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y la
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DESERT LOCUST CONTROL COMMITTEE

Thirty-eighth Session

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ACTIVITIES OF THE CLCPRO AND PROGRESS OF THE EMPRES PROGRAMME IN THE WESTERN REGION DECEMBER 2004 – AUGUST 2006

(Agenda Item 7a)

1. Introduction

Since the Extraordinary Session of the DLCC held in Rome from 29 November to 2 December 2004, the major upsurge has been checked and, as was anticipated by the CLCPRO Secretariat in late October of the same year, there has been a gradual return to a state of recession. The year 2005 was marked by the shift from major upsurge to recession, with the last swarms having being treated in March 2005 in Algeria and Morocco. There has been no large-scale spring breeding in Northwest Africa, no massive return of swarms to the Sahel and no significant summer breeding in the frontline countries.

The CLCPRO Secretariat/ EMPRES-WR Coordination*, the EMPRES-WR Programme Liaison Officers and FAO Headquarters worked closely together during the crisis to harmonize the equipment needed for the emergency (vehicles, survey, spraying and camping equipment...) and for its subsequent (post-crisis) use to reinforce the National Locust Control Units and their preventive control capacity.

Regarding the funding of the EMPRES Programme in the Western Region, all the conditionalities of the AfDB grant were met in 2005. FAO received the first disbursement on 22 November 2005, the date from which the project was considered operational. However the AfDB has still not given its clearance of the detailed programme of work and budget for 2006 (see 2.1.). Other notable features of 2005 were the World Bank's commitment to harmonize the activities of its AELP project (loan to seven Sahel countries) with those planned under the EMPRES-WR Programme and France's approval of two EMPRES-WR support projects, with a total value of 3 million euros.

* The Secretariat of the CLCPRO (Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Western Region), based in Algiers, is also responsible for coordinating the EMPRES Programme in the same region. It receives coordination support from Lemine Ould Ahmedou, EMPRES NPO in Mauritania; Laetitia Lienart, Programme Officer in AGPP, Rome; Annie Monard, Locust Officer at AGPP Rome; and, since January 2006, Christian Pantenius, Senior Officer in Dakar.

2. Synopsis of activities of the CLCPRO Secretariat/EMPRES-WR Coordination

2.1. Main activities conducted in 2005 and 2006 under the CLCPRO and EMPRES-WR

These activities can be summarized as follows:

- Participation in the International Scientific Locust Seminar held in Dakar, Senegal, from 11 to 13 January 2005, and introductory presentation in plenary of a paper entitled "Current control strategies and preventive methods to control the Desert Locust".
- Organization of/participation in the 3rd EMPRES-WR Liaison Officers Meeting in Dakar, Senegal, from 7 to 11 February 2005. An important feature of this meeting was the participation of five donors: WB, France, Japan, European Commission and USAID.
- Participation at FAO Headquarters in Rome (20/2-05/3/2005) in i) the workshop on lessons learned from the aerial operations organized by FAO to control the Desert Locust in 2004 and ii) the workshop for the after-action review of ECLO activities.
- Finalization i) of the agreement entrusting to FAO the management of the AfDB support project for the EMPRES-WR Programme and ii) the terms of reference of the Steering Committee of this programme. These two documents were approved by the countries concerned (Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger) and by the AfDB, then signed in September 2005 by the four beneficiary countries and FAO.
- Discussions with several potential donors of the EMPRES Programme in the Western Region, notably AfDB, WB, France, IsDB and the African Union.
- Contribution towards establishing the master trainers training programme in the Western Region and its implementation modalities (see agenda item 6c).
- Participation in the regional workshop to plan the Desert Locust control campaign 2005 in the Sahel and the FAO/World Bank donor coordination meeting jointly organized by FAO and the World Bank in April/May 2005 in Bamako. Although these two meetings dealt with managing the crisis, the CLCPRO Secretariat/EMPRES-WR Coordination placed an emphasis on preventive control in presentations, group work and planning of country activities for 2005 to consider the impact of planning on sustainably strengthening national capacities.
- Participation in the Expert Workshop and Ministerial Meeting on the "Desert Locust Control Strategy" held in Dakar, Senegal, from 15 to 17 May 2005. The meeting gave the CLCPRO Secretariat/EMPRES-WR Coordination an opportunity to advocate preventive control before the President of the Republic of Senegal and the ministers responsible for locust control in the CLCPRO countries. The meeting tasked the CLCPRO Executive Secretary with presenting a regional statement on the Desert Locust issue at the subsequent African Union Summit.
- Participation in the ECLO/WR FAOR Workshop held in Dakar on 18 and 19 May 2005, during which the FAO Representatives were briefed on the CLCPRO missions, the EMPRES-WR Programme objectives and the support they could provide to ensure continued preventive control.
- Organization of/participation in the 3rd Session of the CLCPRO from 12 to 16 June 2005 in Tripoli, Libya, held concurrently with the 2nd Meeting of its Executive Committee. Forty-three recommendations were adopted at this session. The Member States also unanimously accepted the official membership of Burkina Faso, making it the CLCPRO's tenth member. The decisions and recommendations of this session were presented by the representative of the Chairman of the Commission to FAO officials in Rome on 22 and 23 January 2006.
- Participation, in a delegation accompanying the FAO Director-General, at the African Union Summit, held in Sirte, Libya, on 4 and 5 July 2005.
- Institutional strengthening of the Coordination of the EMPRES Programme in the Western Region through the creation of a CLCPRO/EMPRES subregional office in Dakar and the transfer to that office, from the end of December 2005, of Mr Christian Pantenius, former Coordinator of EMPRES in the Central Region.
- The organization in the frontline countries and Senegal of a mission to evaluate intervention resources currently available (material inventory) which could serve for preventive control

in the next years. This mission, which was carried out in December 2005 - January 2006 by Mr Mohamed Lemine, EMPRES-WR NPO, and Mr Said Lagnaoui, international consultant, produced a detailed inventory of equipment which the ministries responsible for Desert Locust control in Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal duly assigned, thereby formally committing that equipment to the exclusive use of the preventive control of the Desert Locust .

- Contribution to the work of the independent mission to evaluate the locust control campaign 2003-2005 (in Rome in November 2005 and in Algiers in January 2006) and participation in the Steering Committee meeting on this evaluation (14/11/2005 in Rome).
- Establishment of the Steering Committee of the EMPRES-WR Programme and formal appointment of its members.
- Organization of a meeting in Tunis on 10 February 2006 to discuss the implementation modalities of the PALPCP-CLCPRO project (ADF/AfDB of US\$6 million) following developments in the region resulting from the locust crisis of 2003-2005. The FAO representation was made up of Mr Sinaceur, Mrs Monard, Mr Pantenius and Mr Benhalima; while the AfDB was represented by Messrs Tibaldeschi and Kacem.
- Organization of/participation in the 4th Meeting of the EMPRES-WR Liaison Officers in Algiers, Algeria, from 25 February to 1 March 2006 and the 1st Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Programme in Algiers, Algeria, from 4 to 6 March 2006.
- Participation in the regional workshop to develop a strategy to avoid the building of obsolete pesticide stocks, held from 15 to 18 May 2006 in Bamako, Mali.
- Preparation of the logo and web page of the CLCPRO and their approval by the 3rd Session of the CLCPRO.
- Implementation of the recommendations of CLCPRO and EMPRES-WR Programme meetings held in 2004, 2005 and 2006 and publication of their respective reports.

2.1. Effective start-up of the EMPRES-WR Programme

FAO had decided back in 1997 to extend the EMPRES Programme to the Western Region, a plan that failed to materialize because of a lack of funding. The actual start-up of the EMPRES-WR Programme could only take place in 2006 after FAO had received the first disbursement (US\$2.7 million) of the ADF/AfDB project in late November 2005.

Previously, a preparatory meeting for this important stage of the programme had been held in Rome from 4 to 17 September 2005. The main items discussed at the meeting and central topics of discussion at the 4th Meeting of EMPRES-WR Liaison Officers held in Algiers, Algeria, from 25 February to 1 March 2006, were:

- updating the capacity and intervention calendar (survey and control, coordination,...) of the four frontline countries: Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger;
- review of the estimated cost of activities;
- scheduling of short- and medium-term actions;
- environmental matters;
- modifications needed to the ADF/AfDB project to account for actions taken during the emergency;
- review of the planning for phase I (2006-2009) and the plan of action for 2006.

This meeting was immediately followed from 4 to 6 March 2006, also in Algiers, by the 1st Meeting of the Steering Committee of the EMPRES/WR Programme, which was attended by all the members of the committee, namely the nine countries concerned, the representatives of the Chambers of Agriculture of the frontline countries, the main donors contributing to the programme (AfDB, WB and France), the regional and international institutions (AGRHYMET, CERES-Locustox and CIRAD) and FAO. The CLCPRO Secretariat/EMPRES-RO Coordination acts as Secretariat of the Steering Committee. The planning for phase I (2006-2009) and the plan

of action and the budget for 2006, which had been reviewed and updated during the meeting of the Liaison Officers, were approved by the Steering Committee.

A request for clearance was submitted in April 2006 by FAO Headquarters (AGPP) to the AfDB for approval of the minor changes introduced to the ADF project. As the AfDB has not yet approved this request, implementation of the EMPRES-WR Programme could be affected. Equally noteworthy is the significant support of the World Bank's AELP project (components A and C) to the seven Sahel countries, especially the frontline countries. This support interlocks with the EMPRES-WR Programme.

Implementation of the plan of action for 2006 began with EMPRES-WR Programme missions in April/May conducted by the EMPRES Coordination in Niger, Mauritania and Mali (a similar mission is planned for Chad). The aim of these missions is to raise the awareness of national officers and development partners of the need to succeed in the preventive control of the Desert Locust at national and regional level, to put in place independent National Desert Locust Control Units (NDLCUs) in CLCPRO member countries and for the countries to gradually take over related recurring costs, to assign appropriate human resources to the NDLCUs, to earmark equipment from the 2003-2005 campaign exclusively for Desert Locust control; and to reflect, as early as possible, on long-term preventive control mechanisms.

3. Cooperation with the Central Region

Cooperation between the Western Region and the Central Region is improving and strengthening each year – between the two Commissions and within the EMPRES Programme.

In addition to the reciprocal attendance of the Secretaries of the two Commissions at their respective meetings, a protocol of cooperation and coordination between the CLCPRO and the CRC was adopted at the 24th Session of the CRC in April 2004 and at the 5th Session of the CLCPRO in June 2005.

The two regions have exchanged trainees and experts, and further exchanges are programmed in the next months.

4. Conclusion

The serious locust situation that devastated the Western Region between 2003 and 2005 led the CLCPRO Member States to make enormous efforts and develop exemplary intraregional cooperation in an attempt to limit the consequences. They were assisted in this endeavour by FAO and numerous donors. Their efforts helped break the cycle of invasion and permitted a return to recession.

With the recession now well implanted in the Western Region, implementation of the EMPRES Programme should become a priority of governments, the CLCPRO, FAO and donors wishing to help implement a preventive control strategy. The frontline countries will clearly be unable to implement long-term Desert Locust preventive control by themselves. Annual activities needed to achieve this objective should receive the ongoing support of the CLCPRO Member States during the recession period. Better still, a collaboration mechanism should be set up at ministerial level to render such collaboration "automatic" and ongoing. Donors should also be continuously involved in the implementation of preventive control.