



FAO “Programme to improve national and regional locust management
in Caucasus and Central Asia (CCA)”

**Minimum information to be included
in extension material for local populations**

In the framework of the “Programme to improve national and regional locust management in Caucasus and Central Asia (CCA)”, and more specifically Activity 5.1.4 of the Roadmap for its implementation, it is envisaged to produce or contribute to the production of extension material for local populations. The document below, prepared in the framework of the Japan/JICA project, aims at summarizing the minimum information that should be provided to local populations, according to target groups. Such information can be released thanks to a number of different supports, such as flyers, brochures, posters, local information sessions, radio or television spots, telephone messages, calendars, etc.

Minimum information to be included in extension materials for local populations

The information that should be provided depends on the target group(s) that live or work in or close to – to be – treated areas. Extension material can be specific for a target group, or can be combined to address various target groups.

Target groups for the information

1. Shepherds in/close to treated areas
2. Farmers in/close to treated areas
3. Beekeepers in/close to treated areas
4. Inhabitants of houses/villages close to treated areas
5. Local authorities in/close to the treated areas

1. Shepherds in/close to treated areas

- Insecticides used in locust control, at the recommended/applied dose rates by trained staff, are normally not very toxic to livestock.
- However, as a precaution, prior to the treatment livestock should always be removed from the area to be treated. This ensures that no insecticide residues will be found back in meat or milk.

- Livestock should not return in the treated area to graze for ... days (livestock withholding period depends on national legislation; and may depend on the insecticide).
- If you (=shepherd) see any dead birds, reptiles, mammals or fish in an area that has previously been sprayed against locusts, inform the control team or the local authorities.
- If you see any locust control operations in the neighbourhood, and you have not been informed about them, make sure to contact the control team or the local authorities to get information about the locations of the areas that are treated. (to be able to do so, a contact telephone number or contact institution should be provided)
- Never use empty pesticide drums or containers to store water, milk or food.
- Do not believe persons who tell you that empty pesticide containers can be sufficiently cleaned for subsequent use: they cannot! Pesticide residues will always stay behind in the plastic/metal of the container and will contaminate water, milk or food.

2. Farmers in/close to treated areas

- Insecticides used in locust control may leave residues on crops.
- This will always occur if the crop is sprayed.
- This may sometimes occur if neighbouring grazing is sprayed, but the insecticide has drifted onto the crop.
- These residues will disappear over time, until they are not hazardous anymore for consumers of the crop/commodity.
- It is therefore imperative that you (=the farmer) respect a pre-harvest interval of ... days (pre-harvest depends on national legislation; and may depend on the insecticide). The pre-harvest interval is the time between the locust control treatment and the moment of harvesting.
- Crops should never be consumed or sent to the market, before the end of the pre-harvest interval.
- If you (=farmer) see any dead birds, reptiles, mammals or fish in an area that has previously been sprayed against locusts, inform the control team or the local authorities.
- If you see any locust control operations in the neighbourhood, and you have not been informed about them, make sure to contact the control team or the local authorities to get information about the locations of the areas that are treated.
- Never use empty pesticide drums or containers to store water, milk or food.

- Do not believe persons that tell you that empty pesticide containers can be sufficiently cleaned for subsequent use: they cannot! Pesticide residues will always stay behind in the plastic/metal of the container and will contaminate water, milk or food.

3. Beekeepers in/close to treated areas

- Many of the insecticides used in locust control will kill honeybees if they are exposed.
- Honeybees can be exposed directly to insecticides and if the area in which the bees forage has been treated, or if the beehives are directly sprayed by the insecticides.
- It is therefore imperative that you (=the beekeeper), prior to the spraying, remove your beehives from the fields that will be treated, as well as from any area within a range of 5 km from the fields that will be treated. To reduce the chance that the bees will fly to the treated fields to forage, move your hives at least 5 km away from the fields that will be treated,.
- Do not move your beehives back into the treated area for at least 7 days after the treatment.
- An exception are treatments with *Metarhizium acridum*, which is harmless to bees. Beehives are best closed during spraying with *Metarhizium*, do not need to be moved, and can be re-opened after 2 hours following the treatment.
- If you (=beekeeper) see any locust control operations in the neighbourhood, and you have not been informed about them, make sure to contact the control team or the local authorities to get information about the locations of the areas that are treated. If required, take action as indicated above.
- If you observe exceptionally high mortality of your bees, and you are aware that locust control operations have taken place in the neighbourhood, report this to the local authorities or the locust control team.
- Never use empty pesticide drums or containers to store honey, water, milk or food.
- Do not believe persons that tell you that empty pesticide containers can be sufficiently cleaned for subsequent use; they cannot! Pesticide residues will always stay behind in the plastic/metal of the container and will contaminate honey, water, milk or food.

4. Inhabitants of houses/villages close to treated areas

- The insecticides that are used in locust control may be harmful to your health if you are directly exposed to them.
- Therefore, locust control operations will always be conducted at least ... meter away from villages and houses (distance depends on national legislation).

- During spraying, you should not approach the fields that are being treated and you should strictly follow the instructions of the control team and/or the local authorities.
- After the treatment, you should not enter the sprayed field for at least 48 hours after spraying.
- If so instructed by the control team or the local authorities, cover the wells or drinking water points in the village or close to the house with a tarpaulin.
- If you grow crops, ... {see messages for farmers}
- If you keep livestock, ... {see messages for shepherds}
- If you (=inhabitant) see any dead birds, reptiles, mammals or fish in an area that has previously been sprayed against locusts, inform the control team or the local authorities.
- If you see any locust control operations in the neighbourhood, and you have not been informed about them, make sure to contact the control team or the local authorities to get information about the locations of the areas that are treated.
- Never use empty pesticide drums or containers to store water, milk or food.
- Do not believe persons that tell you that empty pesticide containers can be sufficiently cleaned for subsequent use: they cannot! Pesticide residues will always stay behind in the plastic/metal of the container and will contaminate water, milk or food.

5. Local authorities in/close to the treated areas

- All information under 1 – 4.
- Establish a contact with the locust control team in your region, so that you will be informed about control operations and are able to report any questions or complaints of the local populations
- Ensure that farmers, shepherds, beekeepers and local populations are informed about planned locust control operations.
- In case locust control teams do not/cannot inform the relevant local populations, ensure that these are informed along the lines indicated under 1 – 4.
- If you receive any observations or complaints made by local populations about locust control operations, transmit these to the locust control organization.