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SITREP No. 11/2008-2009

DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT

FOR MAY, 2009



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the Central Region, good rains fell over most of northern Somalia and eastern Ethiopia during the second decade of May. In northern Somalia, vegetation was drying out on the northwest coast but was becoming green on the escarpment and plateau. In adjacent areas of northeast Ethiopia, vegetation was green or becoming green north of Jijiga. By mid-month, the southwest monsoon winds had become established over the Horn of Africa. In the interior of Yemen, ecological conditions were favorable for breeding at the mouth of Wadi Hadhramaut, in the numerous wadis to the north between Minwakh and Thamud, and at the base of the foothills along the edge of Ramlat Sabatayn. Vegetation was drier on the Ramlat Sabatayn plains in the absence of any rain. In Saudi Arabia, good rains fell in the central and northern interior during the first half of May. Vegetation was green but starting to dry out in some areas. In Oman, light rains fell early in the month along parts of the central and northern coast where annual vegetation was green in some places. *(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 368)*

1.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

1.2 Eritrea

Apart from light to medium showers, specifically on Southern highland areas, no heavy rainfall was reported from other quarters of the highland or Western lowland. The Escarpment and Eastern lowlands remained dry.

Natural vegetation on the highland was partly green from short rainfalls received during March/April 2009. The Western and coastal plains/Wadis remained dry.

Average high and low temperatures for Assab and Massawa were 34/26⁰C and 39/28⁰C respectively.

Prevailing winds were North Easterlies at wind speed of 5.0 meters/sec.

1.2 Ethiopia

During the month, most of the eastern parts of the country remained dry except of some green areas observed north of Jijiga and areas bordering northwestern Somalia.

1.4 Kenya

During May, medium to heavy rains fell in most parts of the country and vegetation in most areas were green.

1.5 Somalia

During May, good rains fell over most of northern Somalia however vegetation was drying out on the northwest coast. The escarpment and plateau was becoming green.

1.6 Sudan

By the end of the second decade of May 09, the Inter-Tropical Front (ITF) oscillated north of the Southern States (around 12.3⁰N), shower rains received during the first decade of may in the western parts of North Kordofan State and in some locations in the Northern State.

The vegetation cover was almost dry in most of the summer breeding areas except in areas around the Nile Valley, the Atbara seasonal river and some locations in North Kordofan.

In the River Nile State vegetation was found green and dense and soil was wet.

The prevailing wind was northerly to northeasterly in the northern parts of Sudan and 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

Moderate to heavy showers and thunderstorms have been reported across most parts of the Country, with some reports of crop and other property damages.

Vegetation has been green across most parts of the Country.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

2.2 Eritrea

By the end the month, ground survey was conducted on the Red Sea coastal areas and only some solitary adults were found around Sheib.

2.3 Ethiopia

On 7th May, settled immature swarm covering about 120 ha was controlled by a DLCO-EA aircraft around Dire Dawa, at location 0935N/4151E. 120 liters of Malathion 96% ULV was sprayed.

Latest report of 1st June indicated that high density low flying immature Desert Locust swarm, covering about 1.5 sqkms was controlled by air at Babile (093937N/420708E), in the eastern parts of the country. 200 liters of Malathion 90%ULV was used during the operation. Also there was unconfirmed report received on the same day of around Diredawa at Belewa (093403N/420722E)

2.4 Somalia

During the beginning of May, there were unconfirmed reports broadcasted on local radio stations and received from travelers of hoppers developments and new hatchings in different locations of northern parts of the country.

Ground survey was conducted between 15th to 17th of May in Warqa dhigta (101040N/433719E), Wayway (101252N/433841E), gobdhere (101536N/433814E), Qudanjale (101405N/434020E), Ilhager (101526N/434243E), Milo (102249N/434759E), fahiye harushe (102329/434734E) Osoli

(10245143N/434548E), Osoli2 (102549N/434403E), Dawaley (102728N/434101E).

In all surveyed areas, 2nd to 5th instar medium to high density hopper bands and fledglings were found covering more than 1500 ha. Hoppers have been started moving from the plain areas to the mountains where it made control operation and detection of the hoppers more difficult.

On 22/5/09 a DLCOEA aircraft sprayed 30 kg of *Metarhizium (Green Muscle)* (diluted in 570 liters of diesel at the rate of 1 lt/ha) on 30 bands of 4th and 5th instars at locality (094500N/044200E); which is about 20 miles NE of Hargeisa. Average size of one band was estimated 20 ha, which is large and spread over 600 ha.

On 23rd, aerial control operation was conducted at Lafaruq (101048N/444719E) and Dargodlee (101115N/445230E). During the operation, 20 medium density hopper bands of 4th and 5th instars having an average size of 15 ha and covering 200ha and 100ha respectively were controlled using 300 liters of Dursban 24% ULV.

On 25th, 10 medium density hopper bands of 5th instar, having an average size of 20ha and covering about 200ha were controlled at Osoli (102730N/434234E). During the operation, 200 liters of Malathion 96%ULV was sprayed.

2.5 Sudan

The Desert Locust situation was calm in Sudan during May 2009.

On 20th, ground survey was conducted in the River Nile State covering 350 ha of irrigated fields. 30 ha was found infested with mature solitarious scattered adults at densities between 150 - 500 individuals/ha and mature solitarious groups at Eldabborra (173318N/341229E) with densities reached up to 1500 individuals/ha.

By the end of the month, additional 11700 ha were surveyed and 145 ha were found infested with solitary, immature, mature, scattered, group of adults with density ranging from 100–900 individual/ha.

During 27th -31st of the month ground survey was conducted in the northern State covering 4600 ha out of which, 11 ha were found infested with solitary, scattered, mature adult at a density of 50 individual/ha.

2.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Desert Locusts were not reported.

2.7 Other Regions *(extracted from FAO Desert Locust bulletin No. 368)*

Central Region: Breeding occurred in Northern Somalia and the interior of Yemen that caused numerous hopper bands to form during May. In Yemen, ground control started in late May against hopper bands present in some of the same interior areas as during the 2007 locust upsurge. However, ecological conditions are less favorable this year, so new swarms that start forming in early June are unlikely to remain in the interior desert. Instead most of them are expected to move into cropping areas in Wadi Hadhramaut and the central highlands. There is a moderate risk of swarms from Yemen and northern Somalia moving northeast along the eastern coast of Oman. Elsewhere, ground teams in Saudi Arabia treated very small hopper bands in one area along the Red Sea coast and scattered adults were present along the Nile River in northern Sudan, in southern Egypt and in northern Oman.

Western Region: The locust situation remained calm during May. Small-scale breeding occurred in Morocco and in central Sahara in Algeria. Ground control was undertaken in Algeria. No surveys were carried out in the Sahel in West Africa.

Eastern Region: Locust population remained low in the spring breeding areas during May.

Ground teams treated hopper groups in southeast Iran and scattered adults were present in western Pakistan.

3.0 Forecast until mid-July 2009

(Forecast is sighted from FAO D.L. Bulletin No. 368)

3.1 Djibouti

There is a low to moderate risk that a few swarms may arrive from adjacent areas of northern Somalia and Ethiopia; however, they are not likely to remain in the country.

3.2 Eritrea

Locust numbers will decline on the Red Sea coast as vegetation dries out. There is a low risk of a few swarms appearing in the western lowlands from the Horn of Africa.

3.3 Ethiopia

There is a high risk that small groups of adults and immature swarms could appear in early June in the Harar Highlands between DireDawa and Jijiga, and eventually breed in areas of recent rainfall. However, some of the swarms may continue moving northwest towards Amhara and Tigray or northeast Somalia.

3.4 Somalia

Small immature swarms are expected to continue to form during the first half of June. Although the swarms should remain on the plateau in areas of recent rain, there is a moderate risk that some swarms could move east along the escarpment and plateau towards the northeast and the Gulf of Aden. Any swarms that move up the plateau near Boroma are likely to continue into Ethiopia.

3.5 Sudan

Scattered adults are expected to persist near Atbara and Dongola. Low numbers of adults are likely to appear in the summer breeding

areas in the interior (Khartoum, Northern, River Nile, Kassala, Red Sea, White Nile and northern Kordofan States) and lay eggs once seasonal rains commence. There is a low risk of a few swarms appearing in the summer breeding areas from the Horn of Africa.

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 May in different regions of the country and were reported as follows:-

Manyara Region

2 colonies with an estimated of 5 million birds on 11 ha of Acacia trees were controlled using 50 liters of chemical killing 95% of the birds. Crop saved was ripening Rice.

Singida Region

6 roosts with an estimated of 16 million birds on 155 ha of Acacia trees were controlled using 425 liters of chemical with a kill of 85%. Crops saved include Finger Millet and Bulrush Millet.

Dodoma Region:-

3 roosts with an estimated of 14 million birds on 165 ha of Acacia trees/Reeds were controlled with 300 liters of chemical. Birds were feeding on Bulrush Millet and mortality was estimated 90%.

Musoma Region

5 roosts with an estimated of 9 million birds were controlled with 475 liters of chemical. Crop saved was irrigated Rice. .

Mwanza Region

1 colony and 2 roosts with an estimated of 8 million birds were successfully controlled with 275 liters of Queletox killing 90% of the population. Birds were feeding on Rice. Operation continues in Dodoma, Morogoro and Mbeya regions.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

4.2.1. Tanzania

There were no reports of Armyworm outbreaks.

4.2.2 Kenya

There were no reports of Armyworm outbreaks.

SIFO

For Director,
4th June, 2009