DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

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

Headquarters (Addis Ababa)
Tel: 251-1-16461477/0287/0290
Fax: 251-1-16460296

Operations Office (Nairobi)
Tel: 254-020-6002305/6001488
Fax: 254-020-6001575

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DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR

AUGUST, 2017

1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the Central Region, the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) continued to move northwards over the interior of Sudan during the first decade if August, reaching ED Dedda in the northern Nile Valley, and then retreated southwards thereafter. Its position was nearly normal for this time of the year. Consequently, good rains fell throughout the summer breeding areas from Darfur to the Red Sea Hills in Sudan and in the western lowlands of Eritrea where conditions remained favorable for breeding. Good rains also fell in the interior of Yemen in Marib, Shabwah and Hadramaut areas as well as along the Red Sea coast, causing ecological conditions favorable for breeding in some areas. *(FAO DL bulletin No. 467)*

1.1 Djibouti

During August, drier and hot weather conditions prevailed throughout the country however, light showers fell during the last week of the month mainly in the northern coastal areas of the country.

1.2 Eritrea

Moderate to heavy rains fell during the whole month of August in most parts of the country including in the winter Desert Locust breeding locations on the Red Sea coast. Torrential rains which were associated with hailstorms and floods had also caused some heavy damages to agricultural and other infrastructure across many places, particularly in the main winter breeding areas in Sheib, Zula and the Southern Red Sea coastal plains.
Mixed annual and perennial vegetations on the central and western lowlands, and in some agricultural areas in the eastern lowlands were abundantly greening and green.

1.3 Ethiopia

Though mostly dry and hot weather conditions prevailed in the Desert Locust breeding areas in the east during August, however Dire Dawa, its' environ and Ayisha areas have received light rains (115.1mm in Dire Dawa and 25 mm in Ayisha) during the month.
Most of the mid- and highlands of the country had also received moderate to heavy rains during the month. Annual and perennial vegetations were green but the soil was mostly dry in the Desert Locust breeding areas in the east.

Rainfall (mm) during August, 2017

Date	DIRE DAWA (0936N/04150E)	Remarks
01	8.0	
02	10.0	
06	1.5	
07	18.0	
09	4.0	
10	5.0	
12	Trace	
13	22.0	
15	3.0	
16	1.0	
17	0.5	
20	6.8	
22	Trace	
23	4.5	
24	18.0	
26	9.3	
27	3.5	
31	Trace	
Total	**115.1**	

1.4 Kenya

During August, intermittent light to moderate rains fell mainly in some parts on the central highlands, Rift Valley and western parts of the Country. Annual and perennial vegetations remained partially green.

1.5 Somalia

Light to moderate amount of rains fell during the third decade of August on the plateau and escarpments in the northern parts of the country.

1.6 Sudan

Light to moderate rains fell during the first and the second decades of August in the summer Desert locust breeding zones consequently green vegetation was observed in North Kordofan west and south of *Umsayala*. In the Northern State, green vegetation was limited only to the irrigated cropping areas.

1.7 Tanzania

During August, dry conditions prevailed over most parts of the country with off-seasonal light rains fell in few areas of the country. Some strong winds were also observed over the coastal regions.
Crops in most areas of the country were reported at harvesting stages.

1.8 Uganda

During August, the North and Northeastern parts of the Country received heavy showers which were associated with thunderstorms. Some human and infrastructure causalities were reported due to floods and landslides. The Central region also continued to record scattered showers, whereas the West and south western parts of the Country remained mainly dry.
The vegetation remained mainly green in Northern, North Eastern and Central parts of the Country. While the vegetation in the western and southwestern parts of the Country were mixtures of green and drying.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

No locusts were reported.

2.2 Eritrea

No survey was conducted and no locusts were reported.

2.3 Ethiopia

No locusts were reported.

2.4 Somalia

No reports received.

2.5 Sudan

During August, ground surveys were conducted and isolated immature and mature solitarious adults were present in the Nile Valley near Dongola (1910N/3027E), Ed Debba (1803N/3057E), Abu Hammed (1932N/3320E) and Atbara (1742N/3400E). Similar populations were also present in the summer breeding areas of North Kordofan southeast of Abu Uruq (1554N/3220E), in White Nile northwest of Ed Dueim (1400N/3220E) and in the Baiyuda Desert. Small-scale breeding occurred near Ed Debba where scattered third instar solitarious hoppers were observed. No locusts were seen west of the Red Sea Hills and near Kassala (1527N/3623E). *(FAO bulletin No. 467)*

Desert Locust situation in other Regions and Forecast *(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 467)*

Central Region: The locust situation remained calm in the region during August. Low numbers of solitarious adults continued to be present in the interior of Sudan where good rains fell and small-scale breeding is expected to cause locust numbers to increase slightly during the forecast period. Good rains also fell in the interior of Yemen where limited breeding was detected and there were unconfirmed reports if locust groups. This could not be confirmed by surveys because of prevailing insecurity. Locusts may also be present in areas of recent rainfall on the Red Sea coast of Yemen. Once vegetation starts to dry out, there is a low risk that locusts could concentrate and perhaps form a few small groups, for example in Sudan and Yemen.

Western Region: The situation remained calm during August**.** Low numbers of adults were present in some of the summer breeding areas of the northern Sahel in Mauritania and Niger. Despite good rains and ecological conditions, only limited breeding was detected in Niger and near irrigated farms in Central Sahara of Algeria but is likely to be in progress elsewhere. Small-scale breeding will continue during the forecast period, causing locust numbers to increase slightly from Mauritania to Chad.

Eastern Region: The locust situation remained calm in the region during August. Only low numbers of locusts were present in the summer breeding areas along the Indo-Pakistan border where very little rain fell compared to July.

3.0 Forecast until mid-October, 2017

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Low numbers of adults are likely to be present and breeding on a small-scale in the western lowlands as well as on the central Red Sea coast near Sheib. Consequently, locust numbers are expected to increase slightly during the forecast period in both areas.

3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

3.4 Somalia

No significant developments are likely.

3.5 Sudan

Small-scale breeding will cause locust numbers to increase slightly between West Darfur and the Red Sea Hills, and to a lesser extent in the Nile Valley.

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 Kenya

Report not received**.**

4.1.2 Tanzania

No infestation reported.

4.1.3 Ethiopia

Aerial Quelea control operations continued until 3rd of August in Konso and Derashe Districts of the Southern Nations and Nationalities Peoples Administrative Region (SNNPR) of the country. During the operations, 32 million birds which were roosting in 13 sites and covering 425 hectares across 8 villages were controlled successfully. 850 liters of pesticide was applied and percent of kill was estimated 97-99%.

4.1.4 Eritrea

Report not received.

4.1.5 Sudan

Report not received.

4.1.6 Uganda

Infestation was not reported.

4.2 African Armyworm *(Spodoptera exempta)*

4.2.1 Tanzania

African Armyworm infestation was not reported. However, surveillance was going on in the northeastern zone following reports by farmers of **Fall Armyworm (FAW)** infestations in the Highlands and irrigated Maize fields in Kilimanjaro region.

4.2.2 Uganda

African Armyworm infestation not reported.

The **Fall Armyworm (FAW)** infestation continued to affect many Maize fields in the North and Northeastern parts of the Country. The Crop Protection Department of the Ministry of Agriculture continued to make field demonstrations on the control as well as sending advisory information on the control of the FAW via various media houses and local authorities. (*Base Manager DLCO-EA Kampala CRB*)

4.2.3 Eritrea

African Armyworm

During August, armyworm infestations of 150 ha in Gash Barka, 800 ha in Anseba, 2,000 ha in the Southern and 500 ha in the Central regions were reported. The Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with the regional administrations and farmers has managed to contain 95% of the infestation and monitoring was progressing.

4.2.4 Ethiopia

African Armyworm

Infestation not reported.

Fall Armyworm

The Fall Armyworm, (*Spodoptera frugiperda)* infestations continued to occur and ground control operations were conducted in the Southern Nations and Nationalities Peoples Administrative Region (SNNP), Oromia, Gambella, Tigray, Benishangul-Gumz and Amhara Administrative Regions.
The pest has infested 685,004 hectares of Maize fields in 46 zones, 411 districts and 7,524 villages in the above mentioned Administrative Regions. Efforts are made to control the pest by cultural and chemical methods on 647,352 hectares. It was reported that since the start of the control operations, 229,859 liters of pesticide was sprayed.

4.2.5 Kenya

African Armyworm

Report was not received.

Fall Armyworm

Report was not received.

Forecast until end of September, 2017

Seasonal African Armyworm outbreaks and infestations will likely come to an end during September.

It is also more likely that the **Fall Armyworm** infestations to continue occurring in the main Maize growing areas in Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya and in some parts in Eritrea.
Consequently, it is highly advisable to continue monitoring of moth movements in order to detect early infestations. It is also highly advisable to control any outbreak of the Fall Armyworm at early stage of the worms' appearances as late instars may be difficult to control them.

4.3 Tsetse fly (*Glossina spp.*)

The Entomology Department of the Ministry of Agriculture of Uganda initiated Tsetse control in Sese islands (Serinnya, Banda, Buwuvu, Kibibi, Lulamba) using ground fogging to contain the endemic and worrisome problem in the Country. It was reported that an integrated control approach is being considered with aerial spraying control as one of the aspects.

CIFO

For Director,

05 September, 2017

For more information about the Organization,
Please visit DLCO-EA's Website:
www.dlcoea.org. et