

**Report of the
Twelfth Session of the Executive Committee
FAO Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Eastern Region
of its Distribution Area in Southwest Asia**

New Delhi, India

23-24 November 1998

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Rome, 1998

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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

It was recommended that:

1. FAO should assist member countries to identify suitable donors for the disposal of obsolete pesticides.
2. When EMPRES workshops were held in the Central Region, participants from the Eastern Region be included.
3. FAO should continue to coordinate training in the Eastern Region.
4. FAO should organise a national training workshop in Pakistan on survey and control, to follow on from those previously undertaken in India and I.R. Iran.
5. All major equipment orders should in future include training in the use of the equipment by the supplier, and spare parts for the equipment.
6. FAO should investigate the possibility of Micron providing training on the use and maintenance of Ulvamast and Micro-Ulva sprayers, and making an assessment of spare part requirements.
7. Member Countries should use the feedback from the FAO Information and Forecasting Unit as a means of improving their locust reporting quality.
8. FAO should arrange for an expert in radio utilization and maintenance (a possible candidate may be available in Islamabad) to provide assistance to Pakistan and India.
9. A request be made at the next DLCC meeting in May 1999 to use Fellowship funds for short-term training in the Eastern Region and this point be included in the DLCC Agenda.
10. FAO initiate discussions with donors on possible support to EMPRES activities, covering training and operational research. FAO Representatives should be asked to assist in this matter, as appropriate.
11. An updated version of the Provisional Agenda for the 21st Session be used also for the 22nd Session. One correction was noted, being the addition of "Report of the Chairman on Commission activities" .
12. FAO should identify a consultant to make an investigation into using vehicles specially adapted for desert conditions for survey and control operations.

OPENING

1. The Twelfth Session of the Executive Committee of the FAO Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Eastern Region of its Distribution Area in Southwest Asia was, together with the Twenty-First Session of the Commission, opened by the Hon'ble Minister of State for

Agriculture of the Government of India Shri Som Pal. He wished success to the deliberations of the two meetings.

2. A list of participants in the 12th Session appears as Appendix I.

AGENDA

3. The Agenda, as approved, is given as Appendix II.

ELECTION OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE

4. Mr. A. Habibi and Mr. Jagdish Prasad agreed to work with the Secretariat in drafting the Report.

REPORT OF THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

5. In reviewing this report, the Committee gave particular attention to the following recommendations of the 20th Session of the Commission:

Recommendation 1.8 – Afghanistan Surveys

6. It was noted that the region of Afghanistan most frequently affected by Desert Locust in the spring was the southern part and that normally this becomes infested when adjacent areas of northern Baluchistan in Pakistan or I.R.Iran were infested first. In the current calm situation, no action in Afghanistan was required, but good contact between Afghanistan and the other two countries should continue to be maintained, with the assistance of FAO.

Recommendation 3.3 – Obsolete Pesticides

7. Pakistan said that 20 metric tons (mt) of flowable pesticides had been incinerated in a cement kiln. Some small quantities of non-flowable materials will be shipped out to Germany by GTZ, but substantial quantities of obsolete pesticides remained. India said that 264 mt of BHC and 52 mt of dieldrin awaited disposal. Afghanistan had 77 mt of BHC still remaining. In I.R.Iran, no problem with obsolete pesticides related to Desert Locust control had been identified. It was agreed that advice on the technology and procedures for disposal could be obtained from FAO on request to the Chief, AGPP, and that individual countries should investigate which donors or companies would be likely to assist in disposal. It was further **RECOMMENDED** that FAO should assist member countries to identify suitable donors.

Recommendation 4 – Restoration of Commission Seat

8. This issue was deferred to the main Commission meeting.

Recommendation 6.1 – Fellowship

9. Since this matter was considered under a separate working paper on training and fellowships, it was deferred to discussion of the paper.

Recommendation 9.3 – Equipment purchased

10. A working paper on the financial position of the Commission and of all purchases made had been prepared for the main Commission meeting and discussions were deferred.

Other recommendations

11. One further recommendation had been made in the Report, concerning the holding of a regional Workshop under EMPRES. The Committee noted that the first EMPRES field programme had only become operational in 1997. Although many activities had been initiated, it could not yet be said that any breakthroughs had been made. The Committee agreed that it was too early for a Regional Workshop under EMPRES to be held. Nevertheless, it was important that training continue in available technologies such as ULV spraying and the use of GPS for survey. Furthermore, when workshops were held in the Central Region, it was **RECOMMENDED** that participants from the Eastern Region be included.

TRAINING AND FELLOWSHIPS

12. The working paper reviewed training activities since the last Commission meeting, including national workshops in India and I.R. Iran and three joint border surveys between Pakistan and I.R. Iran. Both the workshops and one of the surveys had been supported by FAO staff, with consultancy assistance also provided for the former. The Committee wished to put on record their great appreciation of this assistance. FAO had been gratified that the last two joint surveys had been successfully completed without FAO support, indicating greater national capacity and sustainability of the activity. FAO would welcome the development of national training courses led by the best of national staff who were highly competent.

13. In discussions, the Committee felt that continuing inputs from FAO staff were needed. However, it was pointed out that the capacity for FAO staff to do training was limited because of current staff shortages and the fact that around 30 countries throughout the Desert Locust range would have equal call on such assistance. FAO inputs would inevitably be widely spaced and it was felt that they should be directed mainly at building national capacity, through train-the-trainers programmes.

14. The Committee discussed current training needs. The importance of training being provided for new equipment was mentioned, citing deliveries that had been made during the 1993 upsurge for which no training had been provided.

15. In conclusion, the following **RECOMMENDATIONS** were made:-

- that FAO should continue to coordinate training in the Eastern Region.
- that FAO should organise a national training workshop in Pakistan on survey and control, to follow on from those previously undertaken in India and I.R. Iran.
- that all major equipment orders should in future include training in the use of the equipment by the supplier, and spare parts for the equipment.

- that FAO should investigate the possibility of Micron providing training on the use and maintenance of Ulvamast and Micro-Ulva sprayers, and making an assessment of spare part requirements.
- that member countries should use the feed-back from the FAO Information and Forecasting Unit as a means of improving their locust reporting quality.
- FAO should arrange for an expert in radio utilization and maintenance (a possible candidate may be available in Islamabad) to provide assistance to Pakistan and India.

16. In connection with the Fellowships to be funded over the next years by DLCC, India indicated that it was not interested in training at Ph.D or M.Sc. levels, but would like to use some of the DLCC funds to cover short-term training and/or study tours for its staff. Pakistan said that it was interested both in M.Sc. courses within the region and in short-term training. I.R. Iran said that interest was primarily in M.Sc. training outside the region and short-term training within the country. Afghanistan said that the situation did not allow external M.Sc. training at this stage. It was explained that the DLCC funds had been specifically ear-marked for Fellowship training and the use of any of the funds for short-term training would require DLCC endorsement. This could be requested at the next DLCC meeting in May 1999 and it was **RECOMMENDED** that this point be included in the DLCC Agenda.

THE EMPRES (DESERT LOCUST) PROGRAMME AND ITS RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

17. The working paper described how the EMPRES Programme was structured to cover the whole Desert Locust range including the Western, Central and Eastern Regions. The process by which the field programmes in the Central Region was developed and supported by donors was mentioned. It was explained that donors had so far indicated their preference for supporting countries mainly in Africa. Capacity in the Eastern Region was considered well developed with a long history of effective action. Donors' support for the Central Region had been directed by each donor at specific elements in the EMPRES Programme. These were described.

18. The Committee felt that if donors were apprised of the efforts made by Member Countries to prevent locust upsurges and of their interest to do this more efficiently, for less cost, and in a more environmentally friendly manner, then donor support for EMPRES activities might well be forthcoming. Member Countries indicated that they would welcome donor support for EMPRES training activities designed to modernise and improve survey and control. They would also welcome support for operational research in the region.

19. Member Countries indicated their research priority interests were as follows:-

Afghanistan – gregarious locust populations do not regularly occur within Afghanistan, with the result that opportunities for research would be limited. It was, therefore, impractical to identify research priorities.

I.R. Iran – survey and control improvements, biological control.

India – biological control including mycopesticides and botanicals, improved technology for pesticide applications.

Pakistan – improvement in pesticide application techniques, locust management strategies, biological control.

All the countries, except Afghanistan, also indicated an interest in research trials on barrier treatments of hopper bands.

20. In conclusion, the Committee **CONFIRMED** that the Eastern Region was interested in donor-supported EMPRES activities, covering training and operational research, and **RECOMMENDED** that FAO initiate discussions with donors on possible support. FAO Representatives should be asked to assist in this matter, as appropriate.

AGENDA OF THE TWENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

21. The Committee **RECOMMENDED** that an updated version of the Provisional Agenda for the 21st Session be used also for the 22nd Session. One correction was noted, being the addition of "Report of the Chairman on Commission activities" .

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

22. The Committee **ACCEPTED WITH ACCLAIM** the offer of the Director of the Plant Protection Organization of the Ministry of Agriculture of I.R. Iran to hold the next Session of the Commission in Tehran.

23. The suggested date was November, 1999. The Secretariat was asked to finalise the date in consultation with I.R. Iran and the Director-General of FAO, and to inform Member Countries as soon as a date could be fixed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

24. The delegate of I.R. Iran mentioned the difficulty faced in carrying out locust survey and control in certain parts of the locust range where deep sand or dunes occurred. Other Member Countries had similar problems in some areas. It was agreed that the possibility of using vehicles specially adapted for such conditions needed investigation. It was **RECOMMENDED** that FAO should identify a consultant to make such investigation. Any vehicle identified should be able to carry ULV spraying equipment.

25. The problem of private spray aircraft in India not being equipped with Micronairs was raised and of FAO helping to purchase such equipment. It was explained that FAO could not purchase such equipment for use by a private company. It would be better to make it clear to companies tendering for contracts, that contract terms would insist in aircraft being equipped with Micronairs.

ADOPTION OF REPORT

26. The report of the Twelfth Session was adopted.

CLOSURE OF MEETING

27. The Chairman declared the meeting closed.

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AGENDA

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Election of the Drafting Committee
4. Report of the Eleventh Session of the Executive Committee
5. Training/Fellowships
6. Research/EMPRES
7. Agenda of the Twenty-Second Session of the Commission
8. Date and Place of the Next Session
9. Any other Business
10. Adoption of the Report

Table 1

Trust Fund no. 912300 - MTF/RAS/001/MUL
Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in South-West Asia

Summary Budget and Expenditures until 1998

| | Prior years | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | Total |
|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Receipts | | | | | | | |
| Contributions | | 35,735.31 | 51,326.75 | 25,910.94 | 50,635.52 | 32,880.00 | 196,488.52 |
| Interest | | 12,293.53 | 13,138.00 | 21,600.84 | 14,364.34 | 5,684.39 | 67,081.10 |
| Total | 1,911,199.00 | 48,028.84 | 64,464.75 | 47,511.78 | 64,999.86 | 38,564.39 | 2,174,768.62 |

| | Prior years | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 (provisional) | 1998 (provisional balance) | Total (excluding 1998 balance) | Total (including total 1998) |
|---|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Expenditures | | | | | | | | | |
| Code Personnel Services | | | | | | | | | |
| 1100 Short term experts | 14,282 | 0 | 0 | 8,495 | 9,552 | 0 | | 32,329 | 32,329 |
| 1300 Admin Support | 106 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 106 | 106 |
| Travel | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| 2000 Sessions of Commission plus Survey teams | 50,659 | 14,949 | 25,485 | 13,942 | 24,884 | 15,409 | 8,591 | 145,328 | 153,919 |
| Contractual Services | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| 3000 Transl., printing | 5,073 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 5,073 | 5,073 |
| General Operating Exp. | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| 4000 GOE survey teams, misc. Expendable equipm. | 31,104 | 9,679 | 22,377 | 9,081 | 4,091 | 24,541 | 1,459 | 100,873 | 102,332 |
| 5000 Pesticides, books, supplies Non-Exp. equipm. | 49,266 | 0 | 384 | 3,381 | -450 | 0 | | 52,581 | 52,581 |
| 6000 GPS, cars, pesticides Fellowships | 283,392 | 125,112 | 0 | 55,327 | 413 | 26,055 | 3,211 | 490,299 | 493,510 |
| 8000 Courses Project Servicing Costs | 120,673 | 13,597 | -1,430 | 5,500 | -5,500 | 0 | | 132,840 | 132,840 |
| 9100 5% codes 50&60 | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| 13% other codes | 45,478 | 11,225 | 6,055 | 7,749 | 4,292 | 2,910 | 5,053 | 77,709 | 82,762 |
| 9200 Prior years | 917,052 | | | | | | | 917,052 | 917,052 |
| 9600 Unallocated balance | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 1,517,085 | 174,562 | 52,871 | 103,475 | 37,282 | 68,915 | 18,314 | 1,954,190 | 1,972,504 |
| Cash Balance | 394,114 | 267,581 | 279,175 | 223,211 | 250,929 | 220,579 | | | |

Table 2 a)

EMPRES

Trust Fund MTF/RAS/001/MUL Budget entity 912300

Final expenditures year 1995

| | US\$ | |
|---|-----------|---------------|
| 1100 International Experts and Consultants | | |
| Subtotal | | 0.00 |
| 1300 Admin.Support Personnel | | |
| Subtotal | | 0.00 |
| 2000 Duty Travel | | |
| Surrendering CMTA | -199.95 | |
| Participation session Exec.Committee | 15,018.46 | |
| DSA costs/other expenses for | | |
| Joint-Survey Teams: Pakistan/Iran | 11,128.32 | |
| Correction CMTA costs | -462.00 | |
| Subtotal | | 25,484.83 |
| 4000 General Operating Expenses | | |
| Publication pool charges | 3,106.00 | |
| Fuel and GOE India/Pakistan | 21,758.51 | |
| Correction Pool charges communications | -2,487.87 | |
| Subtotal | | 22,376.64 |
| 5000 Expendable equipment | | |
| Maps DL survey | 384.25 | |
| Subtotal | | 384.25 |
| 6000 Non-expend. equipment | | |
| Subtotal | | 0.00 |
| 8000 Fellowships and training | | |
| Adjustments of CMTAs trainees | -1,430.03 | |
| Subtotal | | -1,430.03 |
| 9100 Support Costs | 6,055.30 | |
| Subtotal | | 6,055.30 |
| Total | | 52,870.99 |
| Rounded (as per Finsys) | US \$ | 52,871 |

Table 2 b)

EMPRES

Trust Fund MTF/RAS/001/MUL Budget entity 912300

Final expenditures year 1996

| | | US\$ |
|---|-----------|----------------|
| 1100 International Experts and Consultants | | |
| Pool charges | 11.91 | |
| RLA Dobson (Consultant Trainer) | 7,067.00 | |
| Travel Dobson to India Training | 1,427.72 | |
| Subtotal | | 8,506.63 |
| 1300 Admin.Support Personnel | | |
| 2000 Duty Travel | | |
| DSA/other costs India Workshop | 3,230.67 | |
| Participation session Exec.Committee | 4,012.97 | |
| DSA Joint-Survey Team members Pakistan/Iran | 8,831.29 | |
| Surrendering CMTAs | -2,132.56 | |
| Subtotal | | 13,942.37 |
| 4000 General Operating Expenses | | |
| Publication pool charges(circ.letter) | 81.00 | |
| Fuel and GOE costs Pakistan/Iran border survey | 9,000.00 | |
| Subtotal | | 9,081.00 |
| 5000 Expendable equipment | | |
| Training material India | 500.00 | |
| Maps for Pakistan | 880.86 | |
| Field supplies Pakistan | 2,000.00 | |
| Subtotal | | 3,380.86 |
| 6000 Non-expend. equipment | | |
| Customs costs import.Toyota India | 2,000.00 | |
| Purchase Toyota Pick-up India | 17,648.16 | |
| Purchase Toyota Pick-up Iran | 15,600.00 | |
| GPS for Iran | 3,635.08 | |
| GPS for Afganistan | 1,968.50 | |
| GPS for India | 7,262.91 | |
| GPS for Pakistan | 7,212.40 | |
| Subtotal | | 55,327.05 |
| 8000 Fellowships and training | | |
| India training course | 5,500.00 | |
| Subtotal | | 5,500.00 |
| 9100 Support Costs | 7,749.30 | |
| Subtotal | | 7,749.30 |
| Total | | 103,487.21 |
| Rounded (as per Finsys) | US \$ | 103,487 |

Table 2 c)

EMPRES

Trust Fund MTF/RAS/001/MUL Budget entity 912300

Final expenditures year 1997

| | US\$ | |
|---|-----------|------------------|
| 1100 International Experts and Consultants | | |
| Conversion | -11.65 | |
| RLA Dobson (Consultant/Trainer - Iran) | 9,563.76 | |
| Subtotal | | 9,552.11 |
| 1300 Admin.Support Personnel | | |
| 2000 Duty Travel | | |
| Cancellation of 1995 commitment WBPR | -1,071.00 | |
| Participation 3rd session Exec.Committee | | |
| Rome 3-5/3/97 | | |
| (Shafi, Rigi, Rajak) | 7,137.14 | |
| Travel Dobson to Iran | 2,609.88 | |
| Training course Iran | 3,030.00 | |
| DSA Joint-Survey Teams Pakistan/Iran | 18,162.49 | |
| Correction travel Dobson | -4,984.31 | |
| Subtotal | | 24,884.20 |
| 4000 General Operating Expenses | | |
| Hospitality Cressman India 1996 | 80.42 | |
| Lunch Commission HQ | 104.71 | |
| Training course Iran | 281.15 | |
| Joint-Survey GOE Pakistan/Iran | 3,506.27 | |
| Miscellaneous supplies | 118.83 | |
| Subtotal | | 4,091.38 |
| 5000 Expendable equipment | | |
| Surrendering balance course India 1996 | -500.00 | |
| Books, periodicals | 50.40 | |
| Subtotal | | -449.60 |
| 6000 Non-expend. equipment | | |
| Customs costs import.Toyota | 361.52 | |
| Purchase order | 51.92 | |
| Subtotal | | 413.44 |
| 8000 Fellowships and training | | |
| Surrendering balance cmt India course 1996 | -5,500.00 | |
| Subtotal | | -5,500.00 |
| 9100 Support Costs | 4,291.80 | |
| Subtotal | | 4,291.80 |
| Total | | 37,283.33 |
| Rounded (as per Finsys) | US \$ | 37,282 |

Table 2 d)**MTF/RAS/001/MUL 1998 Commitments and expenditures**

| Budget component Line | Description | 1998 budget | Amount Precommitted | Amount Committed | Expenditures | Available balance |
|--------------------------|--|------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| 2000 | Duty travel | 24,000.00 | | | | |
| | A/A DSA Joint-Survey Team Pakistan | | 9,100.00 | | 9,100.00 | -9,100.00 |
| | A/A DSA Joint-Survey Team Iran | | 8,300.00 | | 8,300.00 | -8,300.00 |
| | Surrender of travel cmt | | | | -1,991.39 | 1,991.39 |
| | Total available for commitment | | 17,400.00 | | 15,408.61 | 8,591.39 |
| 4000 | General Operations Expenditures | 26,000.00 | | | | |
| | Report 11th Exec. com. | | 446.00 | | 541.00 | -541.00 |
| | A/A Joint-Survey Pakistan | | 4,000.00 | | 2,699.40 | -4,000.00 |
| | A/A Joint-Survey Iran | | 4,000.00 | | 904.29 | -4,000.00 |
| | A/A GOE border survey Pakistan | | 5,000.00 | | 5,000.00 | -5,000.00 |
| | A/A GOE border survey India | | 5,000.00 | | 0.00 | -5,000.00 |
| | A/A Operating Costs 21st Comm. | | 6,000.00 | | 0.00 | -6,000.00 |
| | Total available for commitment | | 24,446.00 | | 9,144.69 | 1,459.00 |
| 6000 | Non-expendable equipment | 29,266.00 | | | | |
| | PR Micronair au7010 Iran | | 4,400.00 | 4,590.16 | 3,584.00 | -3,584.00 |
| | PR Micron ULV Iran | | 3,920.00 | 3,919.84 | 3,854.63 | -3,854.63 |
| | PR Toyota Pick-up Pakistan | | 18,700.00 | | | -18,700.00 |
| | Correction | | | | -83.63 | 83.63 |
| | Total available for commitment | | 27,020.00 | 8,510.00 | 7,355.00 | 3,211.00 |
| 9100 | Support costs | 7,963.00 | | | | |
| | Charges recorded | | | | 2,909.68 | |
| | Total available | | | | | 5,053.32 |
| | Total budget | 87,229.00 | | | | 18,314.71 |

The available budget is the total approved budget minus outstanding pre-commitments, minus outstanding commitments, minus expenditures

Table 3

| |
|--|
| TRUST FUND No. 9123.00 - MTF/RAS/001/MUL - |
| Inter-Regional - Commission for the Control of Desert Locust in the East Region |

Status of Contribution as at 31 October 1998 (final)
(expressed in US\$)

| Member | Outstanding Contribution | Received up | Outstanding |
|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Government | 31/12/97 | to 31/10/98 | 31/10/98 |
| | due for 1998 | | |
| AFGHANISTAN | 11,000.00 | 2,750.00 | 13,750.00 |
| INDIA * | 20,288.92 | 22,500.00 | *24,788.92 |
| IRAN | 309,928.91 | 25,000.00 | 334,928.91 |
| PAKISTAN | 55,304.51 | 10,380.00 | 61,624.51 |
| TOTALS | 396,522.34 | 71,450.00 | 435,092.34 |

* 25% paid in local ccy through Imprest/Acc.

APPENDIX VI

EQUIPMENT TO BE PURCHASED UNDER TF9123

| Item | Estimated cost US \$ |
|--|----------------------|
| Afghanistan | |
| 10 sets of meteorological equipment and compasses, and 2 sets of maps | 2,000 |
| Anticholinesterase test kits for locust control operators | 2,000 |
| | ----- |
| | 4,000 |
| India | |
| Establishment of e-mail in Faridabad & Jodhpur * | 5,000 |
| Purchase of spare parts for ULV sprayers | 10,000 |
| 20 sets of GPS hand-held | 6,000 |
| Anticholinesterase test kits for locust control operators | 2,000 |
| | ----- |
| | 23,000 |
| I.R Iran | |
| 20 sets of GPS hand-held | 6,000 |
| Purchase of additional ULV sprayers | 10,000 |
| Establishment of e-mail in Tehran * | 2,500 |
| Anticholinesterase test kits for locust control operators | 2,000 |
| Purchase of one fixed HF radio | 2,500 |
| | ----- |
| | 23,000 |
| Pakistan | |
| 10 sets of VHF walkie-talkie, ground-to-air radios | 8,000 |
| 20 sets of GPS hand-held | 6,000 |
| Purchase of spare parts for ULV sprayers | 10,000 |
| Anticholinesterase test kits for locust control operators | 2,000 |
| | ----- |
| | 26,000 |
| | ----- |
| Grand total: | 76,000 |

In connection with funds from the TF which had been provided to India over the last two years for border surveys, the Commission was informed that these funds had, for various reasons, not been used. India requested that instead of funds for border surveys, a 4x4 vehicle should be purchased in 1999. It was **RECOMMENDED** that the Secretariat should confirm the figures with the FAO Representative and take the necessary action to order the vehicle.

* support for establishing the e-mail network in India and I.R. Iran will also be provided from FAO's EMPRES funds.