicating the strong cooperation with the Commissions for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region and in South-West Asia (see Appendix 7).

The meeting commended the role of Commission in this respect. The Secretary of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region informed of the difficulties in the translating the glossary into French language.

The meeting recommended the following:

Recommendation: The Glossary in Arabic and English should be produced and distributed to all member countries and concerned authorities.

Recommendation: In view of its importance, the Glossary should be produced in French language, and it is important to expedite this translation.

Recommendation: the Secretariat of the Commission should make copies of the DVD on the documentary film on Control Operations in Ethiopia during 2007/2008 and send it to member countries that did not participate in the 27th Session.

9) Complementary activities from the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region (CLCPRO)

The Secretary of the Western Region Commission, Mr. Thami BenHalima, presented a report on the commission's activities in the period 2006 – 2010, he indicated the basic priorities that was approved in the region and summarized the activities in the following:

- Establishment of four national locust units in the front-line-countries (Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad).
- Held in April 2009 the first Ministerial meeting on the mechanisms to ensure sustainable preventive control system in the Western Region.
- Prepared and implemented the annual action plan for survey and control by the member countries.
- Implemented the regional short term training plan and long term for Master and Doctorate Degrees.
- Prepared environmental specifications for all member countries and also prepared a guideline to monitor the effect of locust control operations on human its environment.
- Established a system to monitor national resources available in the member countries.
- Prepared a contingency planning for locust control in the member countries.
- Prepared a regional plan for conducting research with research priority list.
- Prepared a plan to undertake locust activities in EMPRES Programme Phase 2 during the period 2011-2014.

10) Complementary activities from the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in South West Asia (SWAC)

The FAO Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in Southwest Asia (SWAC) is FAO's oldest and smallest locust commission having been established in 1964 and consisting of four Member Countries (Afghanistan, India, Iran and Pakistan). Annual contributions of US\$ 72,000 to the Trust Fund support the primary activity of SWAC, the 30-day annual joint survey in the spring breeding areas of Pakistan and Iran, as well as other activities involving national training, equipment, Commission sessions, translation of important locust publications into local languages, development of new technologies and regional and inter-regional workshops such as the annual SWAC/CRC Locust Information workshop (April, Cairo) and the recent SWAC/CRC Master Trainers workshop (May 2010, Iran). SWAC has not benefited from EMPRES due to low interest shown by donors in the Region. The FAO Senior Locust Forecasting Officer acts as secretary of SWAC.

The meeting approved the following:

Recommendation: One locust officer from Oman should participate in the Iran/Pakistan Joint Survey during the portion of the survey that is carried out along the Iranian coast facing Oman. The Commission will cover the costs of the participant for the first year and, thereafter, the Government of Oman should assume this responsibility.

11) Election of members and Chairman of the Executive Committee

The Commission agreed to choose the five front line countries (Egypt, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Eritrea) in the Executive Committee as members. Iraq and Oman were also chosen to complete the number of the Executive Committee members to seven. The representative of Iraq was elected as the Chairman of the Executive Committee.

12) Accounts for 2008 and 2009

The Secretary of the Commission presented a summary report on the financial position and the expenditure for the years 2008 and 2009 and up to August 2010 (see appendix 8) for the Commission's Trust Fund. The Secretariat of the Commission indicated that details of the expenditures can be reviewed in the distributed working paper.

After a long discussion, the Secretariat of the Commission answered questions on the Training and Travel lines, in addition to other issues.

13) Contributions and arrears of member countries to the Commission Trust Fund

The Secretary presented a comprehensive report on the annual contributions to the Trust Fund for the year 2008/2009 and 2010 up to August, and the accumulated arrears of certain member countries (see Appendix 9). After the discussion by the member countries, the following clarification was provided:

- In view of the difficulty of issuing the contribution and arrears call letters by FAO Director General except at the beginning of the financial year in July which contradicts the financial year of member countries (January of every year), the paid contributions appears in the following year.
- The meeting discussed ways to encourage member countries to pay their contributions and settle their arrears.
- As per the establishment agreement of the Commission, stating that member countries that do not pay their contributions and settle their arrears for two years, are exempted from voting, the meeting saw that this was not enough and hence recommended the following:

Recommendation: member countries that do not pay their contributions and settle their arrears should not be chosen in the Executive Committee.

Recommendation: the Secretariat of the Commission should send the CRC Trust Fund account details to member countries so as to avoid confusion with the account of the Desert Locust Control Committee (DLCC) Trust Fund.

14) Workplan for 2010 and 2011

The workplan for 2010 and 2011 was reviewed by the meeting (see Appendix 10), with long a comprehensive discussion. The meeting agreed upon raising the ceiling for research to US\$ 20,000 and allocate US\$ 3,000 for a server for the Commission's website. It was also agreed that the budget for remote sensing is not applicable and should be cancelled.

Recommendation: The work plan for 2010-2011 was endorsed by the member countries, with the cancellation of remote sensing.

Recommendation: US\$ 3,000 is to be allocated for a server for the Commission's website.

15) Other business

Several items were included by the Secretariat of the Commission and the member countries under other business:

1. Strengthening the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region

The Secretariat of the Commission presented a paper on strengthening the Commission which was followed by a long discussion, included the following points:

In view of overload of work on the Secretariat, an assistant is needed to deal with technical matters, and the following was agreed:

Recommendation: a technical support staff should be seconded from the Department of Desert Locust Centre of the host country to the Secretariat of the Commission. The Commission should top up his/her monthly salary to the ceiling of not more than US\$ 1,000.

With regards to encouraging member countries and donors to support the Commission, the meeting discussed and agreed upon the continuation of bilateral support and recommended the following:

Recommendation: the Chairman of the Commission and the Chairman of the Executive Committee with the Secretariat of the Commission should visit the following member countries: Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and United Arab Emirates, to meet with the concerned ministers and discuss the financial status of the Commission and raising the countries' contribution.

Recommendation: the Secretariat of the Commission should renew the Commission's request for support from the Islamic bank in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

2. A request for support to the Egyptian Contingency Planning for Desert Locust, the General Department for Locust and Agro-Aviation Affairs (GDLAAA), Egypt, with the following items:

- Two Choline-esterase kits
- One Drum crusher
- Six mobile HF radio

The meeting discussed the request presented by Egypt and agreed on the following:

Recommendation: All items should be purchased except for the drum crusher due to its high cost of US\$ 100,000.

3. The continuation of the joint survey across the Sudanese-Egyptian border

Due to the difficulties faced by the survey teams from Sudan and Egypt across the border and because of complications in obtaining a visa to Egypt for the Sudanese survey team by unofficial methods, the meeting agreed upon the following recommendation:

Recommendation: the Secretariat of the Commission should cover the cost of travel of the Sudanese survey team from Khartoum to Cairo and vice versa and the Department of Desert Locust of Egypt to transport the Sudanese team to the borders

to conduct the joint survey. Another survey team from Sudan should be ready to conduct a joint survey with an Egyptian team inside the Sudanese border.

4. The representative of Lebanon request for support with training equipment

The meeting agreed on:

Recommendation: the procurement of laptop, digital projector and a digital camera to be used in training.

5. The professional status of the Admin Assistant and how can we assure her continuity in the Secretariat of the Commission?

As the Administrative Assistant has been working in the Commission since seven years, with an excellent performance and an increase in responsibilities, it was required to find means to raise her grade and upon this it was recommended:

Recommendation: the Secretariat of the Commission to correspond with the concerned department in FAO HQ Rome, to raise the grade of the Administrative Assistant in Cairo, giving justifications.

The discussion also included the following subjects:

a) The status of the Secretariat of the Commission

The meeting also discussed the status of the current Secretary of the Commission, since he will reach the retirement age at the end of April 2011. The meeting commended the Secretary on his excelled efforts, positive and effective contribution to the Commission during the last ten years since his appointment and the improvements experienced in the member countries, and so as to avoid drops and gaps in the performance of the Commission, the meeting agreed upon:

Recommendation: the current Secretariat of the Commission to continue working in the Commission after April 2011 and to correspond with the FAO Director General with this request through the concerned channels.

b) The Executive Committee meetings

The meeting discussed the effectiveness of the Executive Committee meetings, which is held between the Sessions and agreed that this meeting, in spite of what is stated in the establishment agreement, does not provide more input during its meeting and is a repetition to what is presented during the Sessions. The following recommendation was made:

Recommendation: the Executive Committee meeting is to be conducted between the two sessions only if the need arises and with consultation with the Chairman of the Commission, the Executive Committee and the Secretariat of the Commission, and to continue to hold the Executive Committee Meeting with the Session.

c) The Emergency Fund

The meeting discussed the Emergency Fund under the responsibility of the Secretary of the Commission, and the following recommendation was made:

Recommendation: to raise the budget for the Emergency Fund from US\$ 100,000 (one hundred thousand US dollars) as recommended in the 26th Session of the Commission to US\$ 300,000 (three hundred thousand US dollars) in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Executive Committee.

d) Locust Emergency Response Toolkit eLERT website

The Secretariat of the Commission presented the “Locust Emergency Response Toolkit eLERT” website. The meeting commended the valuable information provided in the website, expressing their gratitude to the Locust group at FAO HQ. They confirmed the importance of such website in obtaining important information in emergency which requires speed and quick decisions, and they delegated the Secretariat of the Commission to convey this message to FAO Headquarters. They promised to send their feedback on the website and requested the website address.

<http://sites.google.com/site/eLertsite/>

16) Date and place of the next Session of the Commission

The delegate of Yemen offered to host the 28th Session of the Commission to be held in the year 2012 and the delegate of Syria offered to be the alternate.

The offers were appreciated and unanimously accepted by the participants. The Secretary was given the responsibility to negotiate the dates for the above meetings.

17) Adoption of the report of the 27th Session of the Commission

The participants unanimously endorsed and approved the report of the 27th Session and the 31st Executive Committee Meeting of the Commission, held in Beirut, Lebanon on 20-24 September 2010.

18) Closure of the Session

The Chairman of the Commission thanked all the participants for their fruitful discussions and hard work and wished everyone a safe journey back. He extended his thanks and gratitude to the member countries, drafting committee, translator and the secretariat of the Commission.

Acknowledgements

The Commission's members expressed their gratitude and thanks to the Government of Lebanon, represented by the Ministry of Agriculture for their warm welcome, generosity and excellent arrangements which resulted in the success of this session. The participants appreciated the attendance of H.E. Dr. Hussein Al-Haj Hassan, Minister of Agriculture of Lebanon, for his support and for opening the Session.

Thanks were due to the Chairman of the Commission for his good management of this Session and his patience in the discussions.

Appreciations and thanks were extended to the Secretary of the Commission for his efforts and valuable documents presented in the Session and to all that have contributed to the success of this session, specially the Drafting Committee, the translator, the Secretariat and to the sound technicians.

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Appendix No (2) Report of the Chairman of the Commission

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to present you with a brief report of numerous activities accomplished by the Secretariat of the Commission; with a specific mention of the appreciated efforts exert by the member countries in supporting the Desert Locust control operations in the Central Region during the last two years. Even though with a relatively calmer Locust activity, it is important to mention the fruitful cooperation and productive coordination amongst the member countries in exchanging of information and reports. It is also worth mentioning the strong cooperation between the Commission and the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA), particularly in training issues and intervention in emergency situation.

In this regard, it is vital to mention the outstanding role played by the Secretariat during the mentioned period in terms of its management, coordination and continuous follow up of the Desert Locust situation, in conjunction with implementing several training courses and workshops on different fields.

Activities of the Secretariat of the Commission:

Several visits have been executed during the period 2008 after the 26th CRC Session:

1. The visit of the Secretariat and the Chairman of the Commission to Rome to present the report of the 26th Session of CRC to the Assistant Director General (ADG) and the Locust Group.
2. The organization and conduction of Train of Trainers (ToT) training course in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
3. Visit to Ethiopia to follow up and asses the implementation of the Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) to the Ministry of Agriculture and support of the USAID to DLCO-EA
4. Participating in the 26th Session of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in South West Asia (SWAC), in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Visits accomplished in 2009:

1. Representing the CRC in the 2nd International Workshop on the future of Bio-pesticides in Desert Locust Management, Rome, Italy.
2. Participating in the 39th Desert Locust Control Committee in Rome, Italy.
3. Field visits of the Red Sea Coast in Egypt, to asses the capabilities of personnel and preparedness of the Desert Locust Bases in local Desert Locust breeding and in emergency situation.
4. The organization and conduction of the Workshop on Desert Locust Spray Equipment in Ismailia, Egypt.
5. Participating in the 5th Session of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region (CLCPRO), Agadir, Morocco.
6. Organizing and conducting the 2nd Regional Aerial Training Course in Ethiopia.
7. Organizing and conducting the 5th Sub-Regional Training Courses on Desert Locust Survey and Control in Syria.
8. Participating in the Preventive Locust Control Meeting and the special emergency Meeting on the Locust situation in Mauritania, Rome, Italy.
9. Visiting to support the Desert Locust Monitoring and Controlling Centre (DLMCC) in Yemen after the recent management changes at the Ministry of Agriculture.

10. Organize and conduct TOT training course in Asmara, Eritrea.

Visits carried out during 2010:

1. Participation in the field to produce a documentary film on Desert Locust survey and control operations in recession periods and problem encountered in Egypt.
2. Visit to North of Somaliland to find solutions to personnel problems in the Desert Locust control unit and also to Ethiopia to discuss the support of different Desert Locust operations at the Ministry and DLCO-EA.
3. Visit to Eritrea to support and follow up on the recommendations made during the ToT training course regarding the performance of the local master trainers.
4. Participating in the TOT on Desert Locust Survey and Control in Ramsar, IR of Iran.
5. Organizing and conducting the 6th Sub-Regional Training Courses on Desert Locust Survey and Control in Sultanate of Oman.
6. Organizing and conducting the 3rd Regional Aerial Training Course in Tanzania.

During the relatively calm period 2008-2010, the Secretariat achieved many activities which will be presented in its individual papers, but here is a brief overview at the accomplished recommendations:

Firstly - Capacity Building:

In this aspect, the Commission has supported various national training programmes in addition to regional and sub-regional training courses. M.Sc. scholarships were granted to two locust officers to study GIS systems from UK universities. Due to lack of funds for the Desert Locust Diploma course, the study has been frozen since 2008/2009 and so the Commission is offering the opportunity for Master Degree study for the academic year 2010/2011.

Secondly - Research:

A number of research studies were completed and one is still under study.

Thirdly - Joint Survey:

Joint surveys of Desert Locust breeding habitat between countries is one of the regular activity of the Commission particularly joint border surveys between Egypt and Sudan and between Saudi Arabia and Yemen. It was hoped that this activity remains a permanent and regular activity in the national workplans of member countries, but during the last two years, the activity faced a few difficulties, which will be discussed in the session to find ways of elevating them.

Fourthly - various issues:

The Commission has made special achievements during the last period, in particular the issuing of the Arabic translation of the monthly Desert Locust Bulletin, and other publications, most importantly is the Desert Locust Glossary in Arabic and English available online on the CRC-EMPRES website, which is regularly updated. This will be looked at in its working paper.

Finally, I would like to thank all member countries and praise them on their nonstop enthusiasm and support to the Commission which has assisted the Secretariat of the Commission to achieve and implement the workplan.

I wish you all a successful session.

Appendix No (3) Report of the Secretariat of the Commission

After the 26th CRC Session in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman in July 2008, the Secretariat of the Commission has taken up several activities summarized as follows:

A) Training:

1. The Commission supported national training courses on Desert Locust survey and control which were conducted after July 2008 in each of the following countries: Ethiopia, two training courses during August and December, Oman in December and Saudi Arabia in November. During 2009 the following national training courses were supported in Eritrea during November; Ethiopia in August, and in Saudi Arabia in January. During 2010, the Commission supported the following national training courses in Eritrea during March, in Egypt during April and in Ethiopia and Saudi Arabia during May.
2. Two Regional Aerial Desert Locust training course were conducted in Ethiopia during the period 08-11 June 2009 and in Tanzania during 02-06 August 2010, in coordination with the Desert Locust Control Organization for East Africa.
3. One interregional TOT training course was organized in Iran during May 2010.
4. Organization, preparation and participation in the Fifth sub-regional training courses on the biology, survey and control aspects of Desert Locust in Damascus, Syria, during July 2009 and the Sixth in Sultanate of Oman during May 2010.
5. The Commission, in collaboration with the EMPRES/CR Programme, supported the academic Diploma study in Desert Locust management at the University of Khartoum and the seventh group of students graduated in September 2008. The seventh group of students from Egypt, Iraq, Sudan, Syria and Yemen graduated in September 2008. Subsequently, the Diploma was suspended due to lack of funds.
6. Two fellows from Egypt and Sudan were supported by the Commission to study M.Sc. degrees from universities in the United Kingdom. The Commission announced another M.Sc. scholarship for the academic year 2010–2011 to member countries and a number of applications have been received and will be discussed in its respective paper in this session.
7. The Secretariat of the Commission followed up the issuance of the diploma certificates, which unfortunately have still to be issued by the University of Khartoum.
8. In collaboration with FAO, the Commission supported and organized a number of workshops in Egypt, two RAMSES and eLocust2 in May 2009 and April 2010. Contingency planning in August 2009 and Workshop on Spray Equipment Used in Desert Locust Control in May 2009.

B) Research:

The research status can be summarized as follows:

1. The research study under the supervision of the University of Khartoum, Sudan, was completed at the end of 2009. The final report was received, endorsed by FAO and file was closed.
2. The research study under the supervision of the University of Red Sea- Sudan was completed in April 2010 and file was closed.
3. A research proposal from the Hawass University- Ethiopia was approved by the Commission in January 2009. Progress reports have been received and research is expected to be concluded by June 2011.

C) Joint survey:

- 1) The joint survey of the Yemen/Saudi borders took place during the period 03-18 January 2009. No joint survey was conducted in 2010.
- 2) During 2009, a joint survey was conducted across Egyptian/Sudanese border during the period 28 February to 6 March. In 2010, no joint survey conducted across the Egyptian/Sudanese border.

D) Publications:

This can be summarized as follows:

- 1) The continuation of the translation of the monthly Desert Locust Bulletin from English into Arabic in PDF format and its circulation to member countries and concerned parties.
- 2) In December 2009, a Glossary of technical expressions and terms used in the research field and in the control of Desert Locust has been produced electronically in English and Arabic.
- 3) In collaboration with EMPRES a Field Guide to Vegetation in Desert Locust Breeding Areas and Locust Officer's Field Guide on Locusts and Some Grasshoppers of the Central Region have been prepared and produced in English and Arabic.
- 4) In May 2010, the Secretariat of the Commission produced the report on the Workshop on Spray Equipment Used in Desert Locust Control in Arabic and English.
- 5) The Secretariat, in collaboration with DLIS has produced the second version of the SOP for Ground Survey in English and Arabic.
- 6) The Commission prepared and sent the "Train the Trainers" kit in English to member countries of the Commission for controlling the Desert Locust in South West Asia –SWAC.

- 7) The Secretariat of the Commission updates the CRC-EMPRES website on a regular basis with information on different activities of member countries, documents and up-coming events.

E) Budget:

- 1) The Commission has sent requests to all member countries to pay their contribution arrears and expressed its appreciation to those who paid their contribution in a regular manner.

F) Secretary's participation:

The Secretary of the CRC has participated in the following events:

- 1) Organizing and participating in the 26th Session of the Commission for the Control of Desert Locust in the Central Region in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, July 2008. The report of the 26th CRC Session was presented by the Chairman of the Commission and the Secretariat to the Locust Group at FAO Headquarters and to the Assistant Director General of FAO in Rome, Italy, in October 2008.
- 2) The organization and conduction of two “Train of Trainers” ToT training courses on Desert Locust survey and control operations in November 2008 and 2009 in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and in Eritrea respectively. Support of the National training course in Eritrea in March 2010.
- 3) The Secretariat has participated in the 26th Session of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in South West Asia (SWAC), in Kabul, Afghanistan 2008 and in the 5th Session of the Commission for controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region (CLCPRO), Agadir, Morocco in 2009.
- 4) In December 2008, the Secretariat has supervised the assessment of the implementation of Technical Cooperation Projects (TCP) from FAO and USAID at the Ministry of Agriculture of Ethiopia and DLCO-EA.
- 5) At FAO Headquarters in Rome in February 2009, the Secretariat participated in the 2nd International Workshop on the future of Biopesticides in Desert Locust Management, in March 2009 participating in the 39th Desert Locust Control Committee in Rome, Italy and in the discussion in October in the Preventive Locust Control Meeting.
- 6) In April 2009, the Secretariat conducted field visits inside Egypt, to asses the capabilities of personnel and preparedness of the Desert Locust Bases in emergency situation and in May in Ismailia to conduct the Workshop on Spray Equipment Used in Desert Locust Control.
- 7) Meeting with the Minister of Agriculture of Yemen in October 2009 to support an autonomous Desert Locust Monitoring and Controlling Centre (DLMCC) after the management changes at the Ministry.

- 8) Conducting the 5th and 6th Sub-Regional Training Courses on Desert Locust Survey and Control in Syria in 2009 and Sultanate of Oman in 2010, respectively.
- 9) In coordination with SWAC, the Secretariat organized and conducted a regional TOT training course in Iran in May 2010.
- 10) In coordination with DLCO-EA, the Secretariat organized and conducted two regional, the 2nd and 3rd Regional Aerial Training Course in May 2009 in Ethiopia and in August 2010 in Tanzania, respectively.
- 11) Participation in February 2010 to produce a documentary film on Desert Locust survey and control operations in recessive periods on the coast of the Red Sea in Egypt.
- 12) Visit North of Somaliland, 4-7 March 2010 to meet the Minister of Agriculture to resolve the staffing problems in the Desert Locust operations.

G) Other activities:

- 1) The Commission has recruited a driver, Mr. Mohsen Ibrahim Mohamed in April 2010, in place of Mr. Osama Mohamed Hassan, who was promoted to work with the Assistant Director General for the Near East Regional Office in February 2010.

H) Following up the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission and the Executive Committee July 2008:

During the period from July 2008, the Secretariat of the Commission has followed up the different activities of the recommendations of the 26th Session, which can be summarized in the below table.

Recommendations related to the Secretariat of the Commission:

Recommendation	Implementation
<p>1. An expert in meteorology, ecology and locust biology should be recruited to study the existing data, sent by countries, at DLIS, and to present a report with the obtained results in order to compare these results with the locusts behaviour during current years.</p>	<p>The recommendation was discussed with the Director of the National Centre for Locust Research & Control in Jeddah during the ToT training course in November 2008. It was agreed that the climatic changes leads to shortness or expansion of the control operations period, according to the climatic and ecological conditions for Desert Locust breeding.</p>
<p>2. Although Somalia is not a member country of the Commission, the meeting recommended to fund Desert Locust operations from the Commission's fund, after obtaining the necessary request and to</p>	<p>Since the recommendation was raised by member countries, in case of Desert Locust invasion from Somaliland to neighbouring countries, there is an initial agreement by</p>

support this activity from FAO.

3. Ethiopia should prepare and submit a project proposal to the Commission to support Desert Locust operations in Ethiopia and northern Somalia for further submission to FAO.
4. In case of emergencies in which FAO provided pesticides to countries, the ownership of these pesticides should remain with FAO in order that the remaining pesticides are re-exported to other countries in case needed. In order to avoid legal implications, countries should investigate this issue and should send the results to the Commission.
5. In case of emergencies and that FAO provided registered pesticides to one country, other countries should not object importing these pesticides even if not registered in their countries. In order to avoid legal implications, countries should investigate this issue and should send the results to the Commission.
6. Inventories of obsolete and unwanted pesticides should be prepared in details and sent to the Commission for further submission to the specialized unit at FAO for advice.
7. Organize two consecutive workshops in Arbeel or Sulimania in Iraq, (alternatively in Egypt) to test spray equipment, protective clothing and camping equipment. Member countries should inform the Commission of local suppliers who wish to participate in the workshop, and the Commission should recruit the necessary consultant.
8. The Chairman of the Commission is delegated on behalf of the member countries to address a request to FAO to undertake vulnerability studies.

members of the countries, depending on the extent of the Desert Locust situation.

During the two visits of the Secretary of the Commission to Ethiopia, the recommendation was discussed. The representative of Ethiopia can enlighten the meeting on this point.

Egypt, Ethiopia, Yemen and Sudan no legal difficulties in re-exporting pesticides to other countries when necessary, provided that pesticides are under the custody of FAO (in Ethiopia case). Other countries to shed light on this issue.

Egypt, Ethiopia, Yemen and Sudan accept pesticides in their countries provided that these pesticides are on FAO list. Other countries to shed light on this issue.

Ethiopia, 374 ton obsolete pesticides, there is a project dealing with this problem. **Yemen**, no obsolete pesticides, **Jordan** less than 4 ton Other countries to shed light on this issue.

Workshop was organized and conducted in Egypt to evaluate spray equipment during 08-15 May 2009. No companies responded to FAO invitation to evaluate their products re protective and camping equipment.

Pending!!. The CRC Chairman, Mr Mamoon Al-Alawi, to enlighten the meeting on this recommendation.

9. A small workshop should be organized after consultation with DLIS, representative of Saudi Arabia and Secretary of the Commission to study a new navigation technology.

The recommendation was discussed with the Director of the National Centre for Locust Research & Control in Jeddah during the ToT training course in November 2008 in the presence of DINGO1 company representative. He was unable to convince the meeting with the advantage of his product over DGPS, so the issue was dropped.

Recommendations related to training:

10. The Commission should continue support to short term training courses at the national level and should invite qualified national co-trainers who have experience from other member countries.

The Commission is continuously supporting national short terms training courses, on request by member countries, using super master trainers from other countries in the region.

11. Freeze the Desert Locust Diploma Course as per the recommendation of the Executive Committee in its 29th meeting, but to be resumed whenever there are sufficient funds from other sources than the Commission Trust Fund.

The study was suspended; no external fund or support was secured.

12. The Desert Locust Diploma Course to be continued on the condition that the University of Khartoum sponsors 50% (about US\$75,000) of the cost of the Diploma students and the Commission bears the other 50%.

The representative from Sudan was unable to secure the agreement from the University of Khartoum to fund 50% of the cost of the diploma. Therefore the study was suspended starting from the academic year 2008/2009. Sudan representative to shed some light ion the issue.

13. The candidates Mr. Hussein Osman Abou Bakr from Sudan and Mr. Osama Rabie Mahmoud from Egypt are selected to benefit from the Commission's M. Sc. Sponsorship 2008-2009.

Mr. Osama Rabie Mahmoud registered in the university in January 2010 and Mr. Hussein Osman Abou Bakr joined the university in September 2010.

14. Since the technician from Oman was not invited to participate in the sprayers' maintenance workshop, the Commission should take into consideration training the Omani technicians on sprayers' maintenance.

Mr. Khaled Alharassi, technician from Oman, trained in Agadir, Morocco during October 2008.

Recommendations related to research:

15. The Directors of Locust Control Centres and Directors of Plant Protection Departments of the member countries should continue their efforts to encourage research institutes in their country to submit research proposals and should provide them with all relevant reference documents (priority list, guidelines and formats). The Commission will follow up this recommendation and in case of difficulties will discuss this issue with the Secretary.
- Action was taken by the Commission, but the response from the countries to come forward with research proposals was not encouraging during the last two years. Only three research studies received, details will be discussed when research paper is presented.
16. Send the trial report of the research conducted in full cooperation with the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), FAO and the Locust Control Centre in Sudan during 2007 to all member countries.
- Action was implemented by the Commission.

Recommendations related to publications:

17. Prepare the two index cards on Desert Locust and grasshoppers and the vegetation of Desert Locust breeding areas in Arabic.
- Action was implemented by the Commission.
18. Member countries to submit their needs regarding publications to the Secretariat of the Commission.
- No request received from the member countries.

Recommendations related to the budget:

19. Since it was difficult for FAO to issue the call letters for contribution and arrears to the member countries at the beginning of the year, it was recommended that a reminder should be issued by the Secretary of the Commission by early January to all member countries, with the exception of Saudi Arabia, after coordination with the Accounting Division at FAO.
- The request was not accepted by FAO, due to confusion and issuing incorrect calls. The Commission is trying hard to issue the letter during the early months of the year.
20. Member countries should provide the Secretariat of the Commission with copies of the bank transfer regarding payments of their contribution and arrear settlement to follow this up with the Accounting Division at FAO.
- As soon as such documents sent by countries to the Secretariat of the Commission, will be revised and followed up with FAO.
21. The budget line regarding emergency pesticide fund in the workplan should be
- Action was taken during the 26th session and accordingly the next two

cancelled. In case of emergencies and based on the previous recommendation, the Secretary of the Commission is authorized, in consultation with the Chairman, to cover the cost of implementing any activities when these activities are not reflected in the Commission workplan.

years workplan was amended.

22. The workplan for 2008 – 2009 was endorsed by the member countries after the cancellation of the emergency pesticide fund.

Action was taken during the 26th session.

23. A ceiling of US\$100,000 is being allocated to be used in case of emergencies in full consultation with Chairman of the Commission, the Chairman of the Executive Committee and the Secretary of the Commission.

This recommendation will be implemented during emergency situation only.

Appendix No (4) Desert Locust situation from August 2008 to August 2010¹

OverviewIn the Central Region, a local outbreak developed on the northwest coast in northern Somalia (February-June 2009), producing swarms that invaded Ethiopia. An outbreak also took place in southern Yemen (March-June 2009) where two generations of breeding occurred. Local breeding on the Red Sea coast in Saudi Arabia (spring 2010) resulted in hopper band formation. National teams carried out ground control operations in Ethiopia (3,495 ha), Saudi Arabia (3,795 ha), northern Somalia (1,874 ha) and Yemen (6,015 ha). DLCO-EA² assisted in the operations in Ethiopia and northern Somalia. Since August 2009, the situation remained calm in the Region. An overview of locust surveys, reporting, infestations and control operations is indicated in Figures 1-3.

In the Western Region, a small outbreak developed in western Mauritania during the autumn of 2009. In the Eastern Region, the situation remained calm.

The outlook until February 2011 suggests that seasonal rains may be well below normal in the winter breeding areas and locust numbers will remain low in the Central Region. There is a slight risk that locusts will concentrate and increase in number in parts of the Western Region during the autumn. No significant developments are expected in the Eastern Region.

Central Region

(a) Summer 2008

Low numbers of solitarious adults were present in parts of the summer breeding areas in the interior of Sudan, mainly North Kordofan and River Nile states, from August to October. Very limited breeding probably occurred but it was too low to be detected during surveys. Due to continued insecurity, surveys could not be carried out in Darfur. Scattered adults were seen near Lake Nasser in southern Egypt in October. Scattered adults were also present on the Red Sea coast and Gulf of Aden coast in Yemen, and small-scale breeding occurred near Aden.

(b) Winter 2008 / Spring 2009

Low numbers of solitarious adults were present on the Red Sea coast in Yemen (November-February), Saudi Arabia (November-March), Eritrea (November-May) and Sudan (December-April). Small-scale breeding occurred on the central and northern coast of Eritrea (November-March from good rains that fell in early November), on the central and southern Red Sea coast of Saudi Arabia (December-April) and Yemen (January-February), and on the southern coast in Sudan (January-February). Ground control operations (269 ha) were carried out against small hopper bands that formed in April and May on the central Red Sea coast in Saudi Arabia. No locusts were seen in the spring breeding areas in the interior except for a few adults east of the Al Hijaz Mountains in May. Elsewhere, small groups of immature adults formed in southern Egypt near Lake Nasser in November. In northern Somalia, scattered adults were

¹ The working paper presents a summary and analysis of the locust situation based on information and data received by FAODLIS from locust-affected countries, supplemented by other weather, environmental and historical data, up to 1 September 2010. Subsequent developments will be presented in the session. The paper was prepared by Keith Cressman, Senior Locust Forecasting Officer, FAO Rome.

² Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa

present on the northwest coast in January. In northern Oman, isolated adults were seen on the Batinah coast in May.

Yemen outbreak

On 21-22 October 2008, unusually heavy rains associated with a tropical depression that formed in the Indian Ocean fell in eastern Yemen, mainly in Wadi Hadhramaut and along the coast from Mukalla to the central coast of eastern Oman. The rains caused severe flooding and loss of property and life. In early March 2009, a small outbreak developed along a 90 km stretch of the southern coast between Ahwar and Mukalla in areas affected by the October flooding. Initial egg laying occurred in January and February by solitarious and *transiens* adults that probably originated from earlier breeding near Aden (October 2008). Hatching continued until mid-March and numerous medium-sized hopper groups and bands formed during the second half of the month, mixed with solitarious, *transiens* and gregarious hoppers and immature adults. By the end of March, at least 200 late instar hopper bands at densities up to 100 hoppers/m² and fledglings were reported from 20 locations. On the 30th, two immature swarms of 2 km² were seen flying in the area. During the first half of April, small immature swarms progressively moved northwest from the southern coast towards the interior where they matured and laid eggs. A swarm was also reported in the central highlands near Dhamar where it split and dispersed. In early May, a second generation of hatching occurred in the interior along the edge of Ramlat Sabatayn between Al Hazm, Ataq, Al Abr and Wadi Hadhramaut, and north of W. Hadhramaut between Minwakh and Thamud. Hoppers formed small groups and numerous small bands with densities up to 200 hoppers/m² in most of these areas. By the last week of the month, fledging started and immature gregarious adults were seen. During June, vegetation dried out in the interior and only scattered adults remained in a few areas. Ground control operations treated 6,015 ha from 18 March to 29 May.

Horn of Africa outbreak

Northern Somalia. Undetected egg laying and hatching occurred on the northwest coast during February 2009 that gave rise to a small outbreak in early March within an area of about 65 km by 20 km where vegetation was unusually green from good rains and runoff in November. During the first week of March, small groups of mature gregarious adults, a small copulating swarm, and a few first to third instar hopper bands and solitarious hoppers were reported. Intensive surveys subsequently found nearly two dozen very small to medium sized hopper bands and solitarious hoppers were reported. Intensive surveys subsequently found nearly two dozen very small to medium sized hopper bands of all instars and two small mature swarms, each about 2.5 km² in size, as well as solitarious and gregarious hoppers and adults. Laying and hatching continued until early and mid-April respectively, mostly on the coast and to a lesser extent on the escarpment. Several small swarms started to form in early April and subsequently moved south towards Ethiopia and east towards Burao, Somalia. By the end of April, some of the swarms matured and laid eggs on the escarpment, giving rise to second-generation hatching and hopper band formation in May; however, these bands did not produce swarms. At the end of May, several late first-generation immature swarms were reported on the plateau and escarpment east of Hargeisa. During the first decade of June, several highly mobile immature swarms were seen moving on the northwest coast, east along the escarpment to Erigavo, and on the plateau. The swarms west of Hargeisa moved southwest into Ethiopia while those to the east moved northeast towards Erigavo and the Gulf of Aden. No locusts were seen after 20 June. From 3 April to 25 May, 1,874 ha were treated of which 1,650 ha were carried out by DLCO-EA aircraft.

Ethiopia. During the first week of April, immature swarms started to cross from northern Somalia to Dire Dawa. Several more instances occurred during the month, and control operations commenced by the last week and continued during May. Another wave of at least five small immature swarms up to 4 km² in size crossed from northern Somalia to Dire Dawa in the first week of June. The swarms moved back and forth over the border until 10 June and then remained in this area during the following week when aerial control operations were carried out. A few immature swarms were reported in the central Rift Valley during the first half of June. Several of these swarms continued northwest into the southern highlands of Amhara where they split up into smaller swarmlets and dispersed throughout the highlands, reaching southern Tigray on the 12th and nearly Lake Tana by the last week of the month. A few residual swarms were reported in the northern highlands in July and August, and solitary hoppers and adults were seen in October. From 27 April to 15 October, 3,495 ha were treated of which 1,970 ha were carried out by DLCO-EA aircraft.

Djibouti. In mid-April, scattered mature gregarious adults and a few groups were present along the Somalia border between the coast and Holhol.

(c) Summer 2009

During May, scattered mature adults appeared in northern Sudan near Berber and Dongola and formed small groups in one place. During June and July, more adults appeared in the interior of Sudan (North Kordofan, River Nile and Northern states). Although good rains fell during the summer, small-scale breeding was only detected near Atbara in June. In southern Egypt, isolated adults were seen near Lake Nasser in May and September. In Yemen, isolated adults appeared on the Red Sea coast in early August where good rains fell from June to September.

(d) Winter 2009 / Spring 2010

Isolated adults appeared on the Red Sea coast in Eritrea (October), Sudan (mid-November), Egypt (December), and Saudi Arabia (December), and on the coast of northern Somalia (December). Local breeding occurred in Egypt (December-January), Eritrea (January), Saudi Arabia (January-May), and on the northern Red Sea coast in Sudan (February-March). In March and April, numerous very small hopper groups and bands formed on the Saudi Arabian coast between Jeddah and Rabigh where unusually heavy rains had fallen on 25 November 2009³. In May, groups of adults formed but then locust numbers declined in June, and only small residual populations remained near Rabigh and a few bands and adult groups were seen on the western edge of the interior. Small-scale breeding occurred in the interior near Hail. Ground teams treated 3,526 ha from March to June. In Yemen, isolated adults persisted on the Red Sea coast throughout the winter, and local breeding occurred on the southern coast near Aden in April. In northern Oman, undetected breeding occurred in April on the edge of the Wahiba Sands, caused small groups of hoppers to form in early May and low numbers of adults to appear by the end of the month. Adults persisted during June when unusually heavy rains fell from Cyclone Phet on the 3rd and 4th. In eastern Ethiopia, undetected breeding occurred during May, giving rise to scattered hoppers in June near the Djibouti/Somalia border.

(e) Summer 2010

³ Jeddah reported 90 mm of rain in 4 hours on the 25th, more than twice the average for an entire year.

Scattered mature adults were present in a few crops along the Nile and Atbara rivers and in other parts of northern Sudan (June-August), isolated adults were seen in the Western Desert in Egypt (June), and low numbers of adults were reported in the interior of Yemen (June-August). Unusually good rains fell along both sides of the Red Sea in July.

Other regions

(a) Western Region

In November 2008, locust hoppers and adults gregarized and formed small groups in northwest Mauritania where control (15,758 ha) was carried out until February 2009. In October 2009, an outbreak developed in western Mauritania, which was brought under control (13,887 ha) by the end of the year. No significant developments occurred elsewhere in the region and the situation has remained calm. Currently, scattered adults and small-scale breeding is in progress in southern Mauritania and probably in parts of northern Mali, Niger and Chad. A substantial portion of the summer breeding areas in the northern Sahel of Mali, Niger and Chad cannot be surveyed due to insecurity.

(b) Eastern Region

The situation remained calm during the reporting period. Currently, scattered adults are present along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border and small-scale breeding is in progress in Pakistan.

Outlook until early 2011

In the Central Region, the outlook period coincides with the end of summer breeding in the interior of Sudan and Yemen and the first portion of winter breeding along both sides of the Red Sea and, to a lesser extent, both sides of the Gulf of Aden. In the summer areas, seasonal rainfall and temperature predictions (available up to February 2011) suggest that rains will end by October in Sudan but could continue in the interior of Yemen until late November. Consequently, only one generation of summer breeding is likely to occur in Sudan while there is a slight possibility of a second generation in Yemen.

In the winter breeding areas, rainfall is expected to be well below normal this year along both sides of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden coasts between October and January with the possible exception of the Red Sea coast between Qunfidah, Saudi Arabia to Midi, Yemen in October. Temperatures are expected to remain near normal. Consequently, only one generation of local breeding is likely to occur along parts of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden coasts. Therefore, locust numbers will probably remain low and no significant developments are expected during the outlook period in the Central Region.

In the Western Region, small-scale breeding will continue in the northern Sahel where locust numbers could increase rapidly in September. By mid-October, there is a slight risk that locusts could concentrate in vegetation that remains green and form small groups primarily in northwest Mauritania and, to a lesser extent, in other areas of northern Mali and Niger. Summer rains are expected to end during October except for northwest Mauritania where they may continue for an additional month and thus allow a second generation of breeding that would cause locust numbers to increase further.

In the Eastern Region, small-scale breeding will continue until October along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border. Thereafter, unusually dry conditions are expected to prevail

during the period in the spring breeding areas of southeast Iran and western Pakistan. Consequently, no significant developments are likely.

Figure 1. Locust surveys and reporting for the Central Region in 2008-2010

Less solid black squares per country is better

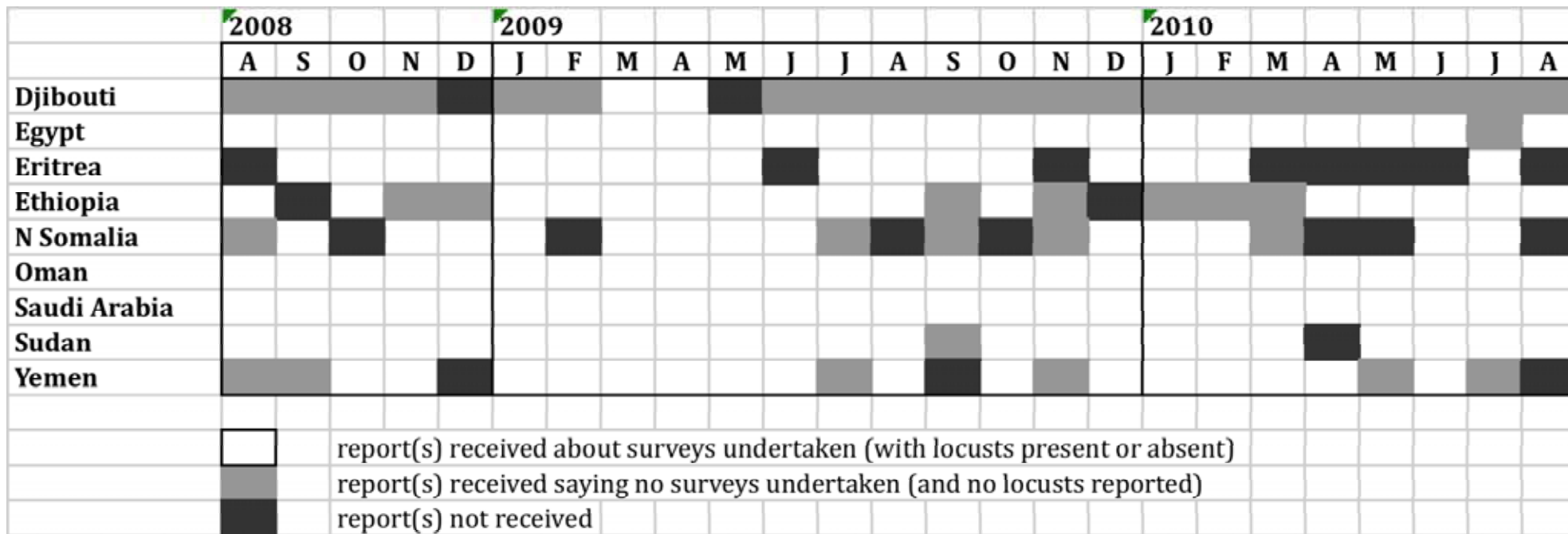


Figure 3. Control operations reported to FAO DLIS for the Central Region in 2008-2010

	2008 (1)	2009	2010 (2)	Total
Ethiopia		3,495		3,495
Saudi Arabia		269	3,526	3,795
Somalia		1,874		1,874
Yemen		6,015		6,015
Total (ha)		11, 653	3,526	15,179

Note:

(1) 1 August – 31 December 2008

(2) 1 January – 31 August 2010

Appendix No (5) Training

Training is considered to be the continuing activity, which should follow the technological development in all fields, and in turn it raises the capability of the locust staff, and to replace staff that have either transferred to other departments, retired or other similar reasons.

In this respect the Commission conducted/organized/supported several training courses and workshops relating to Desert Locust different activities in order to ensure effective Desert Locust survey and control operations in an efficient and professional method. This can be summarized as follows:

1. Short term training:

National, Regional or Sub-regional Trainings: covering subjects directly or indirectly relating to biology, survey and control of Desert Locust.

Egypt

- A national training course was organized and conducted in **Ismailia**, Egypt, during the period of 24–29 April 2010 by local Master Trainers from the Desert Locust Control Centre. The training course focused on control operations, pesticides use, and spray equipment. Twenty six Desert Locust Officers from different governorates participated in the training.
- A national training course on DL survey and control issues was also organized and conducted in **Ismailia**, Egypt, during the period of 16–26 March 2009 for 16 trainees.
- In September 2008, the Desert Locust Information Officer, Ms. Samira Mohamed Nabil has completed her assignment. Ms. Nabil joined the DLIS office in Rome in October 2007 for eleven months to be trained on new technology programs. She has now returned to work efficiently at the Desert Locust Information office in Egypt.

Eritrea

- The Food and Agriculture Organization, the Commission and the EMPRES programme supported the Train the Trainers (ToT) training course on Desert Locust biology and survey and control operations in Asmara, Eritrea, during the period 08-19 November 2009 for 17 trainees. The training course was conducted by the Secretariat of the Commission supported by Co-trainer from Egypt and national trainers.
- Three trainers that participated in the November ToT course conducted a national training course in Asmara for 12 trainees during the period 20 -26 March 2010.
- The Desert Locust Information Officer, Mr. Zerisenay Okube has been attached

to the DLIS office in Rome since September 2008, for eleven months to be trained on new technology programs. Upon completion of his assignment at DLIS in September 2009, he was sponsored to study M.Sc. Degree from United Kingdom.

Ethiopia

- Through the Japanese funds, FAO, the Commission and EMPRES supported the national training course in Kampolsha during the period 25 – 30 August 2008 on Desert Locust survey and control operations for 15 trainees.
- Two training courses on Desert Locust survey and control operations, supported by FAO TCP projects, during 22–27 December 2008 in Lake Zeway and 03 – 11 August 2009 in Dire Dawa for 15 and 26 trainees respectively.
- CRC and EMPRES also supported during the period 10-15 May 2010, a national training course in Dire Dawa for 21 trainees.

Oman

- Only one national training course on Desert Locust survey and control operations was organized and conducted in Zafar, Oman, during the period of 20–25 December 2008 by National Trainers for 12 Desert Locust Officers.
- Mr. Khaled Al Harathy, Technician, was supported to be trained on Maintenance of spray equipment in Agadir, Morocco during the period 20 – 25 October 2008.

Saudi Arabia

- One Train the Trainers (ToT) training course on Desert Locust biology and survey and control operations supported by the Commission to train 20 trainees in Jeddah. The training programme was conducted by the Secretariat of the Commission and one co-trainer from Egypt during the period 08-19 November 2008.
- Twenty six and sixteen trainees participated in two national training courses on Desert Locust biology and survey and control operations in Al Kassim and Jeddah during the periods 28 February – 11 March 2009 and 1-12 May 2010.

Northern Somalia

- In view of prudent development in the Locust Office in Hargeisa, northern Somalia, a new EMPRES Link person and a new DLCO-EA Care taker were appointed. It was therefore very important and urgent to arrange for an intensive training programme both of them on survey, information collection and equipment used: also on ground control operations using backpack and handheld sprayers. This training was supported by CRC-EMPRES, organized and conducted by DLCO-EA Expert at Dire Dawa, Ethiopia during the period 24-29 May 2010.

Syria and Sultanate of Oman

- a) The Commission organized two Sub-regional training courses on DL biology, survey and control operations; the fifth one was conducted in **Damascus**, Syria, 04-12 July 2009 for 22 trainers from Jordan (4), Syria (9), Iraq (4), Lebanon (4) and Algeria (1). The sixth one was held in **Muscat**, in Oman, during the period 22–31 May 2010 for 23 trainees, three from each of Iraq and Bahrain, two trainees from Kuwait and UAE and one trainee from Qatar, in addition to 10 from Oman. The two training courses were conducted by the Secretariat of the Commission with the support of two Egyptian Co-trainers.

Ethiopia

- a) The Commission organized and conducted two Regional Aerial Desert Locust Training Course in Ethiopia and Tanzania during the period 08-11 June 2009 and 02-06 August 2010 respectively, in coordination with the Desert Locust Control Organization for East Africa (DLCO-EA). Two Desert Locust Officers from each of Egypt, Oman, Sudan, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia and one from Syria in addition to representatives from Aerial Spraying Companies/Air Force from Oman, Ethiopia and Syria and DLCO-EA and IRLCO-CSA participated in the training in Nazareth, Ethiopia. The second training was conducted in Moshi, Tanzania for one Desert Locust Officers from each of Egypt, Oman, Sudan, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Eritrea and Ethiopia in addition to representatives from Aerial Spray Companies/Air Force from Egypt, Oman and Syria and also representatives from DLCO-EA and IRLCO-CSA, total number of trainees was 19. The training was conducted during the period by trainers from DLCO-EA with the support of the Secretary of the Commission as a lecturer and an information resource.

IR Iran

- a) CRC assisted the Commission for controlling the Desert Locust in South-West Asia (SWAC) in organizing and conducting an inter-regional workshop to train national Desert Locust Master Trainers on Desert Locust Survey and Control Operations in Ramsar, IR Iran from 08 to 13 May 2010, trainees (12) were from Iran, Pakistan and India (SWAC), and from Ethiopia, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Lebanon and Syria (CRC); trainers were from DLIS, CRC and Master trainers from Egypt and Oman.

Egypt

- a) CRC, in coordination with the Desert Locust Information Service (DLIS) and the Locust Control Centre in Egypt held the second and third workshops on RAMSES and eLocust2 in Cairo, the first during the period 27-28 May 2009 with the participation of Locust Control Information Officers of frontline countries from Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. Also the Information Officers of Iran, India and Pakistan in the Western Region participated in the workshop in addition to the Information Officer from DLCO-EA and Libya. An expert from the western region also participated. The third workshop was held during the period 18-19 May 2010 with only one Information officer from the above mentioned member countries with the exception of

Somalia. The objective of the workshop was to conduct informal discussions on the use and improvement of the RAMSES, eLocust2 and forecasts and to improve the relationship between the Information Officers and the Head of the Locust Centres.

- b) Also in the coordination with the First Officer of the Desert Locust in FAO HQ and Locust Control Centre in Egypt, the Commission supported a workshop on Contingency Planning during the period 02-06 August 2009. Representatives from front line countries: Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Yemen in addition to DLCO-EA. A recommendation was made on standard operating procedures and guidelines on preparing a contingency planning, prepared by Mr. Christian Pantenius. Also the final electronic version of the contingency planning in different scenarios according to the extent of the infestation. A consultant was recruited By FAO for the preparation of the electronic program.
- c) The Commission, in coordination with the Commission in the Western Region, held a workshop on testing spray equipment used in Desert Locust control operations in Ismailia, 10- 14 May 2009. Specialists in this field from Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen and from Morocco as a representative from the Western Region in addition to a consultant recruited by FAO, took part in this workshop. Nine sprayers were assessed (1 hand held, 2 backpack and six vehicle mounted sprayers) presented by three companies. A detailed report on the workshop was produced containing the required recommendation necessary for member countries, commissions and organizations, available on the CRC-EMPRES website.

Yemen

- In August 2010, the Desert Locust Information Officer, Mr. Said Al-Mammary Desert Locust Information Officer in Yemen joined the DLIS office in Rome for eleven months to be trained on new technology programme.

2. Mid term training:

- a) Since the suspension of the Diploma studies after the academic year 2008/2009, the number of diploma students that have obtained the diploma since 2001 up to the academic year 2007/2008 is 43, distributed as follows:

Sudan-12, Egypt-8, Yemen-7, Ethiopia-5, Saudi Arabia-2, Eritrea-1, Jordan-1, Oman-1, Syria-2, Iraq-2, Libya-1 and India-1.

- b) The Commission regrets that up to now a number of the diploma graduates did not receive their graduation certificates, their distribution as per the below table:

S/N	Name	Academic year	Country
1	Ebrahim Osman Afendi	2001/2002	Eritrea
2	Hussein Masoud Abu Bakr	2002/2003	Libya
3	Sabir Singh	2002/2003	India

4	Girmay Shinun Hailu	2007/2008	Ethiopia
5	Hamdy Mohamed Fikri	2007/2008	Egypt

The below table shows the recently (06/09/2010) received certificates

S/N	Name	Academic year	Country
1	Abdurahman Faiz Al-Saigh	2005/2006	S. Arabia
2	Mohamed Abdel Fatah Eid	2005/2006	Egypt
3	Mohamed Mostafa Mohamed	2005/2006	Egypt
4	Osama Rabie Mostafa	2005/2006	Egypt
5	Ashur Muftah AlZubari	2006/2007	Yemen
6	Hikmat Fadhel	2006/2007	Iraq
7	Osama Taha Mahmoud	2006/2007	Egypt

- c) Students in their final year at the University of Sudan for Sciences and Technology are still studying Desert Locust subjects in their syllabus and it is now an essential part in the studies of final year students.

3. Long term training:

1. In 2010, the student, Mr. Osama Rabie Mostafa, from Egypt started his M.Sc. studies at the University of Sheffield Hallam. He is expected to finish his studies in January 2011. As for the M.Sc. Hussein Abaker Osman from Sudan, he will join the University of Salford in the United Kingdom to study GIS in September 2010, finishing in September 2011.
2. The Commission has announced for the new Master Degree for 2010-2011 to all member countries, such that the study can be accomplished in any university in the region or beyond, so as to benefit from the expertise of other universities in the region or worldwide. Thirteen applications were received from five countries (3 from Iraq, 3 from Sudan, 3 from Ethiopia, 3 from Egypt and 1 from Syria).

The information contained in the proposals about the competitors can be summarized as follows:

- The **Omani** Government sent an apology to the Commission for being unable to nominate a candidate.
- **Suhailah Jaber Tarrad, Maysam Abdulmuhsin Mohammed and Mahmood Matrood Salman** from **Iraq**: The age of the competitors was a condition for the Masters Degree study so as it does not exceed 35 years old and in this case the age 52, 47 and 56 years, of the three Iraqi candidates were exceeding 35 years. Also some of the required information is missing. The Secretariat of the Commission considers the exclusion of these competitors.
- **Ibrahim Guma Mohammed Adam, Montaser Al Hady Abdelsalam Hassan and Yahia Abdalla Mohammed** from **Sudan**: Montaser Al Hady and Yahia Abdalla were excluded because of Montaser age (38 years) and Yahia does not involved in locust activities, particularly the M.Sc. research study will focus on the following topic:

Improve Sampling for Monitoring Desert Locust Populations

The searcher should focus on:

1. Undertake a literature review on sampling locust populations (Desert Locust, Migratory, Red, Moroccan, and Australian Plague);
2. Identify different sampling methods to estimate numerical and spatial changes in solitarious Desert Locust adult and hopper populations;
3. Propose appropriate sampling methods for item 2;
4. Field test the proposed sampling methods and compare their statistical and spatial accuracy against a known population in different habitats (wadis, plains, interdunes) at different times of the year (beginning, middle and end of rainy season during summer, winter and spring);
5. Use a GIS to analyze and display results and conclusions

It is to be mentioned that the candidate **Ibrahim Guma Mohammed Adam**, in addition to his good experience in field survey and control of locust, he works also in the Desert Locust Information Office and has good knowledge in Information technology

Neither studied the Desert Locust Diploma, hence could not be considered as per the recommendation of the 24th CRC Session, in which priority is given to those who have acquired the Diploma degree.

- The candidate **Wae'l Mohamed Farhat** application from **Syria** was excluded because of his age (37 years) and his grade in his B.Sc. certificate was not very good as one of the Commissions's required condition.
- The **two** candidates **Konjit Feleke Belete** and **Girmay Shinun Hailu** applications from **Ethiopia** were rejected because their ages (39 and 46 years). Considering the research title and topic, it was not that the candidate **Mulalem Mersha Ayele** is not involved in locust activities and has no background or experience, his application was rejected.
- The three **Egyptian** competitors **Mohamed Mostafa Mohamed Amin**, **Mohamed Abdel Fatah Eid Ali** and **Osama Taha Mahmoud**, aged are below 35 years. The three work in the field and have good knowledge on locust operations, additionally the candidate **Osama Taha Mahmoud** works in the Desert Locust information Office and has good knowledge in information technology.

As mentioned earlier regarding the Commission's topic of study, field experience and information technology knowledge are required in order to undertake such study.

Considering the above analysis, two candidates are competing for this study:

- **From Sudan**
Ibrahim Guma Mohammed Adam, works in the field and Information Office
- **From Egypt**
Osama Taha Mahmoud, works in the field and Information Office

Referring to the research topic, the Secretariat of the Commission considers the exclusion of those competitors who do not work in the Desert Locust management and in information technology.

In view of the above, a committee made up of the Secretariat of the Commission, EMPRES/CR and DLIS have selected **Ibrahim Guma Mohammed Adam** from Sudan and **Osama Taha Mahmoud** from Egypt, to benefit from the Commission's M. Sc. sponsorship, since they both fulfilled the Commission's criteria. It is therefore to the Commission Session to discuss the matter for final decision to choose one competitor for this study.

Points of discussion:

1. What is the extent of success of the national train the trainers TOT training course, as was conducted in Saudi Arabia and Eritrea?
2. After the suspension of the Diploma study, what are the alternatives which can be supported in the Mid-term training?
3. How can Diploma Graduates be able to get hold of their certificates? Representative from Sudan to discuss the issue.
4. For the last three years, no national training was organized in Sudan, what would be the reasons? And how can these reasons be solved and national training courses are encouraged?

**Candidates nominated for the Commission Master of Science study,
2010-2011**

no.	Nationality	Name.	Age in 2010	University	Certificate Grade	English language	Experience	Service Agreement	Remarks
1	Iraq	Suhailah Jaber Tarrad	52 yrs	Baghdad	1980 diploma no grade	Not available	Not available	Not available	DL S&C training course
2	Iraq	Maysam Abdulmuhsin Mohammed	47 yrs	Mosul	1984 B.Sc. no grade	Not available	Not available	Not available	DL S&C training course
3	Iraq	Mahmood Matrood Salman	56 yrs	Baghdad	1974 diploma no grade	Not available	Not available	Not available	DL S&C training course
4	Sudanese	Ibrahim Guma Mohammed Adam	34 yrs	Sinnar	2002 Excellent honors 1 st Crop Protection	Very Good English Diploma 2003	3 yrs (attached)	5 yrs (attached)	DL S&C training course
5	Sudanese	Montasir Elhady Abdel Salam Hassan	38 yrs	Sudan	1999 2nd class div. 1 Plant Protection	Very Good English Diploma	5 yrs (attached)	5 yrs (attached)	DL Diploma 2004, several DL courses
6	Sudanese	Yahia Abdalla Mohammed	32 yrs	Omdurman Islamic University	2004 very good honors 1 st Crop Protection	Good English Certificate	limited locust experience	5 yrs (attached)	
7	Ethiopian	Mulualem Mersha Ayele	35 yrs	Hawassa	2005 Good Plant Protection	Good	Since 2007 in plant protection (attached) limited locust experience	5 yrs (attached)	Diploma in plant science 2002
8	Ethiopian	Konjit Feleke Belete	39 yrs	Ambo	2007 Good Plant Protection	Good	Since 2009 in plant protection (attached) limited locust experience	5 yrs (attached)	
9	Ethiopian	Girmay Shinun Hailu	46 yrs	Mekelle	2004 Agronomy Good	Good	Since 2009 in plant protection (attached) limited locust experience	5 yrs (attached)	DL Diploma 2007, Diploma in plant science and several various courses & technology
10	Egyptian	Osama Rabie Mahmoud	32 yrs	Ain Shams	1999 Very good Horticulture	Language attendance courses in	6 yrs (attached)	5 yrs (attached)	DL Diploma 2007, DL S&C training course

						Egypt & Sudan			
11	Egyptian	Mohamed Moustafa Mohamed Amin	28 yrs	Assiut	2003 Very Good Plant Disease	Language attendance courses	6 yrs (attached)	5 yrs (attached)	DL Diploma 2006, DL S&C training course
12	Egyptian	Mohamed Abdel Fatah Eid Ali	29 yrs	Assiut	2002 Very Good Plant Protection	Language attendance courses	6 yrs (attached)	5 yrs (attached)	DL Diploma 2006, L S&C training course
13	Syrian	Wae'l Mohamed Farhat	37 yrs	Damascus	Halab	Language attendance courses	9 yrs in plant Protection (attached)	Not available	

Appendix No (6) Research

Background on the research program in the Central Region:

Based on several and constant recommendations, the Commission continues to encourage member countries in the Central Region to submit research proposals in the field of Desert Locust according to priority list, guidelines and formats. These documents are available on the Commission's website (www.crc-empres.com). As it is known, the Commission solely covers the funds of the research study with an amount of US\$ 15,000 from its trust fund.

Status of research studies in the period July 2008 to August 2010:

Research studies during the said period could be summarized in the following:

1. In January 2008, field testing has been carried out on the research proposal presented from Sudan, under the supervision of the University of Khartoum, in coordination with ICIPE field station at Port Sudan under the title:

Use of the IGR Teflubensuron (Nomolt), as a control agent against the Desert Locust, Schistocerca gregaria (Forsk.) alone and combined with Metarhizium anisopliae (Metsch.) and pheromones; Phenyl Aceto Nitrile (PAN) and Nymph Pheromone Blend (NPB).

By October 2009, three progress reports were received in addition to the final report. The researcher has attained in October 2009 his Masters Degree (M. Sc.) from the University of Khartoum; detail of this study and the final report are available on the Commission's website (www.crc-empres.com).

2. The Commission with full coordination with IFAD-Rome supported and funded the research proposal presented by Syria in September 2008 under the title:
Efficacy, shelf life and field application properties of new formulations of Metarhizium anisopliae used against the Desert Locust, Schistocerca gregaria (Forsk.)

The study initiated by the Syrian student Mr. Waleed Jijan, after he obtained the Desert Locust Post Graduate Diploma, was completed in 18 months. The study was under the supervision of the The Red Sea University, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies, Port Sudan, in coordination with ICIPE field station at Port Sudan. The researcher has attained in April 2010 his Masters Degree (M. Sc.), detail of this study and the final report are available on the Commission's website (www.crc-empres.com).

3. In January 2009, the Commission with full coordination with EMPRES approved and supported the research proposal presented by Ethiopia under the title:

Study on host plants species composition and abundance in relation to major soil and environmental factors in habitats of Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria* (Forsk.) in Eastern, Ethiopia.

The researcher Mr. Zebdewos Salato has carried out this study, which will last for two years as of January 2009, expected to be concluded by end of June 2011. The study resumed under the supervision of the College of Agriculture School of Graduate Studies, Hawassa University, Ethiopia and in coordination with the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa. Up to now three progress reports were received, the researcher is expected to acquire Master Degree (M.Sc.) from this study.

4. In May 2010, a research proposal was received from Sudan under the title:

Studies on the persistence of certain locusticides in the environment of the Red Sea coast of Sudan and their effects on some non-target arthropods in comparison with the bio-locusticide (Green Muscle).

The research study prepared and presented by Mr. Talal Mohamed Ali from Sudan, and supposed to last for two years under the supervision of Faculty of Agriculture, University of Khartoum. Regrettably, before the Commission approval of the study, the Plant Protection Directorate (PPD) has blocked the study and according no further progress take place to organize this study.

5. The Secretariat of the Commission continues to make great efforts to sensitize the Directors of Desert Locust Centres in the Central Region to encourage researcher at universities and research centres to present research proposals as per the research priority list, guidelines and formats; and although these documents are available on the Commission's website (www.crc-empres.com), the Commission had received only three research proposal:
 - a) Proposal presented by Sudan, but then blocked by PPD;
 - b) Proposal presented by Syria, the study was concluded; and
 - c) Proposal presented by Ethiopia and study is in progress.
6. With regard to the CRC award of US\$ 5,000 for the outstanding research in the field of Desert Locust, the Commission is still making it available for competition.

Conclusion

1. In spite of sending the research priority list, guidelines and formats to member countries and the continued encouragement by the Secretariat of the Commission, only two research proposals were submitted. How can we encourage universities and research institutes to submit to the Commission research proposals that fulfill the required criteria for scientific research? What would be the mechanism?

Appendix No (7) Publications

The Commission activities on publications since the last 26th Session of the Commission, the 30th Executive Committee Meeting in 2008 and until the 27th Session can be summarized in the following:

1. Translation of the monthly Desert Locust Bulletin:

As it has been the practice for several years, the Desert Locust Information Service (DLIS) of the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome issues a monthly bulletin on the Desert Locust situation in English. Due to the vital information on Desert Locust situation in the bulletin, the countries planned activities, forecast and warnings; the Commission translates the bulletin into Arabic, transforms it into PDF format and circulates it to all concerned authorities worldwide in order to benefit from the information contained. For that reason, the Commission has continued its contract with the same specialized translator in Desert Locust to execute this task.

2. Publication of a Glossary of Technical Expressions and Terms used in the Research Field and in the Control of Desert Locust in English/ Arabic/French

In December 2009, a Glossary of more than 3,000 technical expressions and terms used in the research field and in the control of Desert Locust has been produced electronically in English and Arabic. The compiled English version has been sent to the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region to prepare the French version of the glossary and to add any Arabic terms used in the Western Region. The Commission would like to thank the KCCM department in FAO headquarter in Rome, especially Ms. Ingrid Alldritt for their continuous work to produce the Glossary in its electronic format, which is available at <http://termportal.fao.org/faodl/main/start.do> and also on the CRC-EMPRES website www.crc-empres.org

3. Production of A Field Guide to Vegetation in Desert Locust Breeding Areas:

In collaboration with EMPRES a Field Guide to Vegetation in Desert Locust Breeding Areas and Locust Officer's Field Guide on Locusts and Some Grasshoppers of the Central Region have been prepared and produced in English. In view of these essential publications, it was recommended during the 26th CRC Session to produce them in the Arabic language. In April 2009, the Secretariat of the Commission carried out the translation into Arabic, produced and distributed it to all concerned authorities for the benefit of Desert Locust field staff.

4. Other publications of the Commissions:

- In May 2010, the Secretariat of the Commission produced the report on the Workshop on Spray Equipment Used in Desert Locust Control in Arabic and English, and distributed to all concerned authorities in order to benefit from the recommendations made. The report has also been uploaded on the CRC-EMPRES

website.

- According to the technical development in the Desert Locust survey and Locust2, the Secretariat, in collaboration with DLIS has issued the second version of the SOP for Ground Survey. This has been translated into Arabic and distributed to all concerned authorities, in addition to its uploading on the CRC-EMPRES website.
- The Commission has supported the Commission for controlling the Desert Locust in South West Asia –SWAC in producing the “Train the Trainers” Kit in English and sending them to its member countries.

5. The CRC-EMPRES Website

The Secretariat of the Commission regularly updates the information documentations and the up-coming events presented by the CRC-EMPRES website, which was created by the EMPRES Programme and the Commission since July 2006. The website has been upgraded with visitors counter. The Secretariat faced some difficulties in saving a backup copy of the information on the website, but there are still obstacles presented by the server, that require solutions.

Points for discussion:

1. The Secretariat of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region to brief the meeting on the progress of the translation of the Glossary into French.
2. Views on producing the Glossary in Arabic and English.
3. How to preserve all publications on the CRC website in a form so that all concerned parties can benefit from it without loss?

Appendix No (8) Accounts for 2008 and 2009

Summary of Expenditures of CRC MTF/INT/007/MUL for the year 2008 (final) in US\$

Budget line	Activities	Budget Year 2008	Final Expenditure 2008
5012	Salaries-General Service Staff, to December 2008	73,827	53,587
5013	Consultants	10,000	20,490
5014	Contracts	58,500	18,469
5020	Locally contracted Labour	1,000	
5021	Travel	48,000	70,761
5023	Training	220,000	87,676
5024	Expendable Procurement	13,000	
5025	Non-expendable Procurement	35,000	32,102
5027	Technical Support Services		
5028	General Operating Expenses	20,000	18,419
5040	General Overhead Expenses		3,047
5050	Chargeback		659
5029	Support Cost	63,472	37,104

Total		542,799	342,314
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Summary of Expenditures of CRC MTF/INT/007/MUL for the year 2009 (final) in US\$

Budget line	Activities	Budget Year 2009	Final Expenditure 2009
5012	Salaries-General Service Staff	43,827	61,110
5013	Consultants	10,000	2,400
5014	Contracts	56,500	60,501
5020	Over Time	1,000	
5021	Travel	30,000	53,190
5023	Training	90,000	14,618
5024	Expendable Procurement	13,000	89
5025	Non-expendable Procurement	10,000	18,078
5027	Technical Support Services		
5028	General Operating Expenses	20,000	1,328
5040	General Overhead Expenses		314
5050	Chargeback		
5029	Support Cost	38,822	26,058

Total		313,149	237,686
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Summary of Expenditures of CRC MTF/INT/007/MUL for the year 2010 in US\$

Budget line	Activities	Budget Year 2010	Expenditure up to 31 August 2010
5012	Salaries-General Service Staff	63,996	36,005
5013	Consultants	10,000	
5014	Contracts	71,500	8,005
5020	Over Time	1,000	302
5021	Travel	48,000	30,758
5023	Training	95,000	84,206
5024	Expendable Procurement	13,000	
5025	Non-expendable Procurement	35,000	-61
5027	Technical Support Services		
5028	General Operating Expenses	20,000	4,196
5040	General Overhead Expenses		
5050	Chargeback		
5029	Support Cost	42,569	21,250
Total		400,065	184,661

Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region

FINAL EXPENDITURE of THE COMMISSION ACCOUNT MTF/INT/007/MUL FOR THE YEAR 2008 (Final)			
Account	Description	Cost US \$	Total Cost US \$
5012	Salaries-General Service Staff		53,587
	Lidia Naguib, G-5, administrative assistant	32,549	
	Driver G-2 Osama Mohamed Hassan	21,474	
	Write back clearing account credit	-436	
5013	Consultants		20,490
	Nugent-PSA-EDI-documentation of the social circumstance of the people in locust affected areas-PO 212559	18,090	
	HARB Mahmoud - 12 DL Bulletins from English into Arabic (PO222867)	2,400	
5014	Contracts		18,469
	NOVACOM Services - 2007 contract differences (PO 202788)	-74	
	Minist of Agric.&Land reclamation,EGY- LoA in support National training course on Desert Locust survey and Control, Ismailia, 16-24/2/08- PO 213564	4,983	
	LoA with Central Inst.for Desert Locust research and control (CIDLRC) in support investigations into promotion of biopesticides in Sudan, using IGR (Nomolt)-PO 213820	13,560	
5021	Travel		70,761

	Al Harthy- 11/1-25/1/08- SAU-training session eLocust2 and RAMSES in SAU (TA 146412)	715	
	Mahgoub Moussa - ref recom.29th Ex com May 07, to visit DL Center Agadir, 18-24/2/08 (TA147854)	2,374	
	Sprayers Maintenance Workshop, Agadir, Morocco, 3-16/2/08:	22,426	
	Dridri (ALG)-EGY/SAU: 12/2-23/2/08-installation and training KSA (TA147984)	4,302	
	Pantenius-SUD: 7/3-13/3/08-briefing Minister (TA149351)	3,311	
	Dridri (ALG)- RAMSES/eLocust2 workshop, Cairo, 22-24/4/08 (TA150313)	1,570	
	Training course Master Trainer SAU, 29/3-9/4/08 Tamer Abdel Hamid (EGY) TA150859	3,506	
	Interregional workshop RAMSES, Cairo, 22.4-25.4.08:	8,835	
	Workshop RAMSES-eLocust 2, Ethiopia, 26-30/5/08, Somali trainees and Hiwot	1,757	
	Training on the maintenance of spray equipment. Morocco. 19-26 October 2008, Al-Harassi	3,991	
	Visit to FAO HQs. Mr. Mamoon Al-Alawi – Oman (TA160363)	2,510	
	DL Training Course in Narok, Kenya 23-28 November 2008 (TA164393) Talal and Yousif	1,040	
	Kareem Yousif Abbas (Iraq) TA140054	3,029	
	Fikry Hamdi (EGY) Airfare - one way	246	
	Shaer nabil Mushed (YEM) Airfare - one way	334	
	26th CRC Session, Oman (DSA +Ticket for executive Committee participation)	10,815	
5023	Training		87,676

	Organization training course by National Centre for Locust Research & Control in Jeddah,SAU,29/3-9/4/08	4,500	
	Organization RAMSES and eLocust2 workshop, 22-24/4/08 in Cairo	2,040	
	4 th sub regional course at Al Fujairah, running cost	5,000	
	In-service TOT Training KSA Fees - Butrous (Posted December 2008)	2,880	
	Fellow for 12 months study DL Control,Univ.Khartoum, Year 2006-2007: Megally - Difference PO 184720	-53	
	BESHAH Tesfaye - 12 months book allowance + 5 months stipend (PO205581) Carry forward from 2007	-10,787	
	AHMED TALAL - 7 months stipend + termination allowance (PO212686)	8,915	
	University of Khartoum - Fees x 5 fellows (PO 213364)	25,000	
	Jijan Waleed(SYR) -PO 213418 - 7 months stipend + termination allowances	12,401	
	Shaer nabil Mushed(YEM) -PO 213419 - 7 months stipend + termination allowances	12,401	
	Kareem Yousif Abbas (Iraq)-PO 213422 - 7 months stipend + termination allowances	12,401	
	Fikry Hamdi (EGY)-PO 213425 - 7 months stipend + termination allowances	12,401	
	FIRKY Hamdi - Internal travel + Medical	115	
	Kareem Yousif Abbas Internal travel + Medical	124	
	AHMED TALAL - Internal travel + Medical	77	
	Shaer Nabil Mushed - Internal travel + Medical	77	
	Jijan Waleed - Internal travel + Medical	184	
5024	Expendable Procurement		
5025	Nonexpendable Procurement		32,102
	TOYOTA Double Cabin Pick-up (PO 226331)	30,922	
	Equipment for LCC Sudan in complement LoA- 1 stabilizer-electric material	1,180	
5027	Technical Support Services		

5028	General Operating Expenses		18,419
	Vodaphone Cairo	433	
	Telecom Egypt - Fax charges	595	
	26th session of CRC commission PP-23174 running cost	16,500	
	DHL Courier Service (Ethiopia)	30	
	Butrous - Misc. costs TOT Training KSA Ref. 5610 - charged Dec. 2008	536	
	Insurance for Toyota Pick-up FPO 6-00637	325	
5040	General Overhead Expenses		3,047
	Pouch services and courier	3,047	
5050	Chargeback		659
	Printing	659	
5029	Support Costs		37,104
	(5% on accounts 5024 and 5025)	1,605	
	(13% on all other accounts)	35,504	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR 2008			342,314

EXPENDITURE of THE COMMISSION			
ACCOUNT MTF/INT/007/MUL FOR THE YEAR 2009 (Final)			
Account	Description	Cost US \$	Total Cost US \$
5012	Salaries-General Service Staff		61,110
	Lidia Naguib, G-5, administrative assistant	36,451	
	Driver G-2 Hassan Osama Mohamed,	24,415	
	Staff cost variance	244	
5013	Consultants		2,400
	HARB Mahmoud - translation DL Bulletins	2,400	
5014	Contracts		60,501
	difference on Vizada contract for traffic charges 2008-PO 207406	-7,200	
	Novacom Services - New Cotract for Activation, subscription and traffic expenses 2009 PO 237457	43,125	
	Vizada Contract for Subscription 11 Sat Phones - PO241265	17,500	
	Truition Fees Zebdewos Salato -Ethiopia	7,076	
5021	Travel		53,190
	Visit locust Centre in Algeria (Abdulsalam, Almohamedh, Balkhur)	10,953	
	4th Sub-Regional Training course Fujairah, UAE, 24/5-3/6/08 - charges posted and corrected in Feb. 2009	36,380	
	Soliman, Kamal - 2nd Inter-Regional Training Course at RNE	1,282	
	Khalil Rabie - trip to Ismailia, Egypt May 2009	803	
	2nd Arial Course, Nazareth, Ethiopia June 2009 Mr. Abdelsalam	1,358	
	Workshop Estalishment Pesticide Stewardship, Ethiopia August 2009, 2 Air tkts	878	
	Mr. Moustafa Osama, Fellowship mission to London-Sheffield	623	
	Bahakim Fuad Mohammed Yemen Duty TravelR910011665	913	
5023	Training		14,618

	Megally Mohamed - Medical expenses claim and internal travel	46	
	Jijan Waleed - 12 months ad hoc stipend (PO 231474)	12,000	
	Tuition Fees Jijan at Red Sea University (PO 240075)	1,472	
	Supervision Fees ICIPE fellow Jijan	1,100	
5024	Expendable Procurement		89
	Sudan - 1 portable H.D. 120 GB El-Fangary Engineering Company	89	
5025	Nonexpendable Procurement		18,078
	Toyota Gibraltar FPO 6-00637 Toyota Pick-up - balance on PO 226331 (2008)	-1,530	
	Toyota Egypt L/C Prado GX5 (PO 230295)	30,840	
		2,085	
		240	
	Dell Computer Latitude E4300 Laptop (FPO 6-00663)	54	
	VIZADA - 2 Standard Scratch Cards for SAT Phones (PO 240522)	-13,611	
	Seyoun Tesfa Purchase of import permit		
	RNEX - distribution of misc. receipts		
5027	Technical support services		
5028	General Operating Expenses		1,328
	Vehicle Insurance Pool	119	
	Telecom Egypt (Fax charges)	189	
	Vodaphone Cairo	451	
	Insurance for Dell Computer Laptop	4	
	Sudanese Mobile Telephone Company - 1 DSL device	52	
	Bahakim Fuad Mohammed (FAOR Yemen)	513	
5040	General Overhead Expenses		314
	Pouch services	314	
5050	Chargeback		
	Printing		
5029	Support costs		26,058
	(5% on accounts 5024 and 5025)	908	
	(13% on all other accounts)	25,150	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR 2007			237,686

EXPENDITURE Of THE COMMISSION			
ACCOUNT MTF/INT/007/MUL FOR THE YEAR 2010 (upto August)			
Account	Description	Cost US \$	Total Cost US \$
5012	Salaries-General Service Staff		36,005
	Abdel-Shahid Lidia Naguib (present NTE 30 June 2010)	24,838	
	Driver G-2 Hassan Osama Mohamed	1,897	
	Mr. Mohsen Mohamed (NTE 31 Dec. 2010)	9,270	
5013	Consultants		
5014	Contracts		8,055
	Zebdewos Salato -Ethiopia - Instalment as per LoA	8,055	
5020	Overtime		302
	Lidia Naguib	63	
	Mohsin Mohamed	239	
5021	Travel		30,758
	SWAC/CRC Inter-regional Workshop Desert Locust Master. Trainers Training of the Trainers, Ramsar, Iran.	15,152	
	Mahgoub participation 3rd Aerial training course	1,276	
	Mahfoud participation 3rd Aerial training course	2,026	
	Mustag participation 3rd Aerial training course	1,539	
	Solomon participation 3rd Aerial training course	2,406	
	Torkostani participation 3rd Aerial training course	2,163	
	AIEssai participation 3rd Aerial training course	1,607	
	Osama Taha participation 3rd Aerial training course	1,549	
	The Inter-Regional Workshop, Cairo 18-19 April 2010 Kamal and Talal.	2,619	
	Return home travel for Syrian FAO fellow who has completed his studies at the University of the Red Sea in Sudan	421	
5023	Training		84,206

	Moustafa Osama stipend + book allowance/Misc. expenses	26,938	
	Moustafa Osama ANE 189484 Jan 2010 ticket	623	
	Hussein Abaker 1st and 2nd stipend, book allowance and reimbursement for visa expenses	7,670	
	Running cost of reg aerial training course Tanzania	2,328	
	Cost of the 6 th sub-reg training course, DSA and running cost Oman	37,851	
	Jijan Waleed - final month Stipend - (PO 250524)	1,000	
	Course fees Sheffield University (PO252727)	6,696	
	Adnan Sulaiman M. Khan (national training)	1,100	
5024	Expendable Procurement		
5025	Nonexpendable Procurement		-61
	VAT Refund Ethiopia June & July 2009	-61	
5027	Technical support services		
5028	General Operating Expenses		4,196
	Rawash Ramadan F. Settlement of vodafonePP26522	83	
	Running cost of reg aerial training course Tanzania	583	
	Telecom Egypt (Fax charges)	299	
	Vodaphone Cairo	116	
	Adnan Sulaiman M. Khan - GOE exp (national training).	3,115	
5040	General Overhead Expenses		
	Pouch services		
5050	Chargeback		
	Printing		
5029	Support costs		21,250
	(5% on accounts 5024 and 5025)	0	
	(13% on all other accounts)	21,250	

TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR 2010 till August			184,661
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Appendix No (9) Contribution and Arrears of Member Countries

TRUST FUND No. 9409.00 - MTF/INT/007/MUL Status of Contributions as at 31 December 2008 (Expressed in US\$)

<i>Member Governments</i>	<i>Outstanding 31/12/2007</i>	<i>Contribution due for 2008/09 *</i>	<i>Received up to 31/12/2008</i>	<i>Outstanding 31/12/2008</i>
BAHRAIN	0.00	8,750.00	8,750.00	00.00
DJIBOUTI	6,600.00	1,100.00	0.00	7,700.00
EGYPT	32,540.00	32,540.00	32,540.00	32,540.00
ERITREA¹	4,007.11	4,000.00	8,007.11	0.00
ETHIOPIA	16,013.09	8,000.00	16,013.09	8,000.00
IRAQ	57,500.00	28,750.00	50,060.00	36,190.00
JORDAN	92,400.12	14,357.50	0.00	106,757.62
KUWAIT	0.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00
LEBANON	11,269.42	11,212.50	11,212.50	11,269.42
OMAN	20,031.77	10,000.00	20,000.00	10,031.77
QATAR	12,556.04	12,500.00	25,000.00	56.04
SAUDI ARABIA	0.00	44,035.00	44,035.00	0.00
SUDAN	197,738.79	18,667.50	0.00	216,406.29
SYRIA	33,229.13	16,687.50	16,688.00	33,228.63
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	26,270.00	26,250.00	26,250.00	26,270.00
YEMEN	3,649.41	5,000.00	0.00	8,649.41
TOTAL	513,804.88	266,850.00	283,555.70	497,099.18

* Fiscal Year begins in July

Qatar paid USD 12,500 in March 2008 and USD 12,500 in June 2008

Oman paid USD 10,000 in Feb 2008 and USD 10,000 in June 2008

**TRUST FUND No. 9409.00 - MTF/INT/007/MUL Status of Contributions as
at 31 December 2009 (Expressed in US\$)**

<i>Member Governments</i>	<i>Outstanding 31/12/2008</i>	<i>Contribution due for 2009/10*</i>	<i>Received up to 31/12/2009</i>	<i>Outstanding 31/12/2009</i>
BAHRAIN	0.00	8,750.00	0.00	8,750.00
DJIBOUTI	7,700.00	1,100.00	0.00	8,800.00
EGYPT	32,540.00	32,540.00	65,080.00	0.00
ERITREA	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00
ETHIOPIA	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00	16,000.00
IRAQ	36,190.00	28,750.00	64,940.00	0.00
JORDAN	106,757.62	14,357.50	71,787.50	49,327.62
KUWAIT	0.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00
LEBANON	11,269.42	11,212.50	11,212.50	11,269.42
OMAN	10,031.77	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,031.77
QATAR	56.04	12,500.00	0.00	12,556.04
SAUDI ARABIA	0.00	44,035.00	44,035.00	0.00
SUDAN	216,406.29	18,667.50	37,504.47	197,569.32
SYRIA	33,228.63	16,687.50	16,687.50	33,228.13
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	26,270.00	26,250.00	26,250.00	26,270.00
YEMEN	8,649.41	5,000.00	8,484.65	5,164.76
TOTAL	497,099.18	266,850.00	384,982.12	378,967.06

* Fiscal year begins in July

Jordan paid USD 14,357.50 in January 2009 for their 2008 contribution

Jordan paid USD 57,430 in December 2009 for their 2000, 2002, 2007 contribution

TRUST FUND No. 9409.00 - MTF/INT/007/MUL Status of Contributions as at August 2010 (Expressed in US\$)

<i>Member Governments</i>	<i>Outstanding 31/12/2009</i>	<i>Contribution due for 2010/11*</i>	<i>Received up to August 2010</i>	<i>Outstanding 31/12/2010</i>
<i>BAHRAIN</i>	8,750.00	8,750.00	8,750.00	8,750.00
<i>DJIBOUTI</i>	8,800.00	1,100.00	0.00	9,900.00
<i>EGYPT</i>	0.00	32,540.00	0.00	32,540.00
<i>ERITREA</i>	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00
<i>ETHIOPIA</i>	16,000.00	8,000.00	16,000.00	8,000.00
<i>IRAQ</i>	0.00	28,750.00	0,00	28,750.00
<i>JORDAN</i>	49,327.62	14,357.50	14,357.50	49,327.62
<i>KUWAIT</i>	0,00	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00
<i>LEBANON</i>	11,269.42	11,212.50	11,212.50	11,269.42
<i>OMAN</i>	10,031.77	10,000.00	0.00	20,031.77
<i>QATAR</i>	12,556.04	12,500.00	0.00	25,056.04
<i>SAUDI ARABIA</i>	0.00	44,035.00	44,035.00	0.00
<i>SUDAN</i>	197,569.3 2	18,667.50	0.00	216,236.82
<i>SYRIA</i>	33,228.13	16,687.50	16,688.00	32,227.63
<i>UNITED ARAB EMIRATES</i>	26,270.00	26,250.00	0,00	52,520.00
<i>YEMEN</i>	5,164.76	5,000.00	0.00	10,164.76

<i>T O T A L</i>	378,967.06	266,850.00	140,043.00	505,774.06
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Lebanon payment of USD 11,212.50 in Feb 2010 refers to year 2008

Balance available as at 30 August 2010 is: US\$ 2,252,336.00

Conclusion & points for discussion:

It is clear from the above tables of the status of the member countries contributions and their arrears that:

1. Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates are paying their contributions regularly.
2. Eritrea and Ethiopia are paying their contributions regularly since joining the Commission.
3. Lebanon is paying its annual contribution after the cancellation of its 50% arrears in 2004, with arrears amounting to \$11,269.42
4. Sudan is paying their annual contribution, irregularly, after the

cancellation of their 50% arrears in 2004, with arrears amounting to \$ 216,236.82. This is the highest outstanding payment to the Commission.

5. Iraq is paying its annual contribution regularly after the cancellation of its 50% arrears in 2006, and freezing of the second 50%
6. The settlement of contributions/arrears of the countries, Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Yemen are not regular.
7. Djibouti has not paid its contribution since adhesion to the Commission in 2002.

How member countries can be encouraged to pay the annual contribution and to settle their arrears?

Appendix No (10) Workplan and budget for 2010-2011

Detailed Proposals for Biennial Budget of CRC MTF/INT/007/MUL for the years 2010 & 2011			
Budget Line	Activities	2010	2011
5012	Salaries-General Service Staff		
	Secretary	35,316	35,316
	Driver	28,680	28,680
	Total	63,996	63,996
5013	Consultants	10,000	10,000
	Total	10,000	10,000
5014	Contracts		
	Research	40,000	40,000
	Publication	15,000	15,000
	Translation	3,000	3,000
	Copying	1,000	1,000
	Annual fees for eLocust2 transmission	19,000	19,000
	CRC-EMPRES website server	3,000	3,000
	Total	81,000	81,000

5020	Over Time	1,000	1,000
	Total	1,000	1,000
5021	Duty Travel		
	27 th CRC Session and 31 st Executive Committee Meeting	30,000	
	Five exchange scientific visits	10,000	10,000
	Chairman travel to Rome to present the 26 th CRC Session report.	3,000	
	Chairman travel, various	5,000	5,000
	Total	48,000	15,000
5023	Training & joint survey		
	National and sub-regional	35,000	35,000
	Regional Aerial Training course	25,000	
	M. Sc. Scholarship	25,000	25,000
	Joint Survey	10,000	10,000
	Total	95,000	70,000
5024	Expendable Procurement		
	Spare parts	3,000	3,000
	Support to member countries	10,000	10,000
	Total	13,000	13,000
5025	Non-expendable Procurement		
	Books, publications and survey equipment	30,000	30,000
	Unforeseen	5,000	5,000

	Total	35,000	35,000
5027	Technical Support Services		
	Total		
5028	General Operating Expenses		
	Meetings, reception, equipment, communications, stationary, etc.	20,000	20,000
	Total	20,000	20,000
5040	General Overhead Expenses		
	Total		
5029	Support Cost (13%)		
	5% on accounts 5024 & 5025	2,400.00	2,400.00
	13% on all other accounts	41,469.48	33,929.48
	Total	43,869.48	36,329.48

Grand Total	410,865.48	345,325.48
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Appendix No (11) Other business

1. Strengthening the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region.
2. With reference to the Egyptian Contingency Planning for Desert Locust, the General Department for Locust and Agro-Aviation Affairs (GDLAAA), Egypt submitted to the Commission on 29.6.2010 a request for support of the following items, which were identified as shortages:
 - Two Choline-esterase kits.
 - One Drum crusher.
 - Six mobile HF radio.
3. The continuation of the joint survey across the Sudanese-Egyptian border.
4. The representative of Lebanon request for support with training equipment.
5. The professional status of the Admin Assistant and how can we assure her continuity in the Secretariat of the Commission.

Strengthening the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region

This paper has been prepared to clarify a number of subject matters that play an important role in the Commission's activities and performance. Establishment of the Commission, member countries, Secretariat, responsibilities, constraints and the future orientation of the Commission will be addressed and discussed.

- **The Establishment of the Commission**

Under the Article XIV the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region (CRC) was established within the framework of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The agreement for the establishment of the Commission was approved by the FAO Council at its 44th Session in July 1965 (Resolution 6/44), under the authority of the Conference (Eleventh Session, 1961, Resolution 9/61) and on the recommendation of a Special Conference held in Beirut (1965).

The Commission was established under the name **Desert Locust Commission in the Near East**, the Agreement came into force on 21 February 1967 and was amended by the Commission at its Seventh Session (1976). The Twentieth Session of the Commission, held in Cairo from 18-20 December 1994, considered renaming the Region "Central Region" and consequently modifying the name of the Commission and the Agreement. It also considered modifying the definition of the Region covered by the Agreement to make it possible for Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia to become Members of the Commission. This was approved by the Council at its Hundred and Eighth Session (Rome, 5-14 June 1995). An emblem was chosen for the Commission, which was changed by the 25th Session of the Commission that was held in Doha, Qatar in the period 25th May – 01 June 2006.

It was not clear why the seat of the Commission moved between Rome, Italy and Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; the current Headquarter is in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt. The Sessions of the Commission are normally held at its seat; however, it could be convened elsewhere in consultation with the Director-General of the Organization, in following of the decision of the Commission at a previous session.

- **Member countries of the Commission**

Until 2002, the Commission in the Central Region consisted of 13 member countries: ***Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, United Arab Emirates and Yemen***. The last three countries that joined the Commission were ***Djibouti*** in 2002, ***Ethiopia*** in 2004 and ***Eritrea*** in 2006; the number of member countries in the Commission became sixteen. Therefore, membership of countries in the Commission was completed, consequently the Commission will ensure to play its role and responsibilities in these countries. Unfortunately, and in view of the current unfortunate circumstances in Somalia, it was not possible for the country to join the Commission, nevertheless locust operations and activities are supported through the Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases (EMPRES); FAO's Special Programme initiated by the Director-General of FAO in 1995 to initially combat the Desert Locust and Rinderpest.

- **Secretariat of the Commission**

The Secretariat of the Commission consists of the following staff:

1. Secretary of the Commission (P5) appointed by the FAO Director General, his expenses, salary and official missions are covered by the Regular Programme (RP) fund.
2. Administrative Assistant (G5), her expenses, salary and official visits covered by the Commission's Trust Fund (TF).
3. Driver (G2) his expenses, salary and local official visits covered by the Commission's Trust Fund (TF).

Each Member of the Commission undertakes to contribute annually its share of the Budget in accordance with a scale of contributions. Contributions by Members amount to US\$ 266,850 per year made payable to the Trust Fund account in Rome. The Commission may also accept contributions and donations from other sources. All activities and Commission's workplan are covered from the TF.

- **Responsibilities of the Commission**

As per the Establishment Article, the function of the Commission in the Central Region is to plan and promote research and training at national, regional and international levels, also actions relating to survey and control of the Desert Locust to ensure preventive control strategy against Desert Locust infestations that might damage agricultural crops as well as graze lands. Hence, the Commission is contributing to food security and fight against hunger and poverty in Africa and the Middle East in particular in the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea Coast.

In this context the Commission is strengthening the cooperation and coordination between member countries, promoting joint activities at national, regional and international levels in order to carry out Desert Locust survey and control operations whenever and wherever it is necessary. The Commission is providing and supporting the member countries with the necessary references and information regarding Desert Locust, and also with all research results and documentations (available on the Commission website www.crc-empres.org). In this conjunction, and after 1997 when EMPRES Programme became operational, the Commission was brought back to life and its role became more dominant. This resulted in numerous publications and references, in English and Arabic, produced by the Commission; building capacities and creating self reliant national master trainers in the region who are recruited also by other regions to benefit from their training skills. Research is also another field of activity that the Commission, during EMPRES life, initiated, supported and encouraged. The key role that the Commission played within EMPRES in the Central Region was the establishment of the Desert Locust Information Offices in the front-line-countries

i.e. Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen, where these offices were created and strengthened with various equipment in order to receive and analyze Desert Locust and ecology information and hence disseminate it to the concerned staff to undertake their survey/control operations and other actions. All these CRC activities during EMPRES made the original scope and role of the Commission more dynamic as before EMPRES years; the Commission became more powerful, effective and valuable.

Preparedness in human, financial and equipment resources are rather vital in preventive control strategy of Desert Locust, for that reason, EMPRES had introduced contingency planning and encouraged member countries to prepare their national dynamic contingency planning. Needless to mention the importance to put in practice the national contingency plan through organizing field simulation scenarios, but this could not be implemented, simply due to lack of capacity. In addition to advanced technologies such as eLocust2 and remote sensing, new approaches need to be addressed e.g. in the following fields:

- More active use of bio-control agents;
- Environmental monitoring of control operations;
- Mapping of restricted and vulnerable areas

It is therefore up to the Commission's member countries to decide whether they wish to bring back the old Commission or to continue to further strengthen the new more dynamic Commission they experienced as a result of the EMPRES years.

The Commission convenes regular sessions, at least once every two years, in which the Chairman, a vice-Chairman and the Executive Committee members are elected by the delegates. The Executive Committee of the Commission was composed of five members of the Commission, but after the adherence of the three additional countries, Djibouti, Ethiopia and Eritrea, the members of the Executive Committee was raised to seven. Its members and the Chairman are elected by the Commission at each regular session. The Committee meets at least once between any two successive regular sessions of the Commission.

- **Constraints of the Commission**

In spite of the positive role played by the Commission in support of Desert locust operations, e.g. information dissemination, capacity building, support to applied research, there are a number of constraints that added a burden on streamlining the professional situation and obligation of the Commission. Bearing in mind that all technical, monitoring, administrative and political measures of the Commission is handled by one person that might directly jeopardize the technical backstopping in the field. Constraints could be itemized in the following:

1. Lack of technical assistant staff to the Secretariat, made it difficult to sufficiently support, follow up and sustain some of the EMPRES activities such as preparedness, contingency planning and field simulations ;
2. No additional fund or support to the Commission particularly after the

termination of donor support to EMPRES/CR at the end 2005, lead to difficult in implementing the expanded Commission's responsibilities and activities;

3. Irregularity in settling contributions of a number of member countries and accumulated arrears, endanger activities and efficiency of the Commission in the future;
4. Weak response from a number of member countries to send information and implementation of workplans.

- **Recommendations for the Future Orientation of the Commission**

In view of the above constraints, the Secretariat of the Commission is proposing the following points and any further points for discussion:

1. Promote and strengthen the technical work of the Secretariat of the Commission with technical support staff;
2. Identify a mechanism to encourage member countries to pay their contributions and settle their arrears in a more regular manner;
3. Identify a mechanism to encourage member countries and donors to financially support the Commission. This will boost further the technical activities of the Commission and approach additional field of activities to qualify and upgrade locust operations in order to facilitate introduction of new technologies to preventive control strategy of Desert Locust and secure food for all populations particularly in vulnerable areas;
4. Identify mechanisms of establishing an emergency response fund under the Commission
5. The necessity to increase and promote interaction between member countries and the Secretariat of the Commission.