DLCO-EA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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Contents

LAUNCHING OF AERIAL SPRAYING ON BLACK FLIES IN NORTHERN UGANDA

Nodding areas to be sprayed

Hon. Minster of Health flagging off DLCO-EA aircraft 29th November. 2012. PHOTO bv ROBERT

The Ugandan Minister of Health, Christine Ondoa launches the aerial spraying operation in Pader District on 29th November 2012.

The Minister said the operation would extend to the South Sudan border.

The operation that was launched by the government is meant to rid the areas of the **black flies**, believed to be part of the cause.

The government has begun the aerial spraying of Nodding Syndrome areas in Acholi Sub-region to kill and combat the multiplication of black flies, which are partly suspected to be behind the mysterious disease.

The Ministry of Health in collaboration with the **Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA)**, will conduct the exercise for one-and-a-half months in Pader, Gulu, Kitgum, Lamwo, Oyam, Lira and Amuru districts, which have so far registered more than 6,000 cases of the nodding disease.

Launching the programme at Paipir Primary School Grounds in Pader Town Council recently, President Museveni asked nodding victims to be patient as the government finds a cure for the disease.

"The government is still waiting for the results from the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, USA," the President said in his statement read for him by Health Minister Christine Ondoa. He added that the aerial spraying was one of the government interventions as they await experts' feedback and urged health workers to take a pivotal role in treating other neglected diseases.

Dr Ondoa asked the leaders in the region to embrace the chemical aerial spraying of the black flies, saying it had been proven to be environmentally friendly and that a number of countries had used it successfully.

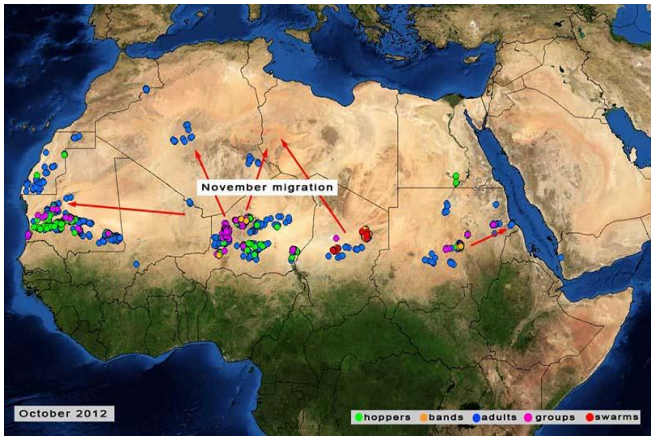
MIGRATORY PEST SITUATION OCTOBER – DECEMBER, 2012

DESERT LOCUST

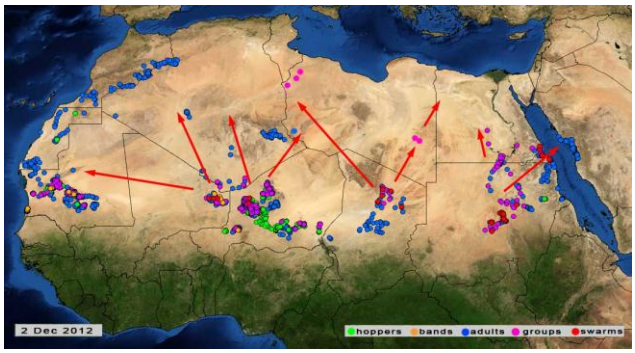
Low numbers of adults moved from the summer breeding areas in Sudan to the winter breeding areas in the northeast and along the Red Sea Coast of the country. Isolated adults were present in southern Egypt and on the Red Sea Coast of Yemen.

In Western Region, a second generation of breeding continued during October in northern Niger and Chad causing locust numbers to increase further in both countries. The locust situation in Mali was similar to that in Niger and Chad. (FAO-DLIS, PPD/Sudan)

Hopper and adult groups, bands and swarms continued to form during November in the summer breeding areas in the interior of Sudan. Although ground and aerial control operations were undertaken, groups of adults moved north to southern Egypt while other groups and small swarms migrated to the winter breeding areas in northeast Sudan and on the Red Sea coast in southern Egypt. At least one group crossed the Red Sea to the northern coastal plains in Saudi Arabia.



Second generation of breeding continued to cause locust numbers to increase in the northern Sahel region of Mali, Niger and Chad during November. As vegetation dried out, hoppers and adults formed groups and a few hopper bands and small swarms. Small adult groups moved north into southeastern and western Libya, southern Tunisia and Algeria. In Mauritania, locust infestations increased in the west and northwest due to breeding and the arrival of adults from the summer breeding areas in the south, causing hopper and adult groups to form as well as a few hopper bands. Aerial control operations had commenced in Niger and Algeria, supplementing ground efforts. Ground control was also carried out in Chad and Mauritania



Source (FAO)

Facts:

*A **locust swarm** can be small (≤ a half a hectare) or huge (more than 1000 km²). There could be 50-80 million locusts per km²*

*An **adult locust** eats an amount approximately its own weight per day i.e. 2 g*

*A **swarm size** of just a km² devours 100-160 tons of vegetation (crops & pastures) per day*

*A **swarm travels** on average 250-300 km per day while **hoppers travel** about 1.5 km a day (Symmons &Cressman, 1994)*

*Under suitable conditions, they could **have 2-3 generations** per year and multiply 16-20 times per generation (Symmons & Cressman, 2001)*

GRAIN EATING BIRDS

Eritrea

During September, Quelea birds outbreak and infestation occurred in the sub-zone of Goluj in Gerset (1452N 3642E) and Dresa (1448N3628E) locations.

Birds were reported roosting on Acacia trees, bushes and Sugar Cane plantation feeding on Sorghum and Pearl-Millet crops.

Consequently, the MoA had deployed a spray Aircraft and an estimated of 9.75 million birds, which were roosting on an estimated 168.75 ha were sprayed with 675 liters of Queletox 60% ULV.

Kenya

Quelea outbreaks and infestations were reported in Narok, in the Rift Valley region and in the western parts of the country during October. Consequently, a DLCO-EA spray Aircraft was deployed and conducted control operations in both areas.

Ethiopia

Quelea infestations were reported in several locations in the Oromiya region in eastern Shoa zone during October 2012. Consequently, a DLCO-EA spray Aircraft was deployed and an estimated 22 million birds in roosts and colonies were controlled between 7th and 24th of October, 2012.

Birds were roosting on 550 hectares of Typha grasses at Endokontolla, Sheled, Tute, Dodota and Gogetgoro localities, and 1,250 liters of Avicide were used to control them.

Quelea infestations were also reported in several locations in Amhara region during November 2012. A DLCO-EA spray Aircraft was deployed and an estimated 4.7 million birds in roosts were controlled between 12th and 25th November, 2012.

Birds were roosting on 245 hectares of Typha grasses, Acacia, Euclyptus and Baobab trees at Jile Timuga, Efrata Gidim, Kewet and Dawa Chefe localities. 490 liters of Avicide were used to control them and a high rate of mortality was estimated.

Facts:

Quelea qulea birds can travel ~60 km/day looking for food.

An adult Quelea bird can consume 3-5 g of grain and perhaps destroy the same amount each day. A colony composed of a million birds (very common) is capable of consuming and destroying 7-10 tons of seeds/day (enough to feed 15,000-20,000 people for a day).

ARMYWORMS

Outbreaks of Armyworms were reported during November in Tanzania, Southern highlands of Tanzaniain Mbozi, Ileje and Sumbawanga localities. High numbers of moth catches were also reported from traps located in the Southern highlands and other districts in the south. However, most of the traps installed in other parts of the country reported NIL catch.

No infestation was reported from other member countries.

TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS

Project Inception Workshop on Scaling up Community Based Armyworm Monitoring, Forecasting and Early Warning in eastern Africa (CBAMFEW) FOG AWARD NO. AID-OFDA-F-12-00006

A project Inception Workshop on "Scaling Up Community Based Armyworm Monitoring, Forecasting and Early Warning (CBAMFEW) in Eastern Africa" was held in Debre Zeit, Ethiopia from 29th- 31st October, 2012. There were nine participants that attended the workshop. Of these, three were National Armyworm Coordinators from Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania, four from DLCO-EA and two were from Addis Ababa University and Haramaya University in Ethiopia.

The workshop which was officially opened by DLCO-EA Director, Mr. Gaspar A. Mallya, marked the start of this USAID funded project in Tanzania, Kenya and Ethiopia.

The project, whose objective is to build capacity of the local farmers to monitor the outbreaks of armyworm and take early action to control them, will be implemented for 3 years 2012 to 2015.

Workshop participants

Objective of the Workshop:

The main objective of the workshop was to introduce the Project to the National Armyworm Coordinators of the implementing Countries and make plans for its implementation.

Training Course on Desert Locust Identification, Survey and Reporting

The Community-Based Desert Locust Monitoring and Reporting Network to be initiated by the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) has an objective of early detection of Desert Locust outbreaks for early intervention with environmentally safe control technology before it spreads out of the outbreak areas. It is implemented with the proactive involvement of DLCO-EA, the Experts from Ministry of Agriculture and/or NGOs working at grassroots level and the communities themselves as these are the first to observe changes in locust population and behavior.

The training course on Desert Locust Identification, Survey and Reporting was held with the objective to build a strong network of locust-enlightened development agents and experts working with Non-Governmental and Governmental Organizations in Somaliland who would actively participate in a network of Desert Locust Monitoring and Reporting System. The expected Desert Locust Information flow emanating from the communities and the ecological observations will enable communities to forecast intervene and contain locust outbreaks at the very early stage with environmentally safe technology before any economic and environmental damage occurs.

Training participants

The training course was expected to contribute in the improvement of early warning system and early detection of Desert Locust infestations, followed by early intervention when necessary, through increasing understanding about the importance of credible & quality report and imparting better understanding on the biology and behavior of Desert Locust to the trainees.

DLCO-EA AIRCRAFT SITREP AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 2012

A/C REG.	5Y-BCJ Beaver	5Y-BCK Beaver	5Y-BCL Beaver	5Y-KRD Beaver	5Y-DLA Caravan	5Y-DLO Baron	5Y-BBB Islander	5Y-DLD Turbo Beaver
C OF A DUE DATE	15/04/2013	18/05/2013	15/11/2013	**IN PROGRESS**	20/02/2013	**IN PROGRESS**	15/08/2013	01/05/2013
CHECK III	20/01/2014	10/06/2015	**13/04/2013**	IN PROGRESS	N/A	*IN* PROGRESS	15/07/2014	14/01/2014
PROP. 5 YR OVERHAUL	21/07/2014	17/11/2013	**19/12/2012 Ext. requested**	IN PROGRESS	06/08/2013	IN PROGRESS	PORT:28/9/2014 STBD:28/9/2014	21/07/2017
A/F HOURS	146:35	106:15	122:05	154:35	2035:10	499:15	33:45	170:00
ENGINE (S) HRS	**1010:40**	801:45	582:10	154:35	1863:30	PORT: 00:00 STBD: 00:00	**PORT: 1552:15 STBD: 1552:15**	271:15
PROP. HRS	34:00	495:05	582:10	503:25	3467:40	PORT: 1346:25 STBD: 1278:05	PORT:212:05 STBD:212:05	271:15
LOCATION	STANDBY NAIROBI	QUELEA SUDAN	STANDBY NAIROBI	UNDER ACCIDENT REPAIR	MWANZA UNHCR	NAIROBI MAINTENANCE	STANDBY NAIROBI	BLACK FLIES UGANDA

NB

IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

TO BE NOTED

Prepared by:- Technical Records
Checked by:- Chief Engineer

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