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DESERT LOCUST CONTROL COMMITTEE

Thirty-eighth Session

Rome, 11-15 September 2006

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION FOR CONTROLLING THE DESERT LOCUST IN THE CENTRAL REGION DURING THE PERIOD 2004-2006

(Agenda Item 7c)

Introduction

A number of activities, either organized or supported by the Commission, have been carried out during the period January 2004-May 2006. Regular and close collaboration between the CRC and the EMPRES/CR Programme was one of the main achievements during Phase III of the programme till the end of December 2005. In view of the DL situation during early 2004 to early 2005 and in order that the countries in the Central Region were well prepared, the Commission, with EMPRES/CR, played an important role in combatting the Desert Locust outbreak/upsurge (of October 2003) up to April 2004 and the swarm invasion (of October 2004) up to January 2005. Measures taken against the Desert Locust were presented in the Extraordinary Session of the DLCC meeting, held in November 2004.

Other CRC activities are summarized below:-

I. Training on Desert Locust management:

Short-term:

- The **First Sub-regional training course** on aspects of Desert Locust biology, survey and control was organized and conducted in Amman, Jordan in May 2005; trainees were from, Egypt (2) Iraq (4), Jordan (9), Lebanon (4) and Libya (1). Trainers were the CRC Secretary and a co-trainer from Lebanon. The **Second Sub-regional training course** was conducted in Doha, Qatar in April 2006; trainees were from Bahrain (2), Iraq (4), Kuwait (3), Qatar (5) and UAE (3); co-trainers were from Oman and Sudan.
- A number of national training courses was organized, supported and conducted in 2004; in Egypt (1), Oman (1), Qatar (1), Sudan (3) and Yemen (2). In 2005: in Djibouti (1), Egypt (3), Eritrea (1), Ethiopia (1), Oman (1) Saudi Arabia (1), Syria (1), Sudan (4) and Yemen (1). Also a number of local training courses were conducted for labourers and farmers in Sudan (2) and Yemen (1).
- The Commission supported the participation of two co-trainers in the Yemen national training course and one Djiboutian in the Niger Regional Training Course. Also on-

the-job training was provided for RAMSES and eLocust in Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt by using national expertise.

Mid-term:

The Commission, jointly with EMPRES/CR, has supported the Desert Locust Management Diploma course at the University of Khartoum, Sudan. The fourth group of students graduated in 2005 and the fifth group is expected to graduate in August 2006. This will bring the total number of students that have studied and graduated to 32, (Sudan 10, Egypt 6, Yemen 4, Ethiopia 4, Saudi Arabia 2, and one from each of Eritrea, Oman, Jordan, Syria, Libya and India). The sixth group of six students will hopefully be enrolled this year.

The Diploma course was evaluated in July 2005 by an independent consultant. The Final Report of the evaluation has been cleared and circulated. It was agreed that the general objective of the post Graduate Diploma was valid and that its continuation should be supported. A number of recommendations were made, addressing different issues that should be considered and implemented by FAO and the University.

Long-term:

The Commission funded one M. Sc. Fellowship for an Egyptian in 2004. He is currently in his 2nd year at the University of Khartoum, Sudan, and is expected to graduate in August 2006. One additional M. Sc. Fellowship is to be offered by the CRC to its member countries for 2007.

II. Research:

The current status of the research is:

- ◆ The research study (**Impact of pesticides used in DL operations on the honeybee and other non-target organisms in Yemen**) at the University of Aden in Yemen was completed in January 2004. Approval of the final technical report was given by Desert Locust Monitoring & Control Centre, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.
- ◆ In May 2004 the research study (**Relationship between DL infestation, environmental factors and the impact on control measures**) at the University of King Faisal, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was completed. Due to its poor quality, the report has neither been accepted by CRC/EMPRES nor the National Locust Center, Ministry of Agriculture. The study has been closed.
- ◆ The Commission, with EMPRES/CR, has followed up two research studies at the University of Khartoum in Sudan: The first started in August 2004 (**The effect of PAN on non-target organisms**), but since the researcher failed to fulfill his obligations, the study was closed in October 2005. The second started in May 2003 (**The distribution of Desert Locust in relation to herbage quality in the Red Sea coast of Sudan**). The final report was received in December 2005, and the Commission approved the final report. The researcher obtained his M.Sc.
- ◆ The research study (**Effect of Green Muscle on locusts and grasshoppers**) started in August 2003 under the supervision of the Research Institute in Egypt. The final report was received in December 2005. A final financial report is pending.
- ◆ The on-going research study: **Field evaluation of Green Muscle against grasshoppers in Ethiopia** under the supervision of the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) started in April 2005. The first progress report has been received and the research investigation will continue in 2006.

III. Joint-Survey:

Joint-surveys were supported and executed as follows:

- 2nd and 3rd joint-border-surveys between Saudi Arabia and Yemen during January 2004 and 2005;
- 4th joint-border-survey between Egypt and Sudan during February 2005; and the 5th in March 2006;
- 1st joint-border-survey between Djibouti and Somaliland during March 2004;

- 4th Saudi Arabia/Yemen and the 2nd Djibouti/Somaliland joint-border-surveys in 2006 were not undertaken due to changes in the set up of the locust units in Saudi Arabia and in Somaliland.

IV. Publications:

The Commission undertook the responsibility for the following publications:

- ◆ the routine translation of the FAO bulletin into Arabic and its wide distribution;
- ◆ Arabic translation of the Guidelines on Minimum Requirements for Agricultural Pesticide Application Equipment (Volume 4, Ground-based locust & grasshopper sprayers);
- ◆ CRC-EMPRES/CR produced English and Arabic Trainer's Manual Kit & circulated it widely;
- ◆ Campaign and training impact check lists of S & C operations were finalized and circulated;
- ◆ A work plan was prepared to produce a Desert Locust Glossary English/Arabic/French; a consultant was recruited; 1st stage of the Glossary is expected to be concluded by June 2006;
- ◆ CRC-EMPRES/CR produced a Website, intended to provide information on the member countries: profiles, activities, reports and references; provided with different applications and links. The website complements and does not duplicate the DLIS Locust Watch webpage.
- ◆ In collaboration with EMPRES, the Desert Locust Index Cards for Locusts and Grasshoppers was prepared and distributed widely in October 2005.
- ◆ In collaboration with EMPRES and DLIS, Standard Operating Procedures and a Poster for Radio Communication for Mobile Teams and Field Stations is under preparation.
- ◆ As recommended by the 27th Executive Committee Meeting in Khartoum, Sudan 2005, the Secretariat of the Commission has obtained several designs to select a new logo replacing the current logo; activity is in progress.

V. The Commission Membership:

Successful efforts had been made to encourage three EMPRES/CR non-CRC member countries to join the Commission.

- At the 23rd CRC Session in 2002, Djibouti officially became member # 14 of the CRC;
- At the 24th CRC Session in 2004, Ethiopia officially became member # 15 of the CRC;
- At the 25th CRC Session in 2006, Eritrea officially became member # 16 of the CRC.

Other Activities:

The Secretary of the Commission participated in and/or organized the following events (not mentioned in the previous activities):

1. The Commission organized and prepared for the 24th Session of the CRC in Saudi Arabia 2004, the 27th Executive Committee meeting in Sudan 2005, and the 25th Session in Qatar in May 2006;
2. Due to the increase in the number of CRC member countries (16), the establishment Agreement of the Commission was amended in 2005 in order to increase the number of the Executive Committee to 7 instead of 5.
3. 12th & 13th EMPRES/CR Liaison Officers meeting in Egypt and Yemen, 2004 and 2005;
4. 3rd and 4th EMPRES/WR Liaison Officers meeting in Senegal, Jan.2005 & in Algeria 2 Feb. 2006;
5. 6th Consultative Committee meeting, Egypt 2005;
6. Travelled to Mauritania, participating in the DLCC-TG meeting in 2004;
7. With EMPRES/CR Coordinator, evaluated the DL habitat in southern Egypt in 2005;
8. 1st Executive Committee and 3rd CLCPRO Session in Niger and Libya in 2004 and 2005;
9. With the CRC-Chairman, travelled in 2004 to Rome to present the 24th CRC report and to participate in the Extraordinary DLCC Session & the Extended Locust Group meeting in 2005;
10. Visits were made in 2005 to Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon, Eritrea, Yemen and Sudan to meet with Ministers of Agriculture and Ministry authorities to discuss various DL issues;

11. Transportation of 10 t of pesticides from Sudan and 15 t from Senegal to Eritrea in September 2005.
12. Organized jointly with DLIS, the NDVI work shop in March 2006 in Cairo; participants were from Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Yemen and DLCO-EA.
13. Organized jointly with DLIS, the FAO/World Meteorological Organization workshop in April 2006 in Muscat, Oman; participants from the Central Region were from Egypt, Ethiopia, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Yemen.