

# Surveillance, management and Alert system for locusts in the COSAVE region

Hector E. Medina<sup>1,2</sup>

1. Plant Health Department, Senasa, Argentina; hmedina@senasa.gob.ar

2. Coordinator of the Locust Technical Group, COSAVE



The Plant Health Committee (COSAVE) serves as the Regional Plant Protection Organization (RPPO) for the Southern Cone of South America. Its primary function is to act as an intergovernmental forum, promoting coordination and joint efforts to address phytosanitary issues of common interest among its Member Countries, thereby bolstering regional phytosanitary integration. The genesis of COSAVE can be traced back to the battle against locusts in the region. Between 1947 and 1964, collaborative and coordinated actions for locust control demonstrated to the countries of the Americas, and subsequently to the COSAVE members, that successful pest control in agriculture relies on a coordinated approach to phytosanitary measures. Among COSAVE's activities are the endeavors of various technical groups, including the Technical Group on locusts. While the region hosts three locust species, the primary concern arises from the resurgence of the South American locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*), which has posed a threat to agricultural production in member countries since 2015. In response to this challenge and to improve response times to migratory swarms moving between Bolivia, Paraguay, and Argentina, near the border of Brazil and Uruguay, Senasa Argentina, in collaboration with COSAVE and IICA, has developed the “Regional Locust Monitoring, Management, and Alert System” (Figure 1). The locust alert system enhances the capacity for anticipation and response by systematizing monitoring information through a mobile application that directly captures field data in the various countries, making it quickly available. The system's regional nature enables simultaneous operations in the region, reporting pest progress in real time in all countries, without waiting for decisions and human actions to communicate, which can be time-consuming. Automatic alerts or notifications are sent upon pest detection, improving communication between NPPOs and allowing the private sector to be promptly in-

formed about the pest situation in real-time. Additionally, NPPO specialists have access to a unified platform for information management through the Locust GIS (Figure 2), facilitating decision-making and the implementation of control measures. For further information, please visit: <https://test.senasa.gov.ar/langostas/>



Figure 1. COSAVE Locust Alert System website

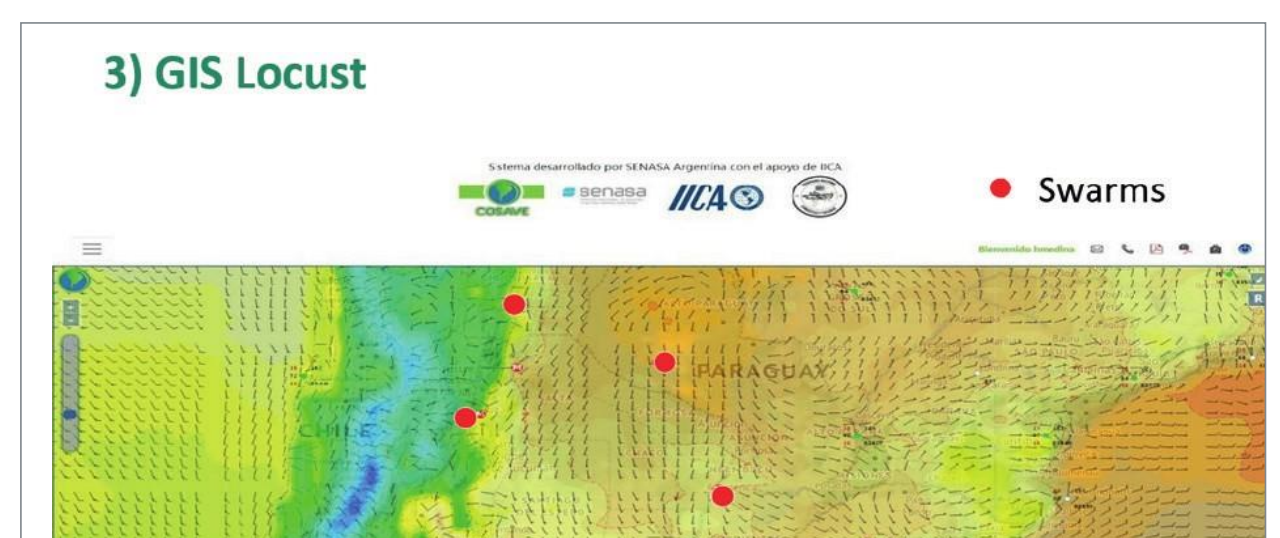


Figure 2. GIS Locust image

**Key Words:** Locust, COSAVE, Alert, System, Response, Emergencies

