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Agenda item 9. CLCPRO: 25th anniversary of EMPRES: Western Region evaluation (Phase II, 2014–2017), successes in the Central and Western Regions – what did we learn??

Mohamed Lemine Hamouny, Executive Secretary, CLCPRO

Overview and background

The Desert Locust component of the Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases (EMPRES) was first initiated in the Central Region (1997–2006) because historically most of the Desert Locust plagues originated from areas around the Red Sea. The EMPRES programme was designed to strengthen national capacities in early warning, early reaction and operational research. In 2006, it was extended to the Western Region so that concerned countries could implement sustainable preventive control at the national, regional and international levels in a coherent and coordinated manner. The main outputs during the two phases (2006–2010 and 2014–2017) in the Western Region were:

- Autonomous National Locust Control Units (NLCU) at the financial and decision-making levels were established in the front-line countries (Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad);
- Meetings of ministers in charge of locust control were institutionalized;
- The annual contribution of member countries to the CLCPRO Trust Fund was increased from USD 229 000 to USD 639 000,000 (Bamako Declaration, 2009) ;
- A regional fund for locust risk management (FRGRA) with funds of USD 6 million and the Intervention Force in the Western region (FIRO) were created (Declaration of Algiers, 2016) and became operational in 2018 to manage locust emergencies;
- Three regional training plans (2006–2009, 2011–2014, 2015–2018) on different aspects of locust management were implemented, resulting in 8 PhD., 27 MSc., 350 master trainers and more than 2 000 locust officers;
- The Desert Locust information network was strengthened further in the Western Region in close collaboration with DLIS in Rome;
- National Locust Contingency Plans were prepared in all countries and simulation exercises were carried out in three countries;
- Eight Desert Locust outbreaks were controlled successfully in the Western Region;
- The capacities of the NLCU to manage pesticide stocks and evaluate pesticide impact on the environment improved through the mapping of ecological sensitive areas and the use of the Scorecard in the Evaluation of the Implementation of the Environmental and Health Standards.

Points for discussion and decisions

- Sustainability of preventive control strategy
- Review of the National Locust Control Unit organigram
- Effective use of digital tools (eLocust3, RAMSES, SVDN, M&E)
- Operational use of innovative technologies such as drones
- Sustainability of Desert Locust information expertise at national and international levels
- Involvement of the local population in Desert Locust surveillance
- Use of biological control