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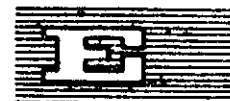


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REPORT ON LOCUST CONTROL

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LOCUST CONTROL

I. THE DESERT LOCUST(a) General

1. During the past five years there have been major changes in the overall Desert Locust situation, the most significant of which has been the greatly decreased distribution and intensity of the locust plague throughout the potential invasion area which covers the northern half of Africa and south western Asia. This decrease became most marked during 1962, though the recession began in Africa in 1961 since when no appreciable infestations of the Desert Locust have occurred west of the Nile valley. They continued later, but to a decreasing extent, in eastern Africa which area became virtually free during 1962/63. Latterly the plague has persisted, though on a limited scale, in only India and Pakistan.

2. The causes of this recession of the plague are not known, but it may be noted that the 11th Session of the FAO Technical Advisory Committee on Desert Locust Control (May 1963) considered that there was evidence that the new control techniques, recently applied on an unprecedented national and regional scale, had played a major part in bringing it about.

3. The above Committee and the subsequent 8th Session of the FAO Desert Locust Control Committee (May 1963) both warned all countries that the recession might be very short lived and that the situation did not permit of any complacency. It was strongly recommended that to make the most of the existing and almost unique situation, all countries within the invasion area should maintain their anti-locust resources at a sufficient level to survey possible infestations and to undertake adequate control measures at perhaps very short notice. At the same time the Committees recognized that FAO had played an important part in stimulating an awareness of the urgency of the Desert Locust problem and in furthering the adoption of improved techniques, tactics and strategy for its control.

(b) Arabian Peninsula

4. FAO started its programme on co-ordinating and stimulating work on, and the control of, the Desert Locust in 1952 under an EPTA Inter-Regional Project. During the early years, work was concentrated upon the Arabian Peninsula where FAO established a Regional Secretariat designed to co-ordinate and assist the various national anti-locust missions, contributed by various neighbouring countries, to assist the national anti-locust units of Saudi Arabia and, later, of Yemen and Kuwait. This work continues to date.

(c) Eastern Africa

5. Commencing in 1952 FAO provided increasing assistance to countries in Eastern Africa and in 1957 established a Regional Locust Secretariat in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to help co-ordinate, stimulate and assist the locust control services of the Region which, at that time, consisted of Ethiopia, French Somaliland, Kenya, Somalia and Sudan. This major development met with noteworthy success culminating in the establishment of the Desert Locust Control Organization for East Africa (DLCO for EA) under a Convention, outside the framework of FAO, signed by the governments of Ethiopia, Somali Republic, Tanganyika, Kenya and Uganda on August 20, 1962, and later by the Government of France. This Convention was first drafted by the Third Session of the FAO Eastern African Desert Locust Control Sub-Committee (October 1961) amended by the Special FAO Meeting on Desert Locust Control in Eastern Africa (January 1962) and later finalized by the governments directly concerned.

6. Whereas this Regional Convention was established outside the framework of FAO, some signatory governments expressed a wish for its closer relationships with FAO. Subsequently, in April 1963, the Council of DLCO for EA approved the text of a Relationship Agreement with FAO which entered into force on 28 June 1963, after approval by the 40th Session of the FAO Council (June 1963) and subject to confirmation by

the FAO Conference towards the end of 1963. This relationship Agreement is intended as a provisional step pending decisions regarding proposals, put forward by some member governments of DLCO for EA, for a revised agreement for the establishment of DLCO for EA within the framework of FAO. This item is on the Agenda of the 12th FAO Conference for consideration and policy decision.

(d) Northern Africa

7. With reference to Resolution 78 (v) of the 5th Session of ECA, no action has yet been taken by FAO, though the matter was given preliminary consideration by the 8th Session of the FAO Desert Locust Control Committee (May 1963). This Committee was of the opinion that whereas a regional organization or commission in North Africa would be desirable it should develop close relationships with the Organisation Commune de lutte Anticridienne (OCLA) which has its headquarters in Dakar, Senegal, and which operates in Western Africa south of the Sahara, in the area of summer breeding which is the principal source of the locust swarms that periodically infest the northern African countries.

8. The matter is expected to be given further consideration by the 12th FAO Conference which will discuss the Co-ordination of Global Locust Research and Control.

(e) The UNSF Desert Locust Project

9. FAO's work on locusts has been greatly intensified with the coming into operation of the United Nations Special Fund Desert Locust Project in 1961.

10. At the time of writing, 35 governments were participating in, and contributing to, the six year, nearly US \$ 4 million, Project which is being executed by FAO. The governments of the following African countries were participants:-

Algeria	Morocco
Cameroun	Niger
Chad	Nigeria
Ethiopia	Sierra Leone
France (on behalf of French Somaliland)	Somali Republic
Ghana	Sudan
Libya	Tanganyika
Mauritania	Tunisia
Mali	United Arab Republic
	United Kingdom (on behalf of Kenya & Uganda)

11. The UNSF Desert Locust Project is designed primarily to stimulate and demonstrate new techniques for Desert Locust control and to train nationals of the participating countries how to make the maximum use of new developments. It is also designed to undertake studies of the ecological conditions favouring the continuation of Desert Locust plagues and how new plagues may be initiated. An important feature is the collation, analysis and dissemination of information on the progress of the locust movements and breeding. The Project is divided into several chapters of which the following are the most pertinent.

12. Ecological Survey - A general survey of the summer breeding belt in Africa has been concluded, especially in Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Sudan and Ethiopia. Subsequently the Ecological Survey team has studied conditions in the Arabian Peninsula and in 1963 commenced work in Pakistan, India and Iran.

13. Field Research Stations - Assistance is being given under the Project to support various national field research stations. Those in Africa are located at Dokki (UAR), Khartoum (Sudan), Diredawa (Ethiopia), Scousciuban (Somali Republic) (another more convenient site may be selected), Agadez (Niger) and Aioun el Atrouss (Mauritania). In Asia

assistance is being given in Saudi Arabia, India and Pakistan. To ensure better co-operation between the work of these and other national stations, FAO has established a Standing Group of Experts on the Co-ordination of Locust Research and is conducting a series of Symposia on specific locust problems.

14. Reporting and Forecasting Services - Under the Project, FAO is contributing financially to the cost of the Desert Locust Information Service (DLIS) at the Anti-Locust Research Centre, London, which collects and analyses Desert Locust reports from all countries and distributes monthly situation summaries and maps to the countries as well as special telegraphic warnings of important developments. Advisory visits to various national Reporting and Forecasting Services are also arranged by FAO. Such visits have been made to the United Arab Republic, Sudan and Ethiopia in Africa and to Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Iran in Asia. Visits to India and Pakistan are being arranged.

15. Training - Under this important heading awards of scholarships, fellowships, exchange and advisory visits are made by FAO to nationals of participating countries to enable them to extend their knowledge and experience. Training Courses are also organized, of which three have been concluded in Rabat (Morocco) 1960, Asmara (Ethiopia) 1962, and Karachi (Pakistan) 1963. It is proposed to hold a fourth Course in Dakar (Senegal) in 1964/65.

16. Operational Research - This chapter is designed to determine and demonstrate the effectiveness and costs of modern locust surveys and control operations, especially from aircraft. To date, control operations have been carried out in India and Pakistan and aerial surveys in Arabia. Further immediate work is planned in India and Pakistan. No operations have yet been undertaken in Africa.

17. Future Work - An urgent requirement, laid down in the Plan of Operation of the Project, is the preparation of plans for maintaining certain continuing aspects of the Project after its termination in 1966.

This matter was given preliminary consideration by the 11th Session of the FAO Technical Advisory Committee on Desert Locust Control in 1962.

II. THE AFRICAN MIGRATORY LOCUST

18. The International African Migratory Locust Organisation (OICMA), with its headquarters at Kara, Republic of Mali, is responsible for the preventive control of the African Migratory Locust, with the aim of preventing outbreaks similar to those that devastated crops over a major part of Africa south of the Sahara, notably from 1928 to 1942.

19. This Organisation, created some twenty years ago in the flood plains of the river Niger, after the recognition and delimitation of the original outbreak area, has been entirely successful in preventing further escapes of this species of locust.

20. The Organisation was originally established by a Convention ratified in 1952/53 by France and the United Kingdom, and later by Belgium and Ghana. It is at present the object of a new Convention, necessitated by the recent independence of many countries, as this new Convention should be of interest to all African territories which were subject to invasions by this locust in the past.

21. The following 22 countries which are protected by the activities of the Organisation are interested in the new Convention: Cameroun, Central African Republic, Congo (Brazzaville), Congo (Leopoldville), Mauritania, Ivory Coast, Dahomey, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Upper Volta, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tanganyika, Chad and Togo. It is understood that of these, 17 countries have agreed to sign the new Convention.

22. The annual budget of O.I.C.M.A. varies from 110 to 120 million francs C.F.A., or about US \$ 450,000 to 480,000. The cost of preventive control is extremely low compared with the potential crop losses which would be an inevitable consequence of new outbreaks of this locust species,

were O.I.C.M.A. forced to reduce its activities through lack of financial resources.

23. The last Council Meeting of the Organization (1963) considered under what conditions OICMA might become associated with FAO.

III. THE RED LOCUST

24. The International Red Locust Service (IRLCS), with its headquarters at Abercorn, Northern Rhodesia, is responsible for the prevention of future plagues of the Red Locust from its outbreak areas in Tanganyika and Northern Rhodesia. The last major plague of this locust species occurred from 1927 to 1945 and devastated most of the southern half of Africa.

25. A Convention for the prevention of the Red Locust was first signed by the governments of Belgium and the United Kingdom in 1938. Later, in 1949, an International Convention was concluded between Belgium, the United Kingdom, Southern Rhodesia and South Africa. The government of Portugal signed the Convention in 1950.

26. It is understood that owing to the increasing number of independent countries liable to be affected by the Red Locust, a new Convention will be initiated in early 1964 for signature by the various individual countries involved.

27. FAO was approached in 1962 by the International Red Locust Control Service which proposed closer co-operation between the various anti-locust control organizations with a view to increasing efficiency and reducing expenditure by pooling at least some of the scientists and equipment concerned, since all locust control organizations are rarely very heavily committed at the same time.

28. The annual expenditure by IRLCS is at present estimated at about US \$ 210,000 which again is very low compared with the value of potential and losses.