

REPORT OF THE
FIRST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE COMMISSION FOR CONTROLLING
THE DESERT LOCUST IN THE EASTERN REGION
OF ITS DISTRIBUTION AREA IN SOUTHWEST ASIA

Teheran, Iran
1 to 3 March 1966

INTRODUCTION

The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, at the kind invitation of the Government of Iran, convened the First Session of the Executive Committee of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Eastern Region of its Distribution Area in Southwest Asia in Teheran from 1 to 3 March 1966.

The Session was opened by Dr. E. Esfandiari, Chairman of the Commission, who welcomed the participants on behalf of the Government of Iran. He stressed the importance of research on the Desert Locust and considered that the present recession in Desert Locust activity provided excellent opportunities to obtain a better knowledge of this insect. He reminded the participants that the Executive Committee had been designated as the expert advisory body to the Commission and had, therefore, an important role to perform. He pointed out that the Committee would give serious consideration to the Agenda item concerning coordination of research within the Member Countries of the Commission and would be able to formulate proposals for consideration at the Second Session of the Commission.

Officers of the Session

Chairman - Mr. H.M. Abbas, Pakistan

Vice-Chairman - Dr. Sardar Singh, India

Dr. Sardar Singh, India, and Mr. Ajruddin Wais, Afghanistan, were elected as members of the Drafting Committee.

Mr. Gurdas Singh and Mr. Taqi Ahsan of the FAO Secretariat acted as Technical Secretaries.

Participants in the Session

Members of the Executive Committee

Afghanistan

Ajruddin Wais
Director, Locust Control
Ministry of Agriculture
Kabul, Afghanistan

India

Sardar Singh
Plant Protection Adviser
Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine
and Storage
4/19 Ajmeri Gate Extension
New Delhi, India

Iran

A.A. Soltani
I/c Locust Research Laboratory
Institute of Plant Pest and Disease Research
Ministry of Agriculture
Evin
Teheran, Iran

Pakistan

H.M. Abbas
Director, Department of Locust Warning and Plant
Quarantine
Jinnah Ave., Malir Halt
Karachi, Pakistan

FAO Staff

Gurdas Singh
Desert Locust Specialist
Crop Protection Branch
Plant Production and Protection Division
Food and Agriculture Organization of the
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Rome, Italy

Taqi Ahsan
Regional Locust Officer
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Teheran, Iran

S.S. Pruthi
FAO Locust Officer
P.O. Box 5
Kabul, Afghanistan

AGENDA

The Executive Committee agreed upon the following Agenda:

1. Opening of the Session
2. Election of the Drafting Committee
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Coordination of the Desert Locust research in the region
5. Consideration of candidates for advanced training in specific research problems
6. Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee for 1966/1967
7. Any other business
8. Place and date of next Session
9. Adoption of the Report

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

Coordination of Research

1. The Executive Committee appreciated the proposals put forward by the FAO Secretariat and agreed to the broad outlines of work, which could be profitably undertaken by various field research stations in the Member Countries of the Commission during the present recession. It was understood that work would be initiated on as many items as could be taken up according to the facilities available by way of budgetary grants, technical staff and equipment.
2. The following program of work was proposed:
 - (a) Study of the behaviour of scattered locusts in relation to weather conditions, topography, vegetation, etc. and factors affecting gregarization and dissociation.
 - (b) Environmental factors affecting the rate of incubation and the rate of hopper development. Field experiments to investigate the water contents of the soil and its critical levels for laying and incubation and temperature requirements in different types of soil.
 - (c) Quantitative estimates of egg mortality under widest possible range of natural conditions. Observations on rates of hopper (solitary) development in relation to environmental factors and, in particular, field observations on the mortality of hoppers hatching under different conditions during the first few days of their life.
 - (d) Rate of maturation from fledging time to egg-laying in natural and semi-natural conditions.

- (e) Laboratory studies on the effect of environmental factors on morphometric characters. Morphometric measurements and analysis of samples (adults and advanced stage hoppers) from widest possible range of areas with a view to assisting in the interpretation of the combined effects of social and other environmental factors in field populations.
- (f) Study of the probable role of the natural causes (physical and biotic factors) and control measures in the decline of a plague and factors responsible for its resurgence. It might be useful in this regard to investigate more closely the various aspects of the 1962/1963 field situation in the Indo-Pakistan region, as considerable additional information on the number and distribution of swarms and hopper bands in the area during that year was now available.
- (g) Testing of promising insecticides, e.g. (i) chlorinated hydrocarbons (aldrin, dieldrin, lindane); (ii) organophosphates (methyl, parathion, malathion, dibrom, folithion, diazinon); and (iii) carbamate (Carbaryl) on a field scale to determine the dosage of active ingredients required per unit area to get effective control of adult and hopper populations and to establish the economics of using various formulations of insecticides with different types of application machinery, particularly low-volume sprayers. Opportunities for undertaking such trials were likely to arise in localised pockets in the Indo-Pakistan area even during the recession.
- (h) Mapping and fuller analysis of the past locust population data by attempting the detailed day by day analysis of a single study period, chosen for maximum information on scattered locusts but without recorded swarms. At the same time, the possibility of improving the procedure currently used for these observations could be looked into. While this work was in progress, the various national organizations should give information about the number of locusts observed in a particular place with observations on vegetation and topography of that particular area, in addition to the population reported on per unit area basis.
- (i) Developing techniques for raising of large cultures of the Desert Locust for providing material for toxicology, behaviour and other studies under semi-field conditions.
- (j) The use of gamma radiation (i) in development of simple labelling techniques for population studies, (ii) in the study of locust metabolism with particular reference to mode of action of insecticides, and (iii) for achieving mortality and sterility in Desert Locust populations.

3. The Executive Committee attached considerable importance to field observations and recommended that the staff at the field research stations should be encouraged to study locusts in their natural environments, particularly in relation to the program of work given under (a), (b), (c) and (d) of paragraph 2 above.

4. A standard procedure of recording observations, as given in the FAO reports of various Symposia and Advisory Visits and detailed below, should be followed:

Report of the First and Second Symposia, 1963	- No. UNSF/DL/M/3
Report of the Third Symposium, 1963	- No. UNSF/DL/M/4
Report of the Fourth Symposium, 1964	- No. UNSF/DL/M/6
Exchange and Advisory Visit, 1963	- No. UNSF/DL/V/6
Advisory Visit, 1963	- No. UNSF/DL/RFS/3

Fellowships

5. The Executive Committee agreed to nominate Mr. Fariduddin Ahmed of Pakistan for fellowship for advanced training to be administered by FAO and to be financed from Trust Fund-123 for a period of two years.

6. While agreeing to the fellowship award to Mr. Fariduddin Ahmed, the Executive Committee desired that the Government of Pakistan should ensure that Mr. Fariduddin, on return to Pakistan after completing his fellowship, would mainly engage himself on either Desert Locust research or control or both for a minimum period of five years. The Executive Committee recommended that the above procedure would be applicable to all future fellowships.

7. It was decided that FAO invite the Member Governments of the Commission to nominate candidates for the 1967 fellowship program as soon as possible. It was understood that only one candidate could be selected for 1967 on the basis of his qualifications and experience, preferably, either from the Government of Afghanistan, India or Iran.

CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1966/1967

8. The Executive Committee unanimously elected the representatives of India and Pakistan on the Executive Committee as Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively, for a period of one year.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

9. According to the recommendation of the First Session of the Commission (Report, para. 36) the annual session of the Executive Committee should normally precede the annual session of the Commission, and the date and place of the next session would be decided accordingly.

PROVISIONAL STATEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURE TO 31/1/66 WITH PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1966

TABLE A

TRUST FUND No. 123

SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURE TO 31/1/66

	<u>Contributions received</u> (See Table B)	<u>Expenditure</u> (See Table C)	<u>Uncommitted Balance</u>	<u>Contributions outstanding</u> (See Table B)	<u>Budget for 1966</u> (See Table D)
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Convertible Currencies	34,025	11,035	22,990	73,838	96,828
Non-convertible	10,425	4,948	5,477	24,612	30,089
	44,450	15,983	28,467	98,450	126,917
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NOTE: The Organization's accounts for the year 1965 have not yet been finalized. Consequently, the figures in the statement can only be provisional.

TABLE B

STATEMENTS OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS AS AT 31/1/66

<u>Country</u>	<u>Annual Contribution</u> (75% due in Convertible Currency)	<u>Received to 31/1/66</u>		<u>Balance Outstanding</u>		
		<u>Convertible Currency</u>	<u>Non-Convertible</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>Total</u>
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Afghanistan	2,750	2,750	-	-	2,750	2,750
India (i)	27,000	-	-	27,000	27,000	54,000
Iran	25,000	18,750	6,250	-	25,000	25,000
Pakistan	<u>16,700</u>	<u>12,525</u>	<u>4,175</u>	-	<u>16,700</u>	<u>16,700</u>
	71,450	34,025	10,425	27,000	71,450	98,450
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(i) Lire equivalent of \$ 20,215.66 received 18/2/66. Bank advice of credit in Indian Rupees still awaited.

TABLE C

EXPENDITURE INCURRED TO 31/1/66

<u>ANALYZED BY OBJECT OF EXPENDITURE CODES</u>		<u>ANALYZED BY CURRENCY OF DISBURSEMENT</u>	
I.	Personal Services \$ 700	Afghanis \$ 508	
II.	Supplies and Materials 50	Iran Rials 1,067	
III.	Property and Equipment 7,897	Indian Rupees 2,638	
IV.	Travel and Transportation 2,087	Pakistan Rupees <u>735</u>	
V.	Contractual Services 316	Total non-convertible 4,948	
VI.	Grants and Subsidies nil	Other convertible currencies <u>11,035</u>	
VII.	Project Servicing Costs <u>4,933</u>		
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE 15,983	TOTAL EXPENDITURE 15,983	
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TABLE D

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1966

	<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>IV</u>	<u>V</u>	<u>VI</u>	<u>VII</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
A. Sessions of Commission and Executive Committee	300	100	100	2,000	500	-	-	3,000
B. Special Surveys: -								
Expenditure in Pakistan (i)	-	-	300	500	700	-	-	1,500
Expenditure in Iran (i)	-	2,000	2,000	10,000	1,000	-	-	15,000
Expenditure in India (ii)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Expenditure in Afghanistan (ii)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
C. Consultants	4,000	-	-	3,000	-	-	-	7,000
D. Fellowships	-	-	-	-	-	20,000	-	20,000
E. Reserves of Insecticide and Equipment	-	53,000	22,417	-	-	-	-	75,417
F. Project Service Costs	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>
TOTAL	4,300	55,100	24,400	15,500	2,200	20,000	5,000	126,917

(i) Special Surveys during 1965/66 season will not be financed from Trust Fund but expenditure will arise at the end of 1966 on the Southern Iran Survey due to commence in January 1967.

(ii) Provision will be included in the 1967 budget for the South Western Afghanistan Survey due to commence in March 1967.