



DLCO-EA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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1.0 A REGIONAL TRAINING COURSE ON MIGRANT PESTS MANAGEMENT IN ENTEBBE:

The Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) organized a Regional Training Course on Migrant Pests Management in Entebbe, Uganda from 17th – 20th June, 2013.

The main objective of the training course was to upgrade the capacity of the national coordinators of the Member Countries in the Management of African Armyworm, Quelea birds and Locusts, and thereby prevent tremendous crop losses that are likely to be caused by the migrant pests in the region.

The training course started by a well-come address by Mr. Komayombi Bulegeya, Commissioner, Crop Protection, Ministry of Agriculture,

Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), Uganda.

A total of 22 participants from Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda attended the training course.

The participants were the National Coordinators for the control of African Armyworm, Quelea birds and Locust.

The trainers were Senior Staff Members from DLCO-EA, Base Manager from Kampala and Senior Officers from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Uganda.

The pre-and post-course evaluations conducted showed the training course was very successful.

The training course was fully funded by DLCO-EA.



Group Photo of the Participants

2.0 DLCO-EA BASE MANAGERS SEMINAR:

The seminar for Base Managers and Senior Staff was organized by Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) in Embu, Kenya from 3rd – 5th June, 2013.

The participants were Base Managers from Uganda, Ethiopia, Sudan, Eritrea and Hargeisa Caretaker and DLCO-EA senior staff from Headquarters and Nairobi.

The main agenda items addressed in the seminar included the following:

- Finance and proper Management of Organization resources;
- Operation Unit and deployment of Aircraft;
- Activities of Control Reserve Bases and Challenges;
- Revised Staff Appraisal Forms;
- Revision of DLCO-EA Service Regulations;
- Staff Annual Leave;
- Transport and Vehicle Utilization.



Group Photo of the Participants

The DLCO-EA Director, Mr. Gaspar Mallya opened the seminar and highlighted the following issues:

The Director **INFORMED** the seminar that, DLCO-EA now has a Membership of Nine States with the addition of the Republic of Southern Sudan who joined the organization on 1st November, 2012.

He also **ADDED** that DLCO-EA now has two new Base Managers; Mr. Yohannes Beyene from Asmara Base and Mr. Alaa El Sayed from Khartoum Base.

In addition, the Director said, this kind of meeting was last held in 2006, thus seven years ago. He felt it would be doing justice to DLCO-EA to meet more frequently to update the staff, learn from each other and see how to make improvements in areas of weaknesses.

The outcome of the seminar is expected to be the following:

- Monthly Financial Returns from the Bases will reach Hqts on time and prepared as per the financial Regulations of the Organization.
- The new Staff Appraisal Form will be in use properly.
- The proposed Revisions on the Service Regulation will be finalized.

3.0 REGIONAL WORKSHOP ATTENDED BY DLCO-EA STAFF:

The FAO's Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region (CRC) and Desert Locust Information Service (DLIS) organized an inter-regional workshop for National Locust Information Officers in the Central and

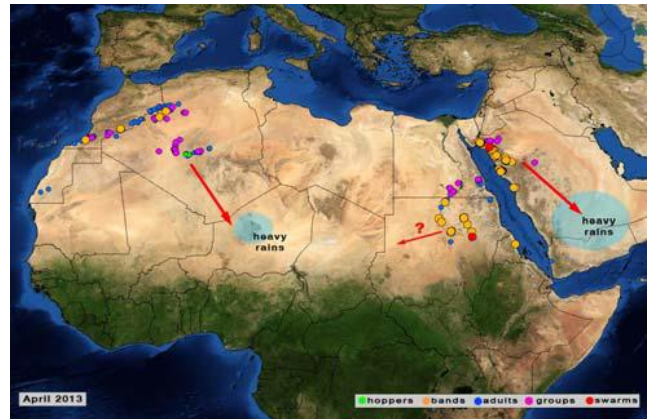
Southwest Asia region on 21st -25th April, 2013. The Workshop was held at the FAO Regional Office Near East in Cairo, Egypt. The event was a follow-up to Workshops held in April, 2010 and April, 2009. The Workshop's objective was to discuss the use and improvement of RAMSES and eLocust2 in order to strengthen national early warning and reporting.

The workshop was attended by DLCO-EA Senior Information and Forecasting Officer.

4.0 MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION April – June, 2013:

4.1 Desert Locust:

Hopper bands continued to form near cropping areas along the Nile River in northern Sudan during **April**. Locust numbers declined further in winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea due to control operations and drying condition. However, breeding continued in northwest Saudi Arabia and there is a risk that the new generation of adults could move into the interior and breed in areas of recent rainfall in the interior of Yemen. A few hopper bands were present on the northern Red Sea coast in Eritrea. Small scale breeding occurred near Lake Nasser in southern Egypt.



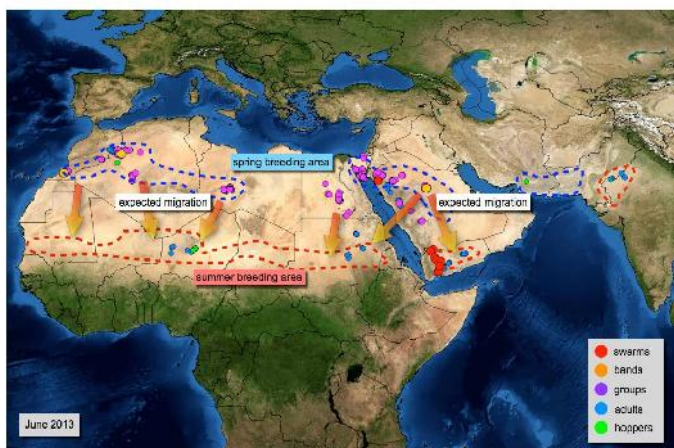
(Desert Locust situation, FAO, 5/2013)

Groups of immature adults and a few small swarms formed during **May** from hopper groups and bands in northwest Saudi Arabia. Several mature adult groups moved to the interior and laid eggs near irrigated areas. Hopper groups and bands were present on both sides of the border in Sinai, Egypt and Negev Desert in Israel where small groups of immature adults formed by the end of May. Hopper groups were also present near Lake Nasser in Egypt. In northern Sudan, hopper bands and fledglings were reported in the Nile Valley near Egypt but declined during May. Aerial and ground control operations were in progress in Saudi Arabia and Israel, while ground control was carried out in Egypt and Sudan.



(Desert Locust situation, FAO, 6/2013)

In the Central Region, small groups of adults and swarms arrived during **June** in the interior of Yemen where they dispersed and are expected to breed, causing locust numbers to increase and small hopper groups and bands to form. Adult groups also formed and moved south in Egypt, heading towards the summer breeding areas in central Sudan.



Source FAO DLIS

4.2 Grain Eathing Birds (*Quelea quelea*):

DLCO-EA spray aircraft was deployed to Tanzania in mid- April for *Quelea* control operation up to June 30, 2013, where by about 110 million *Quelea* birds roosting on 16,830 ha of *Acacia* trees were controlled using 3,220 litres of *Avicides*. The birds were feeding on sorghum, rice and millet, in Shinyanga (western region), Mbeya (southern region), Morogoro (Central Zone) and Manyara regions.

In Kenya, DLCO-EA Aircraft was deployed in Narok County, in the Rift Valley area and Kisumu in the western parts of the country to control *Quelea* infestations during June. However, details of the operations conducted were not received during this period.

4.3 Armyworms (*Spodoptera exempta*):

Tanzania:

During April, Moshi and Rombo districts in Kilimanjaro region and Meru district in Arusha region in the northern part of Tanzania reported armyworm outbreaks, which were successfully controlled by farmers in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture.

Quite a high number of moth catches were reported in northern Tanzania (Arusha, Tengeru, Karatu, Handeni and Rombo) in May. However there were no armyworm outbreaks reported.

Ethiopia:

Armyworm outbreaks were reported in few locations in Southern Oromia and Southern Nation, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP) region. Ground control operations were successfully carried out against the infestations.

The scale of Armyworm outbreaks have increased in May in the southern and eastern parts of the country. It was reported that control operations undertaken have covered wider areas during the month than during the previous month's operations. Armyworm outbreaks occurred in surrounding areas of Dire Dawa and eastern Hararghe, in more than 10 districts, although no significant damage on crops was reported.

The Armyworm outbreaks that were reported in southern and eastern parts of the country were controlled by the Ministry of Agriculture, the Regional Agriculture Bureau and affected farmers.

5.0 HIGHLIGHTS OF COMMUNITY BASED ARMYWORM MONITORING, FORECASTING AND EARLY WARNING PROJECT:

The Community Based Armyworm Monitoring, Forecasting and Early Warning (CBAMFEW) Project has been under implementation in **Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania** since October, 2012. This Project is funded by the United States Agency for International Development/Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/ODA) and is implemented by DLCO-EA in collaboration with the Ministries of Agriculture of Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania.

The key activity of this project is to train the community forecasters and equip them with the necessary forecasting tools to enable them to give armyworm forecasting services to their communities. In view of this, 100 community forecasters, 50 village chiefs and 50 extension agents were trained in each of the participating countries with emphasis on the following topics:

- Identification of armyworm moths.
- Site selection for pheromone trap and rain gauge installation.
- Data collection on moth catches, number of rainy days and presence of green vegetation.

- Monitoring and forecasting rules.
- Dissemination of positive forecasts to the communities

Farmers usually observe the occurrence of armyworm larvae at the fourth or later instars. By this time it might be too late to arrange for the necessary control materials and carry out control operations. However, community based armyworm monitoring, forecasting and early warning system enables farmers to detect armyworm outbreaks at earlier stages and undertake control operations on time.

During the current armyworm season, outbreaks were reported in Tanzania, Kenya and Ethiopia. The community forecasters played a very significant role in issuing forecasts and alerting farmers to check their fields. For example, the community forecasters in Fedis district in eastern Ethiopia issued armyworm alerts long before the occurrence of armyworm outbreaks and passed the warning to farmers. This enabled the farmers to check their fields and report the occurrence of armyworm outbreaks to the nearest MoA office in their locality. As a result, control operations were undertaken on time by the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Agricultural Bureau (RAB) and the affected farmers. No major damage was reported.

This initiative needs to be promoted in all areas where armyworm is a major pest problem.

6.0 COMMUNITY BASED DESERT LOCUST MONITORING AND REPORTING:

The Community Based Desert Locust Monitoring and Reporting Project is funded by USAID through FAO.

The major activities carried out by the project during this quarter included the production of the following posters.

- Desert Locust Alert (English) - 500 copies.
- Desert Locust Alert (Amharic) - 1000 copies.
- Desert Locust Alert (Somali) - 1500 copies.
- Desert Locust Identification (Amharic) - 500 copies

7.0 UPCOMING EVENTS:

7.1 In-country Training Course on Migrant Pests for PPD Staff in Tanzania, August, 2013. This Training course will be jointly funded by DLCO-EA and Tanzanian Government

7.2 Regular Session of DLCO-EA Council and Executive Committee will be held in Asmara from 7th - 11th October, 2013

7.3 CBAF National Workshops in Tanzania, Kenya and Ethiopia, will be held in August/September, 2013

8.0 DLCO-EA AIRCRAFT SITREP AS AT 30TH JUNE, 2013

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	IN PROGRESS	15/11/2013	IN PROGRESS	19/02/2014	IN PROGRESS	15/08/2013	22/05/2014
CHECK III	20/01/2014	10/06/2015	20/08/2014	IN PROGRESS	N/A	IN PROGRESS	15/07/2014	14/01/2014
PROP. 5 YR OVERHAUL	21/07/2014	17/11/2013	14/02/2018	IN PROGRESS	28/05/2018	IN PROGRESS	PORT:28/9/2014 STBD:28/9/2014	21/07/2017
A/F HOURS	157:45	240:35	192:20	154:35	2330:35	499:15	34:45	211:15
ENGINE (S) HRS	1015:55	936:05	652:25	154:35	21583:55	PORT: 00:00 STBD: 00:00	PORT: 1552:15 STBD: 1552:15	312:30
PROP. HRS	39:40	629:25	70:00	503:25	48:45	PORT: 1346:25 STBD: 1278:05	PORT: 212:05 STBD: 212:05	94:55
LOCATION	STANDBY ADDIS ABABA	STANDBY NAIROBI	QUELEA KENYA	UNDER ACCIDENT REPAIR	MWANZA UNHCR	NAIROBI MAINTENANCE	STANDBY NAIROBI	QUELEA TANZANIA

NB

 **IMMEDIATE ATTENTION**

 **TO BE NOTED**

Checked by: - Chief Engineer

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