

# **REPORT**

**EMPRES (DESERT LOCUST) CENTRAL REGION PROGRAMME**

**SECOND INFORMAL STAKEHOLDERS MEETING**

**Rome, Italy, 12 February 1998**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Second Informal Stakeholders Meeting on the EMPRES (Desert Locust) Central Region Programme was opened by Mr.M. Duwayri, Director, Plant Production and Protection Division, AGP, on behalf of Mr.A.Sawadogo, Assistant Director-General for Agriculture. He welcomed the participants and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to follow up on the First Meeting held on 14 November 1997. The Secretariat had prepared a Working Paper entitled “ Reflections on and Estimated Cost of Holding the EMPRES (Desert Locust) Central region Steering Committee in Different Venues.” It was hoped that this could be the basis for discussions and allow a consensus to be reached on the best option.

This report summarises the discussions that were held at that meeting and draws the conclusions, perceived by FAO, towards establishing a committee to review EMPRES Central Region progress.

## 2. DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

### 2.1. Mandate

The first meeting had indicated a general acceptance of the proposed Mandate, but the Secretariat had received several suggestions for minor adjustments. These were discussed and are reflected in a revised Mandate given below.

The Secretariat also proposed that the name of the Committee should be ‘**Consultative Committee**’ rather than Steering Committee, to reflect the role of the Committee as a means by which FAO consults jointly with locust-affected countries and donors on the progress and direction of the EMPRES Central Region Programme, while retaining its responsibility for the Programme’s management. This proposal was agreed on condition that the change of name would have no ramifications on the mandate, legal status or scope of the work of the Committee. The Secretariat would consult with FAO legal services to confirm this point before the Committee name was changed. [ *The General Legal Affairs Service LEGA subsequently confirmed that the change of name would have no implications on the implementation of the Mandate as shown below.*]

#### Mandate of the Consultative Committee:

- Review the activities and results of the EMPRES Central Region Programme, comparing this to progress indicators.
- Review and agree: a) the workplan formulated by the EMPRES Liaison Officers’ Meeting; b) the draft budget, for the next year.
- Evaluate constraints and problems and recommend actions to overcome them.
- Review the financial situation, expenditure and income/contributions from different sources, and recommend any action to be taken.

- Review coordination and collaboration within the programme between different projects, organizations and other interested parties, with a view to improving it.
- Review special issues such as the establishment of a contingency fund and the sustainability of EMPRES activities, and recommend any action to be taken.

## 2.2. Composition of the Committee

There was no clear consensus on the composition of the Committee. Some participants supported the composition as presented at the first meeting. Others felt, or had informed FAO, that key locust-affected countries should be permanent members. The main agreement was that the Committee should be kept small and the definitions of different categories of membership should be clear. It was also agreed that FAO should provide the Secretariat using an appropriate number of staff, who would have no vote in the Committee.

FAO therefore proposes that the Committee's composition should be:-

### Key Locust-affected Countries

Eritrea  
Saudi Arabia  
Sudan  
(3)

### Donors to Multi-Lateral EMPRES Projects in the Central Region

Germany  
Netherlands  
Switzerland  
U.S.A.  
(3 to be selected for 2-year period)

### Other Locust-affected Countries

Djibouti  
Egypt  
Ethiopia  
Oman  
Somalia  
Yemen  
(2 countries to be selected for 2-year period)

### Other Donors

Belgium  
IFAD  
Japan  
U.K.  
(2 to be selected for 2-year period)

Total Participants: 10 (5 Locust-affected Countries, 5 Donor Countries; + FAO Secretariat)

The above categories are defined as follows:-

### Key Locust-affected Countries

- these are the countries that are the primary potential sources of plagues that originate in the Central Region.

### Other Locust-affected Countries

- these countries are important participants in the EMPRES Programme, but are not as often infested as key countries and

when they are, the extent of the infestation is usually less.

- Donors to Multi-lateral EMPRES Projects - these donors have provided funds to FAO for the operation of specific projects in the Central Region, or, in the case of the USA, for specific support of the Central Region.
- Other Donors - these donors support EMPRES in general either directly or, in the case of the UK, through bilateral projects which cooperate closely with FAO.

For the first meeting of the Consultative Committee, it is suggested that FAO should propose, in consultation with the countries concerned, the participants according to the above categories. Thereafter the participants will select, in consultation with the countries concerned, their replacements when their two-year periods come to an end, as appropriate. It was also agreed that if any participating country wished to be present as an observer, it would be entitled to do so at its own cost, but without direct participation in any matters put to a vote.

### 2.3. Frequency and Venue

The meeting agreed that the Consultative Committee should meet once per calendar year. With regard to venue, the three options given in the Working Paper were presented to the meeting, namely to hold the meeting in conjunction with :-

- a) the FAO Conference\* in one year and with the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East\* in the intervening year.
- b) the Desert Locust Control Committee\* (DLCC) in one year and with the DLCC Technical Group\* in the intervening year (both held in Rome).
- c) the Liaison Officers Meeting\* which would be held one year in Rome immediately before the DLCC and in the intervening year somewhere in the Central Region.

- [\* - FAO Conference is held once every two years in Rome;  
- FAO Regional Conference for the Near East is held once a year in the NE Region;  
- DLCC is held about once every two years in Rome;  
- DLCC Technical Group is held about once a year in Rome;  
- EMPRES(Central Region)Liaison Officers Meeting is held about once a year in the CR.]

In the discussions that followed, it was agreed that Option a) was not practical for the reasons given in the Working Paper. There was a general consensus that the Consultative Committee should be held in conjunction with the DLCC. It was considered important that there should be strong link between DLCC and the Committee since most developments in locust management in the foreseeable future would be likely to involve EMPRES or EMPRES-related activities. However it was felt that holding it after the Liaison Officers Meeting in Rome would be too lengthy and too expensive. There was further agreement that in the intervening year, the holding of the Committee in the Region before or after the Liaison Officers Meeting would be acceptable. This would emphasise the important role of the Liaison Officers and provide the opportunity for the donors to see at first hand national efforts being made to strengthening locust management and/or any field activities.

The Option finally proposed by the Stakeholders Meeting, was, therefore, a mixture of Options b) and c), namely that the Consultative Committee be held before the DLCC in one year, i.e. in Rome, and after the Liaison Officers Meeting somewhere in the Central Region in the intervening year. Participants also agreed that the duration of the Consultative Committee should not necessarily be limited to one day. It would be up to the Secretariat to make arrangements such that the Mandate given to the Committee could be adequately covered in the time available.

#### 2.4. The Costs of Holding the Committee

Following the agreements reached at the Second Stakeholders Meeting, FAO has reviewed the costs of holding the Consultative Committee and proposes the following arrangement:-

In the year in which the Consultative Committee is to be held in Rome in conjunction with the DLCC, it is expected that countries participating in the Committee will select the person who will take part in the Committee as part of their national delegation. According to the rules of the DLCC, national delegations cover the costs of their own tickets and Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA). For locust-affected countries, FAO will cover the cost of the extra days of DSA required for one person per participating country to take part in the Committee. These costs will be charged to the EMPRES Trust Fund Projects, divided equally between them. FAO will provide the venue and the associated costs.

In the intervening year when the Committee is held somewhere in the Central Region immediately after the Liaison Officers Meeting, FAO will provide tickets and DSA for one representative per participating locust-affected country, charged as above. If a country decides that the Liaison Officer should also be its representative in the Committee, only the extra days DSA would be involved.

### 3. PARTICIPANTS IN THE SECOND STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

#### Germany

Mr. D.Link  
Deputy Permanent Rep.  
German Representation to FAO  
Rome

#### Japan

Mr.Takanori Ohashi  
Alternate Permanent Rep.  
Japanese Representation to FAO  
Rome

#### Netherlands

Ms. C.W.Kos  
Deputy Permanent Rep.  
Netherlands Representation to FAO  
Rome

#### Sudan

Dr.A.R.El Bashir  
Permanent Under Secretary  
Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry  
Khartoum

#### United Kingdom

Ms.S.Dunn  
Second Secretary  
UN Agencies and Aid Affairs  
Rome

Prof.M.S.Harbi  
Permanent Rep.  
Sudanese Representation to FAO  
Rome

Written and/or verbal comments on the Working Papers were also received from the **Permanent Representations to FAO** of **Eritrea**, **Saudi Arabia**, **Switzerland**, **USA** and **Yemen**.

#### FAO

Mr.M.Duwayri (Chairman)  
Director, Plant Production & Protection Division,AGP  
Mr.A.Hafraoui  
Senior Officer i/c the Locust Group, AGPP  
Mr.C.Elliott  
Senior Officer: Migratory Pests