

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... DLCO-EA)



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DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR

APRIL, 2013



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the Central Region, good rains fell in the interior of Saudi Arabia during the last two weeks of April. Rainfall was heaviest on the western edge of the Empty Quarter and showers extended into the interior of Yemen. Consequently, ecological conditions are expected to become favorable for breeding in the coming weeks. Heavy rains also fell in northern Oman at the end of the month, causing flooding in some areas. Once flood waters recede, ecological conditions are likely to become favorable in the northern regions. In the Horn of Africa, good rains fell on the plateau in northwest Somalia and adjacent areas of eastern Ethiopia at times during the first half of the month. Vegetation continued to dry out along both sides of the Red Sea in absence of rainfall. Unusual rains fell in northwest Sudan along the Chad and Libya border between Mellit in North Darfur and Jebel Uweinat. (*FAO DL bulletin No. 415*)

Djibouti

Report not received.

1.1 Eritrea

Report not received.

1.2 Ethiopia

During April, the short rain season has continued with light to heavy rainfall occurred in most places of the eastern lowlands and the adjacent areas of northern Somalia and Djibouti. The report indicated that the rainfall was heavy and covering wider area than to the previous month's. Perennial and annual vegetations have also turned green over large areas mainly in the traditional desert locust breeding locations in the east and areas bordering northern Somalia and Djibouti. Consequently, favorable ecological conditions have been created for locust breeding.

The following rainfall data is obtained from Dire Dawa meteorological station:

| Date | Dire Dawa (0936N/04150E) Rainfall in mm |
|----------|--|
| 01/04/13 | 34.1 |
| 03/04/13 | 8.9 |
| 16/04/13 | 5.0 |
| 17/04/13 | 0.4 |
| 18/04/13 | |

Created with

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| 19/04/13 | 2.0 |
| 22/04/13 | 2.2 |
| 23/04/13 | 8.5 |
| 24/04/13 | 11.2 |
| 27/04/13 | 12.7 |
| Total | 85.4 |

1.3 Kenya

During April, medium to very heavy rains fell in various parts of the country causing destruction to infrastructure, crops, and human and animal deaths were also reported. Based on press reports, hundreds of people have also been displaced after several rivers burst their banks and submerge their houses.

Due to the continuous rainfalls, perennial and annual vegetations have turned very green across most parts of the country.

1.4 Somalia

Rainfall intensity and distribution have greatly improved and enhanced in different regions of the country compared to the previous month's.

The northwestern regions received moderate to heavy rains notably during the first and third decades of April, while during the second decade, it was poor with less frequency.

The eastern, central and southern regions of the country have also received moderate to heavy rains during the month.

Consequently, annual and perennial vegetations were observed greening to green and soil was moist, creating favorable ecological conditions for locust breeding.

Rainfall record during April for some stations

| Date | Dila | Oodweyne | Balli-Gubadle | Ga'an Libah | Hargeisa |
|------|------|----------|---------------|-------------|----------|
| 01 | 19.0 | - | 25.0 | - | - |
| 02 | 47.0 | - | - | 19.0 | 28.0 |
| 03 | 25.0 | 20.5 | 40.0 | - | 60.0 |
| 04 | - | - | 90.0 | 24.0 | 1.0 |
| 05 | - | 22.0 | 15.0 | - | - |
| 07 | - | - | 0.5 | 10.0 | - |
| 08 | - | - | 25.0 | - | - |

| | | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| 09 | - | - | 25.0 | - | - |
| 10 | - | 14.0 | 30.0 | 26.0 | - |
| 11 | - | - | - | 19.0 | - |
| 12 | - | 20.0 | - | - | - |
| 13 | 1.0 | - | - | - | 0.5 |
| 14 | - | 20.0 | - | - | - |
| Total | 92.0 | 96.5 | 250.5 | 98.0 | 89.5 |

1.5 Sudan

The ecological condition during April remained favorable for DL breeding in River Nile, the Northern State and in the cultivated areas along River Nile banks, where it has remained green. But it was dry along the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coast. Most days of the month, wind direction was reported northeasterly to southwest in the above mentioned states.

1.6 Tanzania

During April, most parts of the country have received heavy rains, which caused floods and as a result houses, bridges and roads have been washed away.

Regions that were mostly hit by the floods were Manyara, Dar-es-Salaam, Coast, Kilimanjaro and Mara. As the rains continue to fall, vegetation was reported green in most parts of the country.

1.7 Uganda

Report not received.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

Report not received.

2.2 Eritrea

Small groups of 2nd to 4th instar transiens hoppers and bands were reported near Mersa Gulub (1633N/3908E) on the northern Red Sea coast of the country. An estimated of 1060 ha of infestation treated by ground control teams during the month.

2.3 Ethiopia

No locusts were reported during April.

2.4 Somalia

No locusts were reported during April.

2.5 Sudan

In the Northern state, ground control operation continued on 1st to 3rd instar hopper bands on 1,882 ha. During the operation, 1,252 liters of Diazinon 96% ULV at an application rate of 0.5 liter/hectare, Mavrik 50% ULV at an application rate of 1 lit/ ha, and 180 kg of Ficam 1% dust at an application rate of 3 kg/ha was used to control the infestation.

In the River Nile state, ground control operation continued on 1st to 3rd instar hopper bands on 643 ha. 215 liters of Diazinon 96% ULV at an application rate of 0.5 liter/hectare, Mavrik 50% ULV at an application rate of 1 lit/ ha, and 176 liters of Malathion 57% at an application rate of 2 liters/ha was used to control the infestation.

In the Red Sea State, ground survey operation was conducted and scattered solitary mature Desert Locust adults were detected on an estimated of 60 ha in separate locations.

2.6 Situation in Other countries & Regions *(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 415)*

Central Region: Hopper bands continued to form near cropping areas along the Nile River in northern Sudan during April. Groups and small swarms are expected to form during May and a second generation of breeding could occur in June along the Nile or adults may move to the summer breeding areas in Sudan if early rains fall. Locust numbers decline 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 on the edge of the Empty Quarter and 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. Control operations continued in Sudan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Eritrea.

Western Region: Locust numbers increased in Northwest Africa as a result of small-scale breeding south of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco and Algeria. Hatching started by mid-April and small groups and bands were forming in some areas by the end of the month. Control operations were carried out in Algeria. Breeding will continue in both countries causing more hopper groups and bands form in May. As vegetation dries out, an increasing number of adult groups and perhaps a few small swarms may form in June and move towards the northern Sahel, particularly the Air Mountains in northern Niger where good rains fell in late April. This could be supplemented by groups of adults and perhaps a few small swarms from Sudan. Elsewhere, low to moderate numbers of adults may start to appear in the summer breeding areas of Mauritania, Mali and Chad by the end of the forecast period, especially if early rainfall occurs.

Eastern Region: Very few locusts were seen during a joint Iran/Pakistan survey in the spring breeding areas of southeast Iran during April. No locusts were seen in western Pakistan. Small-scale breeding may occur in areas of recent rainfall in both countries. By the end of the forecast period, low numbers of adults may start appearing in the summer breeding areas along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border. No significant developments are likely.

3.0 Forecast until mid-June, 2013

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Locust numbers will decrease on the coastal plains of the Red Sea

continues to dry out. No significant developments are likely.

3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

3.4 Somalia

No significant developments are likely.

3.5 Sudan

Hopper bands will continue to develop in cropping areas along the Nile River in Northern and River Nile States and fledge from early May onwards. Thereafter, small groups and swarms are likely to form and remain in cropping areas, mature and lay eggs in June or, if early rains fall, move to the summer breeding areas. There is a low risk that some adult groups or small swarms might move from the Nile Valley towards the west.

3.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

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

4.0 OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS

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

4.1.1 Tanzania

A DLCO-EA spray aircraft has been deployed by mid-April in the country and successfully controlled Quelea birds infestations as presented below;

- On 21st of April, 3 colonies of 11.5 million birds on 50 ha of *Acacia* trees were controlled at Mgungira (0458S/3459E) Ufana (0455S/3358E) Iyumbu (0508S/3457E) locations in Rural Singida District. Birds were

feeding on Sorghum and Rice crops and 125 liters of Avicide was used to control them.

- On 22nd, 2 roosts of 6.0 million birds on 35 ha of Reeds were controlled at Pohama (0443S/3507E) and Balangida (0437S/3515E) locations in Rural Singida District. Birds were attacking Sorghum and Millet crops and, 50 liters of Avicide was used to control them.
- On 24th, 1 roost of 1.5 million birds on 8 ha of Elephant grasses was controlled at Matongo (0114S/3443E) in Rural Singida District. Birds were attacking Sorghum and Millet crops, and 50 liters of Avicide have been sprayed.
- On 24th, 2 roosts of 3.5 million birds on 13 ha of Reeds were controlled at Mwankoko (0451S/3439E) and Mtamaa (0454S/3440E) in Singida Main District. Birds were attacking Sorghum and Millet crops and 50 liters of Avicide have been sprayed.
- On 25th, 1 colony of 4.0 million birds on 40 ha of Acacia tree was controlled at Basutu (0425S/3509E) in Manyara District. Birds were attacking Wheat and 75 liters of Avicide have been sprayed.
- On 25th, 1 roost of 2.0 million birds on 15 ha of Reeds was controlled at Pohama (Ngimu) (0443S/3407E) in Rural Singida District. Birds were attacking Sorghum and Millet crops and 50 liters of Avicide have been sprayed.
- On 26th, 1 roost of 3.0 million birds on 8 ha of Reeds was controlled at Mgori (0453S/3458E) in Rural Singida District. Birds were attacking Sorghum and Millet crops and 50 liters of Avicide have been sprayed.
- On 27th, 1 roost of 1.5 million birds on 8 ha of Reeds/Acacia trees was controlled at Irsya (0438S/3437E) in Rural Singida District. Birds were attacking Sorghum and Millet crops and 50 liters of Avicide have been sprayed.
- On 25th, 1 roost of 2.0 million birds on 15 ha of Reeds was controlled at Pohama (Ngimu) (0443S/340

District. Birds were attacking Sorghum and Millet crops and 50 liters of Avicide have been sprayed.

4.1.2 Kenya

Report not received.

4.1.3 Eritrea

Report not received.

4.1.4 Ethiopia

Quelea infestation not reported.

4.2 **African Armyworm** (*Spodoptera exempta*)

4.2.1 Tanzania

During April, outbreak information have been received from Moshi Rural and Rombo districts in Kilimanjaro region, and Meru district in Arusha region, all which are located in the Northern part of the country. All infestations controlled by farmers in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture staff.

4.2.2 Kenya

Report not received.

4.2.3 Ethiopia

Armyworm outbreaks have been reported in a few locations in parts of the Southern Oromiya and the Southern Regions. Ground control operations have been organized to control early infestations in the southern Oromiya region. Details of the infestation and the operation were not received during the reporting period.

Forecast during May 2013

Infestation will come to end in Tanzania and likely continue and increase in the eastern parts of Uganda, in the coastal, Rift

Valley and central parts of Kenya. It is also likely that migration of moths from the south to the north will continue and cover more areas in Ethiopia. Therefore, it is advisable to continue monitoring and organizing survey operations in order to detect and control early outbreaks in suspected and traditional breeding locations.

4.3 Tsetse fly

No infestation reports received.

CIFO

For Director,

06 May, 2013

For more information about the Organization, please visit DLCO-EA's Website:

www.dlcoea.org.et