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SITREP No. 12/2008-2009

DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT

FOR JUNE, 2009



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the Central Region, light rains fell during the first week of June in the summer breeding areas of Sudan between El Fasher and Geneina, from Ed Duein to Kassala and in the Red Sea Hills. Thereafter, rainfall remained south of 13N. Vegetation was becoming green in parts of eastern Sudan between Gedaref and Kassala, but remained dry in Northern Kordofan and in the Northern State except for cropping areas along the Nile River. In the Horn of Africa, light rains fell at times over the Hara Highlands in eastern Ethiopia and extended to the Somali plateau near Hargeisa. Vegetation remained green in these areas but was dry or drying out elsewhere in northern Somalia. Good rains fell in the highlands of Amhara and Tigray in northern Ethiopia where vegetation was green. Light to moderate rains fell at times on the Red Sea coast and in the nearby mountains between Quinfidah, Saudi Arabia and the southern Tihama plains in Yemen, which should be sufficient to allow ecological conditions to improve for breeding. Vegetation was dry or drying out in the interior of Yemen because of lack of rainfall since May. (Extracted from *FAO DL Bulletin No. 369*)

1.1 Djibouti

The country remained sunny and dry.

1.2 Eritrea

During the last week of June, several unrecorded heavy rains occurred to the South of Asmara within a radius of 30 – 40 kms. One heavy rainfall was also reported in Keren 1540N/3825E area.

Western lowlands and coastal areas experienced very hot and dry weather conditions.

Vegetation on western and eastern lowlands remained dry and on the highland areas were drying out with some patches to the South which remained semi-green.

Average high and low temperatures for Assab and Massawa were 38/24⁰C and 43/26⁰C respectively. Average wind speed was 05 meters / sec.

1.3 Ethiopia

Vegetation in most areas of eastern and a few locations in northeastern parts of the country where locust had reported was greening.

Some areas in Shinile zone along the Djibouti and northern Somalia borders remained dry.

The lowland areas of the Central Rift Valley in north Shewa and Afar regions were largely dry. The vegetation density varies from low to

dense with medium vegetation status prevailing. Most perennial plants in areas that received rainfall in the previous months also remained green.

1.4 Kenya

During June, medium to heavy rains fell at times in some limited locations while vegetation in most areas remained green.

1.5 Somalia

Generally, vegetation on the northern coastal areas of the country was found dry, while some parts on the plateaus were green. Temperature on the coastal areas was very high and hot reaching 40 – 44°C.

There were some light to moderate rainfalls reported on the mountains during the month.

1.6 Sudan

Light rains fell during the first week of June in the summer breeding areas of Sudan between El Fasher and Geneina, from Ed Duein to Kassala and in the Red Sea Hills. However, vegetation was found almost dry in most of the summer breeding areas except areas around the Nile Valley and Atbara seasonal river.

The prevailing wind was northerly to northeasterly in the northern parts of the country including the coastal areas, while it was southwesterly in the southern parts.

1.7 Tanzania

Moderate rains continued to fall during May in the Southern and Northern highlands, Lake Zone and the Coastal belt, while the rest of the country remained dry.

1.8 Uganda

The long rainy season of March-May ended, and June had been relatively dry across most parts of the Country. Most parts received below average rains during the season and the

rains were more erratic than usual. Crop and vegetation damages had been reported in Mbale district, Eastern Uganda, resulting from heavy rain storms.

Vegetation was reported green across most parts of the Country, but in some areas it was drying.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

2.2 Eritrea

No locusts were reported in the summer and winter breeding areas.

2.3 Ethiopia

Since the beginning of the month, swarms were reported in eastern and northeastern parts of the country. On 5th and subsequent days, at least five immature swarms have crossed to Ethiopia from northwest Somalia and on 7th and 8th of the month swarms were reported in Dire Dawa and Harar areas.

Part of the swarm which was seen during the first decade of the month in northeastern parts of the country was reported moved further to northwest reached south of Gondar and Tigray zone. Due to the high mobility and terrains of the area, controlling them was difficult. Some of the swarms also reported moved to west into Menz area, Amhara Region. The swarms appeared to have scattered very thinly over a large area especially on the highlands of north-central and northwestern parts of the country. Size of the swarms/swarmlets was estimated ranging from 2.5 ha up-to 4 sqkms.

During the month, around 14401 ha by ground and 3730 sqkms by air were surveyed in eastern and northeastern parts of the country and about 8915 ha were found infested with immature locusts.

On 7th June 150 ha swarm was treated aerially using 150 lt of Malathion 96% ULV around Harar (091801N/420650E).

The swarm that was reported at Kombolcha (092900N/420521E) and had a size of 95 ha was controlled on 8th June by ground teams using Dursban 240gm ULV at the rate of 1 lt/ha. Also, in Dire Dawa (092636N/414708E), ground teams treated on the same date a swarm covering 20ha using Malathion 96% at the rate of 1 lt/ha. While the rest of the swarm that covered 100 ha was treated on the same day using 100 lt of Dursban 240g ULV.

On 12th June, aerial control operation was conducted against 400 ha of immature swarms around DireDawa airport (0940N/4149E) using 400 liters of Dursban 24% ULV.

On 13th June 115 ha of immature swarms were controlled by air around the same airport (0942N/4149E) using 115 liters of Dursban 24% ULV.

On 16th June 100 ha of immature swarms were controlled by air at Hurso (0934N/4140E) using 100 liters of Dursban 24% ULV.

A swarm covering 100 ha was also sprayed by air at Harey (101611N/414824E), which is located north of DireDawa on 17th June using 100 liters of Fenitrothion 95% ULV.

2.4 Somalia

Ground survey was carried out between 19 -22 June on the plateau north of Borama and the costal plain all the way up-to Hagel; east of Berbera in the northern part of the country.

Scattered immature solitarious adults were found at Hididale (102254N/442216E), Beyo (102213N/452556E) and Tunka (101719453540E). High density immature swarm covering 100 ha was found at Hagel (101505 N454418E).

Un-confirmed reports were also received from the regional MoA coordinator of Erigavao on

22nd June of one settled swarm at Boa, which is about 5 kms west of Erigavao

2.5 Sudan

During the month, ground survey was conducted by PPD staff in the River Nile, Kordofan, Northern, Kassala & Red Sea States.

In the Northern State southwest of Merowe (1830/3149E) 4,600 ha were surveyed and 14 ha were reported infested with immature and mature solitarious scattered adults at densities of 50–150 individuals/ha.

In Northern Kordofan State, between El Obeid (1311N/3010E) and En Nahud (1246N/2828E) 1150 ha were surveyed, and 22 ha were found infested with mature solitarious scattered adults at densities of 50–200 individuals/ha.

In the River Nile State, between Abu Hamed (1932N/3320E) and Ed Damer (1734N/3358E) 6200 ha, most of which was irrigated field had been surveyed and 259 ha was found infested with mature solitarious scattered and group of adults at densities of 150–800 individuals/ha. 2nd to 4th instar solitarious hoppers were also found at densities of 2-3 hoppers/m² near Berber (1801N/3400E). The rest of the surveyed areas were found free of infestations.

2.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Desert Locusts were not reported.

2.7 Other Regions *(extracted from FAO Desert Locust bulletin No. 369)*

Central Region: Several small immature swarms formed in northwest Somalia in early June. Some of the swarms moved into eastern Ethiopia while others moved east across northern Somalia. A few of the swarms in Ethiopia continued into the northern highlands where they dispersed and were difficult to treat. Conditions dried out in the interior of Yemen and only scattered adults remained. Local breeding occurred in a few places along

the Nile River in northern Sudan, and a few solitarious adults appeared in the summer breeding areas in Northern Kordofan. No locusts were reported elsewhere in the region.

Western Region: The locust situation remained calm during June. Small-scale breeding continued in Morocco near the Algerian border and ground control operations were undertaken. Isolated adults were present near irrigated areas in parts of the central Sahara in Algeria. No locusts were reported in West Africa.

Eastern Region: Local breeding continued during June in the interior of southeast Iran and ground teams treated more than 5,000 ha of hoppers. No locusts were reported in Pakistan or India.

3.0 Forecast until mid-August 2009

(Forecast is sighted from FAO D.L. Bulletin No. 369)

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely. .

3.2 Eritrea

There is a moderate risk of scattered adults and perhaps few small groups of adults appearing in the western lowlands from adjacent areas of northern Ethiopia during the first half of July. If rains fall, small-scale breeding will occur.

3.3 Ethiopia

A few small swarms appear in the northern highlands from the central Rift Valley in early July. If so, they are likely to disperse, and scattered adults and perhaps a few small groups may move to the summer breeding areas in central Sudan and western Eritrea. Similar populations are likely to persist in the Hara highlands and on the plains near Jijiga.

3.4 Somalia

Unless further rain falls, current infestations will continue to decline and no significant developments are likely.

3.5 Sudan

There is a moderate risk of scattered adults and perhaps a few small groups of adults appearing in the summer breeding areas from northern Ethiopia during the first half of July. Small-scale breeding will commence in the summer breeding areas once rains fall, causing locust numbers to increase in parts of Khartoum, Northern, River Nile, Kassala, Red Sea, white Nile and Northern Kordofan States. Scattered adults are likely to persist and breed along the Nile River between Ed Damer and Dongola.

3.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

The countries are expected to remain free of Desert Locust infestation.

4.0 OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS

4.1 Red-billed Quelea birds (*Quelea quelea* sp.)

4.1.1 Tanzania

A DLCO-EA aircraft continued Quelea birds control operations during June in different regions of the country and were reported as follows:-

Manyara Region

3 roosts with an estimated of 14 million birds on 70 ha of *Acacia* trees were controlled using 350 liters of chemical.

Crop saved was Wheat.

Morogoro Region

1) Morogoro District

6 roosts with an estimated of 4 million birds on 35 ha of *Acacia* trees were controlled using 350 liters of chemical. Crops saved include Rice and Sorghum.

2) Mtibwa District

7 roosts with an estimated of 29 million birds on 155 ha of *Acacia* trees were controlled using 550 liters of chemical.

Birds were feeding on irrigated Rice.

Dodoma Region

1 roost with an estimated of 2 million birds on 20 ha of Reeds were controlled with 150 liters of Queletox. Birds were feeding on irrigated Rice.

Mbeya Region

1) Mbarali District

7 roosts with an estimated of 15 million birds on 350 ha of Reeds and Typha grasses were controlled with 820 liters of Queletox. Crop saved was irrigated Rice. .

4.1.2 Kenya

Late Report

Quelea infestations were reported and controlled by ground means in Narok and in Imentia during May. In both locations, an estimated of 4.5 million birds in 10 roosts were feeding on Wheat crop.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

4.2.1. Tanzania

There were no reports of Armyworm outbreaks.

4.2.2 Kenya

Late report

During May, Armyworm infestations were reported and controlled in Narok in the Rift Valley, Tana Delta district in Eastern and Lamu in the Coast Provinces.

Narok North District

IV-VI instars having a density of 70/m² were reported on 4/5/09 at Siapei area central Narok Division on 300ha of Wheat crops and pastureland. Worms had been controlled using insecticide.

Tana Delta District

V-VI instar worms having a density of 20/m² were reported on 4/5/09 at Kipini Division on 52ha of Maize plantation and 40 ha of pastureland. Worms had been controlled using 10 litres of Alphadime.

Lamu District

IV-VI instars having a density of 3/m² were reported on 20/5/09 at Mpeketoni on 4 ha of Maize plantation. Worms had been controlled using Bestox.

SIFO

For Director,
3rd July, 2009