

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... (DLCO-EA)



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DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR

SEPTEMBER, 2017



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the Central Region, the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was located slightly further south than normal over the interior of Sudan during September. By the end of the month, it began retreating southwards. Consequently, good rains fell mainly during the first two decades. Vegetation remained green in most areas but was starting to dry out at the end of the month. In the winter breeding areas, good rains fell along the Red Sea coastal plains in Yemen throughout the entire month, and light to moderate rains fell at times on the coast in Saudi Arabia near Quinfidah and Jizan. Rain also fell in the highlands of Eritrea that could runoff onto the central Red Sea coast. Despite the rains, vegetation remained dry on the Saudi Arabian coast. On the contrary, ecological conditions are likely to be favorable for breeding on the Tihama in Yemen. In the Horn of Africa, good rains fell in eastern Ethiopia and on the plateau in northern Somalia. (FAO DL bulletin No. 468)

1.1 Djibouti

During the second and third decades of September, cloudy weather conditions prevailed throughout the country. Consequently, light to moderate showers may fell along the northern coastal areas of the country.

1.2 Eritrea

Light to moderate rains fell during the first decade of September on the highlands and during the month in some locations of the southern and on the central northern coastal plains, and on the southwestern parts of the country.

Mixed annual and perennial vegetations were green on the central and western lowlands, and in some agricultural areas and Wadis in the eastern lowlands.

1.3 Ethiopia

Mostly dry and hot weather condition prevailed in the main Desert Locust breeding areas in the eastern parts of the country. Light to moderate rains occurred in Dire Dawa; 140mm and Ayisha; 38.2mm areas during the month.

Moderate rains also fell in the mid- and highlands of the country. Annual and perennial vegetations were green while the soil was mostly dry mainly in the eastern parts.

It was reported that the ecological conditions were generally favorable for Desert Locust activity during September.

Rainfall (mm) during September, 2017

Date	DIRE DAWA (0936N/04150E)	Remarks
03	Trace	
02	24.0	
5		
07	5.0	
09	3.0	
10	35.0	
12	2.0	
14	19.0	
15	Trace	
18	1.5	
19	10.0	
20	Trace	
21	11.5	
22	Trace	
23	Trace	
24	4.0	
25	Trace	
27	20.0	
28	5.0	
29	Trace	
30	Trace	
Total	140.0	

1.4 Kenya

During September, heavy rains fell along the coastal areas whereas sporadic light rains occurred in other areas of the country mainly during the first decade of the month. Annual vegetation were drying out while perennial vegetation remained partially green.

1.5 Somalia

Intermittent light to moderate amount of rains fell during September on the plateau and escarpments, in the northern and northwestern parts of the country.

1.6 Sudan

Light to moderate rains fell at times in the summer Desert locust breeding areas, mainly in North Kordofan, North & west Darfur, and White Nile States during September.

Except for some dry areas in north of Kassala and in the summer belt of Red Sea State between *Tomala* and *Haiya*, vegetation was greening and green in North Kordofan, White Nile, River Nile, the Northern and Khartoum States.

However, in River Nile and the Northern States, green vegetation was limited to the irrigated cropping areas along the Nile valley and to some extent along both sides of Atbara seasonal river.

1.7 Tanzania

During September, dry conditions with cool to cold temperatures persisted over most parts of the country. However, off seasonal light rains fell in few areas in the Lake Victoria Basin, the northeastern and southwestern highlands, the northern coast during the month.

Except for few patches of vegetations which remained green on the highlands, in irrigated schemes and in some low lands, most of them were reported dry.

1.8 Uganda

During September, heavy rains fell across most parts of the Country and crops, property and infrastructure damages were reported due to floods. The vegetations remained green across most parts of the Country.

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

Report not received.

2.5 Sudan

During September, Desert Locust situation generally remained calm in the country.

Ground survey operations continued in the summer breeding areas and solitarious immature adults of low density were found in one location in north of Sodiri and in two locations south of Um Sayala, in North Kordofan State.

Mature solitary low density adults were seen at two sites west of Ed Dueim, in Khartoum and White Nile States, and in Shendi west of Ed Damir and in a cropping area north of Abu Hamid in River Nile State.

Low densities of mature and immature adults were also present at two sites south of Tomala, in Red Sea State.

Desert Locust situation in other Regions and Forecast *(Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 468)*

Central Region: The locust situation remained calm in the region during September where very few locusts were reported. Only low numbers of solitarious adults persisted in the interior of Sudan where it appears that very little breeding occurred this summer despite good rainfall. During the forecast period, low numbers of adults will move from the interior of Sudan to the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coast in Sudan and breed on a small scale in any areas that receive rainfall. Similar breeding will occur on the Red Sea coast in Yemen where good rains fell throughout September, and to a lesser extent on the Red Sea coast in Saudi Arabia and Eritrea, and perhaps southeast Egypt. Low numbers of adults may also appear on the Gulf of Aden coastal plains in southern Yemen and northwest Somalia and breed on a small scale.

Western Region: The situation remained calm during September. Small-scale breeding occurred in the northern Niger, western Mauritania and near irrigated farms in the central Sahara of Algeria where preventive control operations treated 34 ha. Isolated adults were seen at more places in western Mauritania compared to August, suggesting that adults were leaving the summer breeding areas in the south of the country as vegetation started to dry out.

Eastern Region: The locust situation continued to remain calm in the region during September only low numbers of locusts persisted in the summer breeding areas of Pakistan near the border with India. In southeast Iran, scattered mature adults were copulating at one location in the interior but no significant developments are likely.

3.0 Forecast until mid-November, 2017

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

Small-scale breeding will occur in areas that receive rainfall or runoff on the central and northern Red Sea coast, causing locust numbers to increase slightly during the forecast period.

3.3 Ethiopia

No significant developments are likely.

3.4 Somalia

Low numbers of adults may start to appear and breed on the northwest coast in any areas that receive rainfall. No significant developments are likely.

3.5 Sudan

As vegetation continues to dry out in the summer breeding areas, there is a very low risk that a few small groups could form. Low numbers of adults will move

from the interior to the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coast and breed on a small scale in any areas that receive rainfall.

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

Large flocks of birds were reported in some locations in Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Morogoro and Dodoma regions. However, no threats to crops were reported as the birds were feeding on drying grass seeds.

4.1.3 Ethiopia

Infestation not reported.

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 not reported.

The **Fall Armyworm (FAW)** infestations occurred on the highlands and in irrigated Maize and Rice fields in Kilimanjaro (Moshi rural), Arusha (Meru and Arusha districts) and Manyara (Simanjiro district) regions. In addition, it reported in the Southern highlands (Mbeya, Iringa and Rukwa regions).

4.2.2 Uganda

African Armyworm infestation not reported.

The **Fall Armyworm (FAW)** infestation continued to affect many Maize fields across the Country. The Crop Protection Department of the Ministry of Agriculture continued to make field demonstrations on the control as well as sending out control information via the media. (*Base Manager DLCO-EA Kampala CRB*)

4.2.3 Eritrea

African Armyworm

Report not received.

4.2.4 Ethiopia

African Armyworm

Infestation not reported.

Fall Armyworm

The Fall Armyworm, (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) infestation was reported further in to two more Administrative Regions, Somali and Afar; where 6 villages in 3 Districts were affected.

During the month, 700,987 ha of Maize fields in 7,631 villages which are located in 419 districts and 48 zones in the above indicated Administrative Regions were affected.

Cultural and chemical control methods were conducted on 669,412 hectares. It was reported that until the end of September, 239,339 liters of pesticide was sprayed to contain the infestations.

4.2.5 Kenya

African Armyworm

Report not received.

Fall Armyworm

Report not received.

Forecast until end of October, 2017

African Armyworm: Early outbreaks will probably occur on the onset of the seasonal rains mainly in the primary outbreak areas in Tanzania and Kenya during October. Consequently, it is highly advisable to initiate installation of pheromone traps and to start monitoring of moth movements.

It is also likely that the **Fall Armyworm** is establishing its' occurrences in the main Maize growing areas of the eastern and Horn of Africa regions and will continue affecting the farming community.

Generally, it is highly advisable to continue monitoring of moth movements in order to detect early infestations mainly in new Maize fields. 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.*)

4.3.1 Uganda

The Ministry of Agriculture continued with ground fogging in selected sites as a measure to reduce the rising fly populations. (*Base Manager DLCO-EA Kampala CRB*)

CIFO

For Director,

04 October, 2017

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