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CONTROL OF DESERT LOCUST

Prepared by the Food and Agriculture  
Organization upon the request  
of the Executive Secretary+

The Desert Locust Situation during 1960

The Desert Locust plague has continued actively through the year and shows no signs of general abatement though infestation have been less serious in certain areas of Africa than during some recent years. The locust has been particularly grave in eastern Africa, notably in Ethiopia and the Somali Peninsula. Outside Africa an important development, which may affect future migrations into Africa, has been a very considerable expansion of locust activity in India and Pakistan.

No particular crop damage by locusts has been reported.

The United Nations Special Fund Desert Locust Project

A development of outstanding international importance in the overall control of the Desert Locust on a long term basis has been the initiation of the United Nations Special Fund Desert Locust Project, the largest of all Projects yet sanctioned by the Special Fund.

This 6 year Project was approved by the Governing Council of the Special Fund in December 1959 when FAO was designated Executing Agency. Details of the Plan of Operation and budget were agreed between participating governments, the Special Fund and FAO at a Special Meeting held in Rome in April 1960. The Project became operational in June 1960.

The Project is designed to assist in developing a more fundamental and global approach to Desert Locust control on a long term basis as it is appreciated that such costly control measures as those recently adopted will have to continue year after year until overall policy and strategy can be improved.

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Over the six year period of the Project, the Special Fund contribution amounts to US\$ 2,492,700 and the contributions from participating governments to US\$ 1,373,100.

The Project covers the following activities, each designed to stimulate and expedite the development of more effective control of the Desert Locust at an international level, particularly through a preventative policy. The Project is not designed to, and cannot, assist existing types of Desert Locust control campaigns.

	<u>Projected Costs (\$)</u>
(i) Ecological Survey (4 years)	567,000
(ii) Research (6 years)	
Field research stations	720,280
Reporting and forecasting services	441,525
(iii) Training (6 years)	
Training courses	209,400
Fellowships and Scholarships	226,500
Exchange and advisory visits	98,500
(iv) Operational Research (4 years)	1,399,295
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	\$ 3,662,500

At the time of writing (September 1960) eighteen of the total of 21 governments which have pledged their support of the Project have completed the necessary initial formalities and have paid in cash a total of \$227,896 representing first annual contributions. These governments include the following concerned with Africa:

Ethiopia	Somali Republic
France	Sudan
Ghana	United Arab Republic
Morocco	United Kingdom

The FAO Technical Advisory Committee on Desert Locust Control (representing the Governments of France, India, Iran, Pakistan, the United Arab Republic and the United Kingdom) has been designated as the expert Advisory body to the Director-General of FAO in executing the Project. Steps have been taken to suggest that the FAO Council enlarges the Committee by the inclusion of representatives of the Governments of Ethiopia, Morocco and the Sudan Republic.

Since the Project became operative in June 1960, the Desert Locust Ecological Survey has been extended to include Niger Republic, further work has been undertaken in Mauritania and plans for a visit to the Somali Republic have been formulated. The first Desert Locust Training Course will be held in Morocco from November 1960 to January 1961 and invitations have been issued to all participating governments to nominate trainees. Governments have also been invited to submit candidates for scholarships and fellowships and for exchange visits and to request advisory visits. A survey of national field research stations and national reporting and forecasting services has begun. A contract to enable the Anti-Locust Research Station to operate an enlarged Desert Locust Information Service is under discussion.

The Director-General of FAO, who is responsible for the execution of the Project on behalf of the United Nations Special Fund, is confident that with the full cooperation of the participating governments in Africa and western Asia the Project will lead to more effective Desert Locust control, possibly at reduced cost, and will facilitate the establishment of an international body to place Desert Locust control on a permanent and international basis.

Rome

9 Sept. 1960

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