DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... (DLCO-EA) .....

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SITREP No. 12/2009-2010

DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR JUNE, 2010

1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the Central Region, vegetation continued to dry out in the spring breeding areas in the interior of Saudi Arabia as well as along the Red Sea coastal plains. As the ITCZ moved progressively northwards during June, seasonal rains began to fall in the summer breeding areas in the interior of Sudan, reaching 15N by the end of the month. Sufficient rain is likely to have fallen in some areas to allow small-scale breeding to commence in July. In Yemen, light rains fell on the Red Sea coast and a few showers were reported in the summer breeding areas in the interior of Shabwah and Hadhramaut where conditions remained unfavorable for breeding. In the horn of Africa, light showers fell on the plateau between Dire Dawa, Ethiopia and Hargeisa, northern Somalia. In northern Oman, unusually heavy rains associated with Cyclone Phet fell in Shariqiya region on 3-4 June. (*FAO DL bulletin No. 381*)

1.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

1.2 Eritrea

The month of June was generally characterized by hot and dusty weather on the Eastern and Western lowlands as well as the Northern part of the highlands. In those areas, sky was generally hazy and overcast with dust suspended. This unusual weather pattern occurred and lasted for about three weeks; from the first to the third week of the month; and no significant rainfall occurred.

In Assab and Massawa average high and low temperatures were $37/28^0$C and $40/30^0$C respectively. Prevailing wind directions were (variable) North Westerlies at a speed of 05-06 mt/sec.

Vegetation in western lowland was observed dry. In the southern highland plains, natural vegetation was observed semi-green. In the Eastern lowlands, with the exception of tufts of Pannicum, most Wadis were observed drying out.

1.3 Ethiopia

There had been an interruption of rainfall during the month in most of the eastern lowland areas where spring breeding of locust occurs potentially. However, on 28th and 29th of June those areas had received low amount of rainfalls, which could create wet conditions making ecological conditions favorable for locust breeding.

Both perennial and annual vegetations were generally remained green or greening in most parts of the eastern lowlands where spring breeding occurs, while the annual vegetation became greener as the result of the increased cumulative rainfall since the previous months.
In June, the temperature has been increased relatively in most of the eastern parts, particularly increased significantly in most of the locust breeding locations.
The following rainfall data was obtained from Dire Dawa rainfall station:

Date	Amount (mm)
09/06/2010	2.3
23 " "	2.6
26 " "	1.2
28 " "	0.8
29 " "	2.4
30 " "	5.8

1.4 Kenya

Rains decreased significantly in most parts of the country and cloudy and cool weather conditions prevailed in most times of June. Vegetation remained green due to the higher amount of precipitation occurred during the previous months.

1.5 Somalia

Light rains fell at times in some areas located in the western parts of northern Somalia. Vegetation on the plateau in the northern parts of the country remained green.

1.6 Sudan

Seasonal rains began to fall in the summer breeding areas in the interior of Sudan, reaching 15N by the end of the month.

1.7 Tanzania

Light to Heavy rains fell in Kilimanjaro, and Tanga regions while the Lake Zone and southern highlands had light and scattered showers. The rest of the country remained dry.

Vegetation remained green in most parts of the country.

1.8 Uganda

During the beginning of the month, heavy rains and thunderstorms were reported in some areas, but the rains reduced by the end of the month as the dry season had set in. The northern part of the country will continue receiving heavy rains as the main rainy season for that area has started. Generally, the rains were expected to cease by the end of June in the other regions of the Country.
Vegetation was very green across most parts of the Country during June.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

2.2 Eritrea

No Locusts were reported during June.

2.3 Ethiopia

Survey was conducted on an area of 1962 ha in spring breeding areas of eastern lowlands and the surroundings areas of Dire Dawa. Solitary scattered locusts were seen over 149 hectares where few were copulating.

2.4 Somalia

During June, a ground survey was conducted and no locusts were seen between Hargeisa and Silil and the coastal plains.

2.5 Sudan

During June, scattered mature solitarious adults were present in a few cropping areas along the Nile River in Northern and River Nile States near Merowe (1830N/3149E), Abu Hamed (1932N/3320E) and Atbara (1742N/3400E) as well as along the Atbara River.

2.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Desert Locusts were not reported.

2.7 Other Regions *(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 381)*

Central Region: Locust infestations declined on the Red Sea coast of Saudi Arabia where control operations were carried out in May. Ground teams treated 5 ha of hopper bands that formed on the edge of the spring breeding area in the interior. Scattered adults were present in Oman and there is a high risk that additional breeding could occur during the next several months, causing locust numbers to increase due to the heavy rainfall occurred. Low numbers of adults were seen in cropping areas along the Nile in northern Sudan and in a few places in Yemen during a ground survey. Isolated adults were seen in the Western Desert in Egypt. Undetected breeding occurred in eastern Ethiopia during May, giving rise to scattered hoppers and adults in June.

Western Region: Locust populations declined in Northwest Africa along the southern side of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco where 303 ha of scattered adults were treated. Ground teams in Algeria treated 350 ha of solitarious hoppers and adults near cropping areas in central Sahara. Small-scale breeding occurred in southwest Libya where scattered hoppers and adults were reported.

Eastern Region: Low numbers of solitarious locusts began to appear in the summer breeding areas of Cholistan, Pakistan near the border of India in mid-June. Breeding conditions are expected to be unusually favorable this year along both sides of the border because of heavy rains that fell in early June from Cyclone Phet. No locusts were reported in Iran and India during June.

3.0 Forecast until mid-August 2010

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Low numbers of solitarious adults may appear in the summer breeding areas in the western lowlands and breed on a small scale with the onset of the summer rains.

3.3 Ethiopia

Small-scale breeding will cause locust numbers to increase slightly in the Aysha areas, but numbers will remain below threatening levels. Hatching will occur in early July and fledging will take place during the first half of August.

3.4 Somalia

Low numbers of solitarious adults may be present in parts of the plateau between Boroma and Burao where small-scale breeding could occur in areas of recent rainfall.

3.5 Sudan

Low numbers of solitarious adults are likely to appear in the summer breeding areas of West and North Darfur, West and North Kordofan, and White Nile and breed on a small scale once the summer rains start. Low numbers of locusts will persist and could breed in cropping areas along the Nile and Atbara Rivers. Consequently, locust numbers are expected to increase slightly but will remain below threatening levels.

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

During June, a DLCO-EA Aircraft continued Quelea control operation in different regions of the country and was reported as follows:-

Mbeya region (17th – 21st)

a) Mbarali: Eight roosts with an estimated bird population of 16 million roosting on 550 ha of Reeds and Acacia trees were controlled with 800 lts. of Queletox and achieving a 90% kill. Birds were feeding on Rice.

b) Madibira: Three roosts on 160 ha of Reeds and with an estimated bird population of 5 million were sprayed with 200 lts. of chemical killing 95% of the bird population. Birds were feeding on Rice.

Morogoro Region (23rd – 28th)

Three roosts with an estimated population of 3 million on 150 ha of Reeds were controlled using 150 liters of Queletox killing 85% of the birds.

4.1.2 Kenya

During June, outbreaks were reported in Narok District where two roosts with a total population of 4.0 million birds were controlled by a DLCO-EA Aircraft. Fenthion was used to control the birds and mortality was estimated 95%. Besides, surveillance continued in all vulnerable cropped farms and 1.8 million birds were reported in Nyanza causing grain loss to irrigated Rice. In Mbeere District, Eastern Province, Quelea outbreak was reported with the damage being inflicted on Sorghum and Millets.

4.1.3 Ethiopia

Quelea infestation was not reported.

4.2 African Armyworm *(Spodoptera exempta)*

4.2.1 Tanzania

No outbreak reported.

4.2.2 Kenya

No outbreak reported.

4.2.3 Ethiopia

Armyworm infestation continued to occur in many regions of the country starting from mid-April. The report indicated that more than 324,000 ha of pasturelands and 345,900 ha of croplands were infested in the southern, southwestern, eastern, northern and western parts of the country until 2nd July. The regions, which were affected by the infestation include; Oromyia, SNNPR, DireDawa, Somali, Gambela, Harari, Amhara, Benshangul and Tigray. Ground control operation was conducted on more than 137,300 ha of pasturelands and croplands using 49,624 liters of insecticide. Besides, infestation that occurred on 56,674 ha of pasturelands was controlled using some cultural practices.

4.2.4 Uganda

Infestation not reported.

Forecast during July 2010

During July, minor infestation will continue to occur in the northern and northwestern parts of Ethiopia and infestation will continue to occur in the southern, central and northern highlands of Eritrea. Therefore, regular monitoring of traps and field crops is highly advised.

4.3 Tse-tse flies

4.3.1 Uganda

During June, the press continued writing about the escalating ***Tsetse flies*** problem and some efforts towards aerial spraying of the same.

CIFO

For Director,

05 July, 2010
For more information about the organization, please visit DLCO-EA's Website: **www.dlcoea.org. et**