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للأمم المتحدة

## **Agenda item 16. Caucasus and Central Asia (CCA) Locust Programme** *Alexandre Latchininsky, Agricultural Officer / Locust Management, FAO-AGPMM*

### **Overview and background**

Locusts and grasshoppers are a serious threat to some 25 million ha of agriculture in Caucasus and Central Asia. Three main locust pests, the Asian Migratory Locust (*Locusta migratoria migratoria*), the Italian Locust (*Calliptamus italicus*) and the Moroccan Locust (*Dociostaurus maroccanus*), attack a wide variety of crops and natural rangeland vegetation during outbreaks and jeopardize food security and livelihoods of at least 20 million people. During the past ten years, an average of 8.3 million ha was infested in the region every year of which about 4.9 million ha were treated. Since 2011, FAO has been implementing a USD 8.7 million multi-donor, interregional *Programme to improve national and regional locust management in Caucasus and Central Asia (CCA)* to reduce the occurrence and intensity of locust outbreaks in Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Resource partners include the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Turkey.

The programme has created a regional technical network, strengthened national capacities in locust management, and emphasized greater attention to human health and environmental protection. Innovative geospatial tools, the Automated System of Data Collection (ASDC) and the Caucasus and Central Asia Locust Management System (CCALM) locust GIS, have been introduced. Both tools facilitate the regular sharing of locust information between countries. AGPMM has been issuing regional monthly bulletins during locust campaigns since 2010 and maintains Locust Watch CCA ([www.fao.org/ag/locusts-CCA](http://www.fao.org/ag/locusts-CCA)). Nevertheless, there remain a number of challenges:

- Locust information is still not sufficiently standardized, shared and adequately analyzed as ASDC and CCALM are in the introductory phase;
- The use of water-based insecticide formulations still prevails over the use of ultra-low volume (ULV) insecticides for locust control;
- Sustainability of regional cooperation, switching from reactive to prevention and disaster risk reduction, further strengthening of national capacities, and resource mobilization are persistent issues.

### **Points for discussion and decisions**

The purpose of the paper is to share information on the Caucasus and Central Asia (CCA) Locust Programme with the DLCC, and no decision is expected by the Committee.