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منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

Agenda item 8. CLCPRO: What did the Regional Commission achieve?

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Overview and background

The FAO Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region (CLCPRO) was established on 25 February 2002 after approval by the 119th FAO Council session (November, 2000). By September 2006, ten countries (Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Tunisia) had accepted to be members of CLCPRO. The Commission aims to promote national, regional and international action to ensure preventive control and to deal with Desert Locust invasions in the western portion of its distribution area, which covers West and Northwest Africa. Commission sessions are held every two years and the Executive Committee meets every year.

During the 2003–2005 upsurge, more than 12 million hectares were treated and USD 570 million was spent to bring the situation under control. Since then, CLCPRO's member countries have made significant progress in implementing their annual national surveillance and control plans as a result of the commitment of the highest national authorities as well as the EMPRES/FAO programme, which was financed by the ADB (African Development Bank), USAID (United States Agency for International Development), IFAD (The International Fund for Agricultural Development), CLCPRO and FAO.

With the financial support of partners, CLCPRO has developed and established a Monitoring System of National Locust Control Mechanisms (SVDN), a monitoring and evaluation system, the Intervention Force of the Western Region (FIRO) and a Locust Risk Management Plan (PGRA). The Commission has also contributed to improvements made to eLocust for data collection and transmission and to the RAMSES GIS for data management and analysis. CLCPRO strengthened training by implementing four Regional Training Plans (RTP) from 2007 to 2018, while the fourth RTP is currently ongoing (2019–2022). CLCPRO elaborated and implemented two regional research plans (RRP) from 2010 to 2019 with a third RRP (2020–2023) currently being finalized. All the countries validated and implemented the List of Environmental Requirements (*Cahier des charges environnementales*, CCE), which allowed a better management of the pesticides, mapping of the ecological sensitive zones and the introduction of the use of biopesticides.

Concerning financial components, CLCPRO regularly organized ministerial meetings that resulted in the doubling of the annual member contributions and the establishment of the Regional Funding for Locust Risk Management (FRGRA), which was set up in 2018.

Points for discussion and decisions

- Insecurity problems that hamper the deployment of field teams for effective surveys
- Aging national locust staff and difficulties to replace them
- Reduction in the number of pesticides available for locust control
- Lack of motivation for the operational use of biopesticides
- Operational use of drones
- Administrative difficulties related to the introduction of new technologies