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Sheet on Project
Biotechnology as a means to combat locust
Pilgrim

Initiated in 2007 in collaboration with the University of California (USA), the research project on The use of biotechnology tools as a means To combat locust has set itself the objective Using modern methods of processing Genetic to make harmless at Locust Phases of development which leads to the Gregarizing and migration. This method, which Falls in the long term, could come to support the Primarily chemical methods currently used Against locust.

Indeed, after the miracles achieved in the areas Of pharmacology and agro-industry, insects GM are generating a large Interest in the scientific community as Next miracle of biotechnology. According to some Scientists, the application of transgenic technology in Insects could improve agricultural production and Human health, particularly in those countries Development, while preserving the environment.

For example, several researchers are working Currently processing insect vectors Intercontinental diseases like Malaria, which Cause spreading of chemicals high Scale in the affected countries.

Given the seriousness of the threat of locust that has Place every 10 to 12 years in West Africa and North and the potential of biotechnology, Ministry of Agriculture of Morocco launched the idea To examine the feasibility of the genetic modification of Locust to make it incapable of gregarize, To migrate and thus pose a threat to security Food affected countries.

Thanks to a close collaboration that has been established
With Professor Thomas A. Miller of the University of
California, Riverside, and a number of other
Researchers interested, the idea has gained ground and
Scientific network on the subject has been created. The
Proposal was also discussed
At the annual International Congress of Entomology who
Held from 19 to 24 August 2007 in Daegu in Korea;
Discussion led to the development of a document
Work entitled "Protocol Daegu." A committee
Monitoring of this protocol has been established and
Organizing a meeting in Rabat on the subject,
Morocco's initiative, it was decided:

[Http://biopesticide.ucr.edu/locust/locust_committee/locust_committee.html](http://biopesticide.ucr.edu/locust/locust_committee/locust_committee.html)
[Http://biopesticide.ucr.edu/daegu/daegu.html](http://biopesticide.ucr.edu/daegu/daegu.html))
([Http://www.faculty.ucr.edu/~chmeliar / miller_home / home.html](http://www.faculty.ucr.edu/~chmeliar/miller_home/home.html))
[Http://www.actionbioscience.org/biotech/miller.html](http://www.actionbioscience.org/biotech/miller.html))
([Http://biopesticide.ucr.edu/locust/locust.html](http://biopesticide.ucr.edu/locust/locust.html))

The Rabat meeting will be held from 01 to 03 July 2008.
The meeting, which will see the participation of a
Sixty scientists from various countries, is
Will be the first opportunity to discuss the topic.
The interaction between men and researchers on the ground and
Exchange of experience which will result should yield
: (1) put back on track a realistic, coherent
And where the various parameters involved will be taken into
; (2) develop avenues of research
Science that will advance the fight against the scourge
Locust while respecting the environment.