



STATEMENT

ON

**HOSTING THE 67TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS OF THE DESERT LOCUST CONTROL
ORGANISATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA (DLCO-EA)
FROM 26TH TO 28TH OCTOBER, 2022 AND MARKING THE
60TH ANNIVERSARY OF DLCO - EA**

PRESENTED BY

**FRED BWINO KYAKULAGA
MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE**

DELIVERED AT

THE UGANDA MEDIA CENTRE

KAMPALA

OCTOBER 25 2022



The DLCO – EA Staff
The Director, Crop Resources, MAAIF
MAAIF Staff present
Friends in the Media Fraternity
Good morning to You All

I am honoured to be here this morning to announce that Uganda is hosting the 67th Session of the Council of Ministers of the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO – EA) from 26th to 28th October 2022 and at the same meeting DLCO - EA will mark its 60th Anniversary.

The DLCO-EA is a United Nations (UN) registered Organisation and was established by an International convention signed by all member countries in 1962.

DLCO-EA is a nine (09) Member Country Organization, with the following members; **Uganda**, United Republic of Tanzania, Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti, Kenya and Somalia.

The DLCO-EA supports member countries in the prevention and control of migratory pests (locusts, armyworms, tsetse flies and quelea birds), and any emerging pests that threaten **food security in the member countries.**



The DLCO-EA management structure includes a Secretariat based at the DLCO-EA Regional Headquarters in Addis Ababa. The Secretariat is headed by the Director who has a technical team he works with. Then there is the **Executive Committee** comprised of heads of Crop/Plant Protection Departments /Directorates of the member countries and the supreme body that provides political and policy direction of the organisation is the **Council of Ministers** composed of Ministers responsible for Agriculture in member countries.

In Uganda, the DLCO-EA is hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), and the Commissioner Crop Protection is a member of the **Executive Committee** whereas the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, is a of the **Council of Ministers**.

DLCO-EA has implemented various activities in Uganda over the years and these include the following;

- I. Aerial Spraying of **tsetse flies** transmit sleeping sickness and Nagana in Busoga region (Jinja, Iganga, Kamuli) during the early periods of 1980s and 1990s. The region had become un-habitable until the Tsetse flies were sprayed resulting into reduction of the Tsetse fly population to manageable levels. Three aerial sprays, covering a total area of over **2,625km²** were covered and treated. Currently, the



flies are on a comeback and there is need for a targeted spot re-spraying!

- II. Aerial survey and control of **Quelea birds** in North Eastern Uganda; Kibimba Rice Schemes and rice schemes in Bulambuli district in 1987, 2000,2002,2013 and recently in 2021.

Uganda is prone to invasion of quelea grain destroying birds especially in North Eastern Uganda. In June 2013, the birds destroyed over 1,000 acres of sorghum in Kween District. In the same year, losses and damage to rice in Kibimba rice schemes were at **30-50%**, and close to 300 people were being employed as bird scarers. In July 2013, an aerial control operation was carried out in Kibimba rice schemes, controlling about **1.9 million birds**, and saving over UGX **30 million** in rice that was being lost daily. In August 2021, aerial control and survey operations of quelea grain destroying birds calmed the pest menace in Bulambuli district and surrounding areas.

- III. General Migratory pests' **surveillance** and **applied Research**, this is a continues exercise. Through their base in Kampala, DLCOEA works with the Ministry in the routine **surveillance** and **research** on mandated pests. Publish **report findings** and extension information resulting from the activities, to concerned farming communities. There is continuous applied



research on the “***transboundary nature of migratory pests***”.

The DLCOEA is on 24/7 monitoring surveillance of the mandated pests and issues monthly situation reports on the status of pests, weather parameters and ecological conditions that are exchanged and posted on the website.

- IV. Aerial spray of Red **Locusts** (*Nomadacris septemfasciata*) in Mbarara District in July 1995. Red locusts normally breed in some areas of Tanzania, Malawi & Zambia. They invaded Uganda from Tanzania in 1995. This invasion was contained by DLCO-EA before much pasture and crop damage was experienced.
- V. Routine surveillance and Control of **grasshoppers, army worms, Fall Armyworm & other caterpillars** (e.g. giant loopers) across the country. DLCO-EA has routinely worked with MAAIF in the control of some of the outbreaks of these notorious insects.

Control operations have been mainly through ground sprays (using hand-held, battery powered or motorized sprayers) with approved insecticides. In **2014**, an attack and infestation by **giant loopers/caterpillars** in Kampala and Wakiso districts was controlled by a joint team of MAAIF/DLCO-EA.



In 2016-2018, DLCOEA working with MAAIF and other stakeholders (CABI, USAID, FAO, ICIPE), designed and implemented projects towards the control of FAW in Uganda.

- VI. Continuous **Training** of Trainers (TOT) in migratory pests' control & management. The DLCO-EA has unrivalled expertise in migratory pest's management. Several Ugandans have benefited from DLCO-EA organized and facilitated training programs. Some of the trainings include one in October **2010** where a TOT was held in Mable Uganda, and **20** Ugandans were trained in *Quelea* grain-destroying birds' management, and in December **2011**, 03 Ugandans from the MAAIF were trained in Migratory pests' management in Moshi Tanzania.

In **June 2013** a regional migrant pests' workshop with **30** participants from the entire 09-member countries was held in Entebbe, and **03** Ugandans were among the trainees. In **December 2013**, two (**02**) Ugandans were trained from Moshi (Tz) in locusts' control and management. In **2015**, **02** Ugandans trained from Kenya, and **20** Agricultural Officers & lead farmers were trained from Iganga, Uganda.

In **February 2016**, two MAAIF senior staff trained in migratory pests' surveillance, management and control from Port Sudan in Sudan. Several TOTs were facilitated on Desert Locust in 2020. In **August 2022**, Uganda hosted a Regional *Quelea*



Management training workshop with 13 experts from the Member Countries of which 06 were Ugandans from the Ministry.

- VII. Aerial spraying of **black flies** (*Simulium spp*) in Northern Uganda around October - December 2012. The DLCO-EA partnered with Ministry of Health (MOH) in a program to suppress black flies in **Northern Uganda** that are suspected to be contributing to nodding disease syndrome. There was significant fly population reductions and the disease is under containment.
- VIII. Control of desert locusts in Uganda in 2020. As you all remember, Desert Locust invaded Uganda **on 09th February 2020**. The DLCO-EA deployed a survey and control aircraft in Uganda for the whole of 2020. About 17 locust swarms of different sizes, covering over **7,880 hectares** of vegetation were controlled with **3,750 litres** of assorted Ultra Low Volume (ULV) pesticides. This was in addition to the ground control efforts by UPDF and Uganda Wild Life Authority.

As I conclude, I wish to inform the public that;

- a) Uganda is hosting the 67th Session of the Council of Ministers from the 9-member countries and celebrating 60th years (1962-2022).



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- b) DLCO-EA has been fundamental in the management of migratory pests' and other vectors including the Desert Locust, Tsetse flies and Black flies in Uganda and the region at large
- c) Top on the agenda for these meeting will be the modernization of the organization to respond to current global trends.

For God and My Country!

Maj (Rtd) Kyakulaga Fred Bwino (MP)
**MINISTRY OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL
INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES (AGRICULTURE)**