



联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Organisation des Nations
Unies pour l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

Agenda item 7. SWAC: What did the Regional Commission achieve?

Keith Cressman, Executive Secretary, SWAC

Overview and background

The FAO Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in South-West Asia (SWAC), established in 1964, is the oldest and smallest of the three FAO regional locust commissions with only four member countries (Afghanistan, India, I.R. Iran and Pakistan). Consequently, the Executive Secretary duties are carried out by the FAO Senior Locust Forecasting Officer in AGPMM at FAO Headquarters. Similar to the other commissions, SWAC sessions are held every two years, hosted in a rotational manner amongst its member countries.

All activities of SWAC contribute to the strengthening of the national capacities of its member countries in Desert Locust survey, control operations, reporting, training, preparedness, contingency planning, emergency response, biopesticides, and health and safety. The Commission emphasizes the importance of intra- and interregional collaboration and cooperation when implementing Desert Locust early warning and preventive control in order to minimize the duration, frequency and intensity of Desert Locust plagues. Since 1995, I.R. Iran and Pakistan conduct a month-long joint survey every April of the spring breeding areas on either side of their common border in southwest Pakistan and southeast Iran. The results of the joint survey are used to plan for the summer campaign along the Indo-Pakistan border. Since 2005, the Locust Directors and Information Officers (DLIOs) from India and Pakistan attend a Joint Border Meeting held on the India/Pakistan border every month from June to November to exchange information about ongoing survey and control operations. DLIOs from the three frontline countries (India, I.R. Iran and Pakistan) attend a regional workshop as well as an interregional workshop with CRC every year for updated training on data management and analysis.

At the 29th SWAC session and 50th Anniversary in 2016, the member countries agreed to increase the annual contributions to the Trust Fund by 50%, equivalent to USD 107 175. From this amount, the Commission funds the joint survey, eLocust3 usage, participation in national surveys, workshops for DLIOs, Master Trainers and contingency planning, the biennial Commission sessions, and attendance at the DLCC sessions. SWAC contributes to national training workshops, translation of technical material, biopesticide registration, new technologies and improvements to the RAMSES GIS used by DLIOs in all frontline countries of the three commissions.

In early 2019, Iran was invaded by swarms from Arabia and successive generations of breeding gave rise to the worst Desert Locust situation in 25 years during the spring and summer of this year. Although Iran treated nearly 720 000 ha, it was not possible to prevent the migration of spring-bred swarms to the Indo-Pakistan summer breeding areas where intensive operations are still underway by both countries, having treated a total of nearly 400 000 ha so far.

Points for discussion and decisions

- What lessons can be learned from SWAC that are relevant to CLCPRO, CRC and DLCC
- What guidance can DLCC provide to SWAC concerning more effective control campaigns