

DESERT LOCUST TECHNICAL GROUP

2ND MEETING

Working Papers

**held in
Rome, Italy**

13-17 September 1993

**Plant Protection and Production Division
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

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1. Opening Statement (FAO)

To be provided during the meeting.

2. Participants

All members of the Technical Group have been invited to attend comprising the following:

T. Ben Halima (Morocco)
Y. Ashour (Saudi Arabia)
L. Soumare (OCLALAV)
A.M. Karrar (DLCO-EA)
M. Shafi (Pakistan)

In addition the following FAO staff will participate at the meeting:

N.A. Van der Graaff
A. Hafraoui
M. De Montaigne
K. Cressman
B. Zelazny
N. Mahjoub
N. Taher
L. McCulloch (FAO Consultant)

It is also envisaged that Dr Abate will represent the UNDP/FAO Scientific Advisory Committee and will attend the meeting on 16 and 17 September in relation to Agenda Item no 9(c). This would be in line with recommendations arising from the previous meeting of the Group. (Refer Annex 1 for report of previous meeting)

3. Election of Officers

To be determined by the Technical Group at the meeting. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and rapporteur(s) need to be elected.

4. Desert Locust situation and outlook

The most recent Desert Locust Bulletin (No. 179 July 1993) is attached as Annex 2 for information. An update of the current situation will be presented at the meeting.

5. Emergency Actions taken by FAO

FAO has continued to monitor the locust situation and convey regular information on the emerging situation to all interested parties through the Desert Locust Bulletins and, where appropriate, through special warnings. However, one of the major constraints has been the lack of detailed and timely information available from the field and this has impacted on the accuracy of forecasts.

In addition FAO has held a number of briefing meetings with donors and currently affected countries to review the current situation and possible further

additional assistance. Meetings were held in Cairo and Rome in January 1993 and again in Rome in March and July 1993.

At the recent donor meeting held in Rome on 23 July 1993 it was decided that FAO would initiate an appeal by Director-General for additional emergency assistance for Desert Locust control. The appeal was issued on 2 August 1993 and a background paper containing estimates of immediate assistance, particularly for the Sahel, the Maghreb Task Force and South-west Asia, was distributed shortly afterwards. The appeal focused on measures required to ascertain the scale of infestation in the Sahel through ground and aerial survey/control and the re-establishment of the pesticide bank mechanism. A meeting to review the locust situation in West and North-West Africa is provisionally scheduled to be held in Tunis in early September.

Affected countries have also been notified to (re) establish the National Locust Steering Committees.

ECLO has also devoted considerable resources to the formulation of project documents, both ECLO and TCP Emergency projects, and the execution of the activities of these projects.

In addition ECLO has deployed (or is currently deploying) consultants, or in some emergency cases ECLO staff, in most affected countries in response to official requests.

6. Assistance provided

Details of assistance provided by donors, through FAO, for the current emergency are attached as Annex 3. Details of additional bilateral assistance known to have been provided is also included.

7. Strategies for longer term Desert Locust Control

(a) West Africa/North-West Africa

The revised detailed project document will be distributed at the meeting.

(b) Central Region

Several donors have expressed interest in the development of a longer term strategy for Desert Locust control in the Central region. The Netherlands has indicated in principle support for the preparation of a Paper to examine possible options and funding for such a strategy. It is anticipated that FAO will prepare this initial paper in late 1993. If reaction is favourable the next step would be to prepare a more detailed, costed proposal for the donor in collaboration with the affected countries of the region and to seek the views and support of other donors for possible funding.

(c) DLCC Donor Trust Fund

A possible mechanism to provide funds for Desert Locust activities through the creation of a multi-donor trust fund will be discussed at the meeting.

8. Desert Locust Training

(a) Activities

A number of locust information and forecasting officers have received training at FAO headquarters under the Belgium funded project (GCP/INT/517/Bel). Training in various aspects of environmental research and ecotoxicology has also been carried out through the LOCUSTOX project based in Senegal.

(b) Proposals

It was proposed to hold a regional workshop on Desert Locust control in Mauritania in the second half of 1993. However, the Mauritanian authorities recently requested that this be postponed and no indication of possible future dates for the workshop has been received.

Training activity priorities and the allocation of scholarships from the DLCC Trust Fund should also be discussed at the meeting.

(c) Funding

Most recent training carried out by FAO, as indicated above has been funded through the Belgium project. However, this project is due to end in late 1993 and most activities will have been completed. Once this project ends training funds will be limited mainly to the DLCC and regional trust funds.. Consideration needs to be given to possible future funding through a specific training project or by the inclusion of training in new projects such as the longer term projects for Desert Locust control.

9. Desert Locust Research

(a) General

Bilateral donors and FAO have continued research efforts on improving chemical control of the Desert Locust and on finding alternative, environmentally acceptable control methods. Particular emphasis has been placed on semio-chemical and microbial research and on examining the environmental impact of chemical control methods. Trials against the African Migratory Locust in Madagascar using chitin-synthesis inhibitors as barrier sprays have given promising results and have indicated that it might be also possible to use them against the Desert Locust. Chitin-synthesis inhibitors would be safer to humans and would have fewer adverse effects on the environment, compared to presently used pesticides. If barrier treatment would prove feasible, it would also reduce the areas to be sprayed considerably which would translate into logistic and economic advantages. Cage trials under field conditions with chitin-synthesis inhibitors and the fungal pathogen *Metarhizium* against Desert Locust have given satisfactory results.

Activities of the UNDP/FAO Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) have been summarised and are attached as Annex 4 for information and discussion.

Due to the current emergency FAO has considered the revision of the Desert Locust Research Register to be of low priority.

(b) Research Planning

The FAO International Workshop on Research and Planning for Desert Locust Control was held in Marrakech, Morocco from 24-28 May 1993. The report of the meeting is attached as Annex 5 for information and discussion.

As indicated by the relevant recommendations of the 32nd session of the DLCC there is a need for greater collaboration between SAC and DLCC. It is expected that Dr T. Abate will represent SAC in the meeting on 16 and 17 September and participate in discussions on this matter. The Technical Secretary of SAC (B. Zelazny) will also attend the meeting. It has been suggested that SAC and DLCC jointly formulate a research programme which could be submitted to donors participating in the Consultative Group on Locust Research (CGLR). Some initial suggestions from SAC on research topics which could form part of such a collaborative SAC/DLCC research programme are attached as Annex 6 for consideration and discussion.

(c) Research Funding

Possible mechanisms for collaboration between DLCC and donors (e.g. CGLR) for funding Desert Locust research, particularly in locust-affected countries, need to be discussed at the meeting.

10. Pesticide Disposal

A project proposal, funded by the Netherlands, has recently been approved. Details of the project (Annex 7) will be available at the meeting.

11. Environmental matters

Research on the environmental impact of pesticides has continued through the LOCUSTOX project in Senegal. This project is also examining operator exposure to pesticides using different types of equipment.

12. Preparation of agenda for DLCC

The Working Group is mandated to prepare the provisional agenda for the next (33rd) Session of the Desert Locust Control Committee. A provisional agenda should be finalised during the meeting.

13. Other matters arising from 32nd Session of DLCC

Any other matters should be brought to the attention of the meeting for discussion.

14. Other Business

Any other matters should be brought to the attention of the meeting for discussion.

15. Date and Place of Next Meeting

- To be decided by the Working Group at the meeting