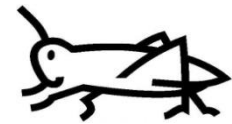




LOCUST BULLETIN No. 59

Winter 2018/19



FAO - Plant Production and Protection Division (AGP)

15 February 2019

Situation level: CALM everywhere for all locust pests

General situation from November 2018 to January 2019

Forecast until mid-March 2019

Natural cycles of the three locust species – Italian Locust (CIT), Migratory Locust (LMI) and Moroccan Locust (DMA) ended in late summer/early autumn in all countries with eggs laid in the soil, where they overwinter (embryonic diapause). During the forecast period, no development is expected as no hatching will occur.

Weather and ecological conditions in November 2018 – January 2019

Cold weather with temperatures close to or below the climatic norms prevailed. Short periods of warmer temperatures occurred. Precipitations in the form of snow were generally higher than the multiannual averages. These conditions are not expected to produce a significant negative impact on the eggs overwintering in the soil.

Overview on the 2018 national locust campaigns

Results of the national locust campaigns 2018 are presented hereafter.

Areas surveyed in 2018

Afghanistan	83 189 ha
Armenia	58 000 ha
Azerbaijan	373 751 ha
Georgia	105 000 ha
Kazakhstan	17 255 000 ha
Kyrgyzstan	174 902 ha
Russia	12 976 080 ha
Tajikistan	771 124 ha
Turkmenistan	465 545 ha
Uzbekistan	700 000 ha
Total	32 962 591 ha

Areas infested in 2018

Afghanistan	70 189 ha
Armenia	540 ha
Azerbaijan	134 894 ha
Georgia	56 000 ha
Kazakhstan	1 689 400 ha
Kyrgyzstan	147 127 ha
Russia	1 500 680 ha
Tajikistan	104 037 ha
Turkmenistan	140 000 ha
Uzbekistan	585 800 ha
Total	4 428 667 ha

Comparison with the previous year shows that the infested areas decreased by 47 percent, from 6 551 316 ha in 2017 to 4 428 667 ha in 2018.



Areas treated in 2018

Afghanistan	53 189 ha
Armenia	540 ha
Azerbaijan	48 053 ha
Georgia	15 200 ha
Kazakhstan	2 001 200 ha
Kyrgyzstan	146 034 ha
Russia	677 940 ha
Tajikistan	107 383 ha
Turkmenistan	139 033 ha
Uzbekistan	567 400 ha
Total	3 755 972 ha

Comparison with the previous years shows that the treated areas slightly increased since 2016: from 3 533 552 ha in 2016 to 3 618 669 ha in 2017 and to 3 755 972 ha in 2018.

Forecast for the 2019 national locust campaigns

Forecasted treated areas in 2019

Afghanistan	100 000 ha
Armenia	2 000 ha
Azerbaijan	60 500 ha
Georgia	25 000 ha
Kazakhstan	950 400 ha
Kyrgyzstan	125 000 ha
Russia	603 100 ha
Tajikistan	103 017 ha
Turkmenistan	110 000 ha
Uzbekistan	610 300 ha
Total	2 689 317 ha

Comparison with 2018 shows that in 2019, the overall treated areas in CCA should decrease by 1.1 million ha. However, this does not appear as being a general trend but mainly reflects a large anticipated decrease in Kazakhstan and to a far lesser extent in Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan. Overall, this forecasted decrease is in contradiction with the gradual increase of treated areas, the trend which is observed since 2016.

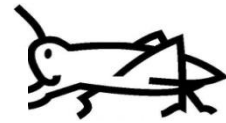
Announcements

Locust warning levels. A color-coded scheme indicates three main locust pests: green for calm, yellow for caution, orange for threat and red for danger. The scheme is applied to the Locust Watch web page dedicated to the current locust situation (“Locust situation now!”) and to the regional monthly bulletin header. The levels indicate the perceived risk or threat of current locust infestations to crops and appropriate actions are suggested for each level.

Locust reporting. During calm (green) periods, countries should report at least once/month and send standardized information using the national monthly bulletin template. During caution (yellow), threat (orange) and danger (red) periods, often associated with locust outbreaks and upsurges, updates should be sent at least once/week. Affected countries are also encouraged to prepare decadal bulletins summarizing the situation. All information should be sent by e-mail to CCA-Bulletins@fao.org. Monthly information received by the 5th of each month will be included in the CCA Locust Bulletin to be issued by mid-month; otherwise, it will not appear until the next bulletin. Reports should be sent even if no locusts were found or if no surveys were conducted.

Events and activities from November 2018 to mid-February 2019

- **Information Sheet on Locust Programme in CCA**, published in November 2018, available at: http://www.fao.org/ag/locusts-CCA/common/ecg/1014/en/2018_11_INFO_SHEET_Locusts_in_CCA_EN.PDF
- **Technical Workshop on locusts in CCA** held on 19-23 November 2018 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; Report is available at: http://www.fao.org/ag/locusts-CCA/common/ecg/1194/en/Report_Tech_Workshop_Locusts_2018_FINAL_EN-rv.pdf.



- **Fourth Project Steering Committee of project GCP/INT/238/JPN**, which covers Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, held on 22 November 2018 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; Minutes dispatched to participants.
- **Final Report of evaluation of project GCP/INT/238/JPN**: under review and finalization.
- **Operational start of project GCP/GLO/963/USA** covering the ten CCA countries (February 2019).
- **Practical Guidelines on pesticide risk reduction for locust control in CCA**: texts in Dari, Kyrgyz and Tajik peer-reviewed by the relevant national services in charge of locust management in Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan; illustrations and layouts in Dari, English, Kyrgyz, Russian and Tajik under review and further improvements.
- **Procurement of locust survey and control equipment**: process ongoing for last remaining items under projects GCP/INT/238/JPN (Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan) and GCP/SEC/004/TUR (Azerbaijan).
- **Preparatory actions** for activities to be implemented during the 2019 national locust campaigns, as per annual Workplan of the Programme.

Forthcoming events and activities from mid-February to end of March 2019

- **Training-of-Trainers in locust management**: two regional sessions to the benefit of about 16 Plant Protection/Locust Experts from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Russia, scheduled as follows in Tbilisi, Georgia,:
 - on locust monitoring and information management, including the “Automatic System for Data Collection” (ASDC) and the GIS “Caucasus and Central Asia Locust Management System” (CCALM): 26 February-2 March 2019;
 - on locust spraying and pesticide risk reduction, including ASDC: 4-8 March 2019.

- **Practical Guidelines on pesticide risk reduction for locust control in CCA**: finalization of illustrations; peer-review of complete Dari, Kyrgyz and Tajik layouts by the services in charge of locust management in Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan; and internal FAO quality check process and clearances.
- **Procurement of locust survey and control equipment**: process (a) ongoing for last remaining items under projects GCP/INT/238/JPN and GCP/SEC/004/TUR and (b) started under project GCP/GLO/963/USA.

Maps of treated areas in 2017 and 2018 and forecast for 2019 in CCA countries

