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Concept Note on Transboundary Pest Control Management

Introduction

One of the major challenges to food system resilience is the perennial locust invasion of plantations across national boundaries, coupled with the damaging effects of pest to plants and food crops. Locust known as a non-boundary insect can travel hundreds of kilometers in swarms and easily cross-country boundaries. It affects more than 60 countries globally and has recently affected countries in East Africa, Middle East, and Asia. The swarm of locust in one square kilometer contains 40 million locust and can consumed amount of food that 35000 people can eat. Pink immature adults are the migrant form of locust that are active during daytime and can fly 100 miles, ravaging all plants and vegetation along their paths. Locust invasion compounds the food security situations in OIC countries, especially in the wake of the existing food insecurity and the disruption of the food supply chain occasioned by COVID19 pandemic.

2. Insects movement cross borders from country or even content to another is known for several reasons and by different methods. Transportation for agricultural commodities that contain any stage of insects is one important reason for mechanical spread of insect pests such as pink bollworm in cotton that transferred by contaminated cotton from India to almost all cotton cultivation area around the globe and equally transportation of invested potatoes lead to the wide spread of the destructive Colorado Potato Beetle pest. Unlikely, Locust migration is recognized as biological behavior among the locust species that change the locust status from solitary to swarm and lead to transboundary migration.

3. In response of OIC official request on June 2020, IOFS is intensifying its action on combatting the menace of transboundary locust invasion and the pests. This is in compliance with IOFS Statute, which places emphasis on “exchange of information, data, researches and studies on sustainable agricultural development, biotechnology and production practices models, including irrigation, seed production, pesticides and agronomic management”. In this regard, the various components of OIC Plan of Action for Development of Strategic Agricultural Commodities have crosscutting activities on combatting locust invasion and pest attacks, including capacity development, early warning systems and cross-boundary support, among others. This concept note would identify the current situation of locust invasion and pest attacks in OIC member states and the collective intra-OIC actions aimed at addressing this problem.

Current Situation on Locust Invasion

4. At the beginning of 2020, an unprecedented locust outbreak threatened eight countries in the East African region. Ethiopia, Kenya, and **Uganda** were worst hit by the swarms. Due to its proximity from the epicenter of the invasion by only 152 miles, Yemen was also affected, while there was a possibility of the locust swarming South Sudan and Sudan. The estimated loss of crops and livestock was put at US\$8.5 billion. Locust swarms also affected Iran and Pakistan, where more than 20 million people lost enormous food harvests.

5. Two generations of transboundary locust are responsible for the several loss in crops in East Africa, with the reports that the second generation would be more aggressive, since it could multiply twenty times per generation, thereby making the second swarm 400 times stronger than the first. This second wave affected Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Eritrea, South Sudan, Uganda, and Tanzania. There were scientific forecasts that this wave would also extend to most countries of West Africa.

Recent Actions by Partners and Stakeholders

6. The World Bank, in May 2020, approved \$48m to help Uganda fight and contain locust invasion threatening livelihoods thereat. Swarms of locust devastating agriculture system engendering loss of livelihood for almost one million people directly, with about 1.2 million sustaining indirect losses. The Emergency Locust Response programme of the World Bank is to assist in monitoring and managing locust swarms and to restrict the new desert locust populations.

7. On the part of Iran and Pakistan, there was an estimated loss of US\$ 7billion in crops due to the locust attack in Iran. The desert locusts had attacked more than 200,000 hectares (494,000 acres) of orchards and farmland in seven of Iran's 31 provinces. Pakistan

and India faced the worst locust attack in 27 years. In Pakistan, the desert locusts had already devoured considerable quantities of crops in over 60 districts in all provinces

8. Reports from FAO about Locust invasion in Tajikistan indicate that the locust has the potential of attacking winter wheat and barley in the south of the country.

Previous Interventions at OIC Level

9. Prior to the declaration of its COVID-19 Response in May 2020, IOFS has sensitized the various funding agencies within the OIC system, on support for pest control and counter-locust attacks in OIC member states. During his meeting with ITFC in February 2020, the Director-General discussed the need to support various activities on pest control within the framework of the Plan of Action for Development of Strategic Agricultural Commodities.

10. In IOFS Response on COVID-19, the issue of pest control and counter locust invasion programmes assumed prominence, owing to the damaging effects posed to lives and livelihood as well as food supply in OIC member states.

11. Hitherto, IOFS has continued to follow-up the approval to Turkey and Uganda respectively under the OIC Cotton Action Plan, whereby the Project Committee supported the execution of two projects, namely:

- Cotton Integrated Pest Management, Education and Implementation approved for Bornova Plant Protection Research Institute to the tune of US\$1,100,000.00; and
- Supply of Pesticides, Spray Pumps and Fertilizers to Smallholder Cotton Farmers in Uganda to the tune of US\$82,260.00.

Impending Action Areas

12. Consequent upon the approbation of the OIC Programme of Action for Strategic Commodities on three critical agrifood commodities such as rice, wheat and cassava, efforts would be intensified to ensure the diligent execution of the action segment pertaining to pest control and locust eradication. To this effect, the following methodologies shall be applied:

- Compilation of status reports on the pest control and counter locust measures in OIC member states, in collaboration with national and international research institutions;
- Increasing capacity of member states to strengthen national policies and regulations on prediction, monitoring and management of locusts and pest control;
- Interfacing with relevant donor agencies to meet the funding requirements of national institutions for pest and locust control programmes;

- Encouraging member states in locust-prone areas to establish robust early warning systems for timely response to locust invasion and pest control;
- Ensuring deployment of rapid humanitarian food assistance to affected member states and communities through an IOFS flash appeal and the utilisation of existing humanitarian platforms, including the proposed OIC Food Security Reserve;
- Facilitation of exchange of research and studies on counter locust invasion measures and pest control, including organisation of periodic workshops among relevant national centers of excellence in this domain;
- Mobilising intra-OIC support at both public and private sector levels for the various activities aimed at combatting the menace of locust and pest attacks in OIC member states;
- Ensuring that the Relevant Steering and Project Committees under the OIC Programme of Action for Development of Strategic Commodities are seized with the issue combatting locust and pest attacks.
- IOFS invite OIC Member Countries to cooperate in this Programme. In the same vein, IOFS invite other OIC institutions namely IsDB and COMSTECH to cooperate in implementation of the mentioned programme.

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