DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

…… (DLCO-EA) ……

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

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

SITREP No. 07/2022 - 2023

DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR JANUARY, 2023

In the Central Region: Light to moderate rains fell mainly during the first decade of January in limited locations on the Red Sea coastal plains of Eritrea, Sudan and Yemen. Insignificant rains also occurred in eastern Ethiopia, Djibouti and northern Somalia during the same period. Generally, no significant rains fell in the region during the month, consequently, ecological conditions were unfavorable for Desert Locust breeding.

1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS HIGHLIGHTS

1.1 Djibouti

Light to moderate rains fell during the first decade of January in most parts of the country. Generally, the country remained dry and rainless after that.

1.2 Eritrea

Light to moderate rains fell across the northern Red Sea coast mainly during the second decade of January. The vegetation was greening in most of the areas where rains fell and soil was wet, creating favorable ecological conditions for Desert Locust breeding.

1.3 Ethiopia

During the first decade of January, light rains reported in southwestern, western and southern parts of the country (Dolado and South Omo areas), while the main locust breeding locations in the east and southeast remained rainless and dry. These situations have created unfavorable ecological conditions for Desert Locust breeding.

1.4 Kenya

In January, the Country experienced dry weather conditions, and except for some green vegetation in the central, mid-Rift Valley and western regions, it was mostly dry.

1.5 Somalia

Very light rains fell during the first week of January in areas bordering southern Djibouti.

1.6 Sudan

During the first half of January, light to moderate rains fell in the winter breeding areas in the Red Sea coast. Consequently, vegetation cover was greening to green in most of the coastal plains and soil was wet creating favorable ecological condition for Desert Locust developments.

1.7 Tanzania

During January, moderate to heavy rains fell in some parts of the country mainly in southwestern highlands, in central zone and eastern. Light rains were observed around Lake Victoria Basin. In

northeastern highlands, some light showers occurred on high altitudes of Mount Kilimanjaro, Meru and Hanang in Manyara. Most lowlands remained dry.
Vegetation including pasture and rangelands were green in most parts of the country.

1.8 Uganda

During January, most parts of the country experienced hot and dry weather conditions with scattered showers and thunderstorms recorded in some parts of South Western and Central.
Vegetation was mostly green in most parts of Western, South western and central regions of the Country while it was drying in most parts of the North and North Eastern.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*) situation during January, 2023 and forecast until mid-March, 2023

2.1 Djibouti

During January, no locusts were reported.

Forecast: *No significant developments are likely.*

2.2 Eritrea

Desert Locust ground surveys were carried out across the central and northern Red Sea coast between Ghelaelo and Qarura; border to Sudan, during 12-20 January period. During the surveys, low density immature hoppers and adults were detected in one location in the northern part of the country in Shrm-Kelb (1752N/3849E) around Mahimet. Few isolated immature solitarious adults were also seen in a few places near Wongobo around Foro (1521N/ 3946E). No locusts were seen in the other surveyed areas.

Forecast: *Grouping of hoppers, maturity of scattered adults and small-scale breeding will likely to increase mainly in the northern Red Sea coastal plains bordering Sudan if more rains fall.*

2.3 Ethiopia

During January, no locusts were reported.

Forecast: *Desert Locust situation will remain calm and no significant developments are likely.*

2.4 Somalia

During the third week of January, isolated solitary adults were seen in one location, Agadar (0955N/4355E) during a ground survey operation.

Forecast: *No significant developments are likely.*

2.5 Sudan

In the Northern State, ground control operations were carried out against hopper groups of different instars and mature/immature groups in four locations in Eray (2049N/3558E) and Duduf (2043N/3606E) Wadi Diib (2030N/3547E), covering 200 ha. 200 liters of insecticide was used during the operations. Solitary hoppers and low densities mature/immature adults were also seen in many locations.
In the southern coast, low density solitarious hoppers were seen in one location in Shapry (1746/3822) and mature/immature of low density adults were seen in many locations.
Control operations were conducted on hopper and mature/immature groups on 4 ha using 4 liters of insecticide in Hoshery in the central coast and Tokar Delta. Solitarious hoppers, low densities breeding, mature/immature adults were also reported in several locations of the above areas.

Forecast: *Due to the favorable ecological conditions created, grouping of immature, mature adults and hoppers, fledging and egg laying will likely to increase during the forecast period mainly in the central Red Sea coast and Tokar Delta.*

2.6 Kenya

No locusts were reported during January.

Forecast: *Desert Locust situation will remain calm*

2.7 Uganda, South Sudan and Tanzania

During January, no locusts were reported in the countries.

Forecast: *Desert Locust situation will remain calm.*

7. Desert Locust situation in the central and other regions

Central Region:

Except for Low numbers of scattered solitary mature/immature adults and low density hopper

groups in Sudan and Eritrea, low numbers of solitary adults on the Gulf of Aden, Yemen reported, the situation in the region generally remained calm during January.

Western Region:

467 ha in Morocco and in 35 ha in Mauritania were sprayed against groups of adults/hoppers during January, and no locust was reported elsewhere in the region.

Eastern Region: No locusts present.

4.0 OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS

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

4.1.1 Kenya

An estimated of 3 million birds in two roosts were reported in Kisumu County affecting irrigated Rice and, control operations using drones were conducted in the affected locations. However, assessing the outcomes of the control operations were not conducted as the locations were not easily accessible.

4.1.2 Tanzania

During January, a DLCO-EA aircraft controlled an estimated of 11.9 million Quelea birds roosting on 256 ha in eight sites in Sugar Cane plantation blocks of Tanganyika Sugar Factory in Moshi District. 500 liters of Avicide was used during the control operation.
In Manyara region, an estimated of 7.1 million Quelea birds which were roosting on 155 ha in Seven sites in Simanjoro and Babati districts were controlled by air using 300 liters of Avicide.

1.3 Ethiopia

Quelea Birds infestations were reported in Wheat irrigation farms during mid-December 2022 in Oromia Administrative Region.
DLCO-EA has deployed an aircraft and an aerial control operations were carried out from 18th to 23rd January in one zone and 3 districts; where the birds were roosting in three sites. Re-spraying were also conducted in two of the sites due to reoccupation, the number and size of the flocks and the roosting sites. During the operations, an estimated population of 12.5 million Quelea birds which were roosting on 100 ha were killed by spraying 200 liters of Bathion 64% ULV. The assessed kill was 92 to 99%.

4.1.4 Eritrea

Out of season.

4.1.5 Sudan

Out of season.

4.1.6 Uganda

Incidences not reported.

4.2 Armyworms (*Spodoptera spp*)

4.2.1 Tanzania

African Armyworm

During January, outbreaks of the pest were reported in Morogoro, Shinyanga, Mara and Manyara regions. Affected farmers carried out control operations with technical and material support from the PPD of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Fall Armyworm (FAW)

Infestations continued and were reported in irrigated, seasonal and off seasonal Maize fields.

4.2.2 Uganda

African Armyworm

AAW outbreaks were reported by the third decade of January in some Northern (Pader and Nwoya) and North Eastern districts (Busia and Tororo). The situation was not alarming as the region was out of the main cropping season, and the worms were mainly infesting wild grasses.
The crop protection Department of the Ministry of Agriculture was performing advisory services as well preparing to support the farmers with demonstration, pesticides and spray equipment etc in case the situation escalates during the coming months.

Fall Armyworm (FAW)

Incidences not reported.

4.2.3 Eritrea

African Armyworm

Out of season.

Fall Armyworm

Situation unknown.

4.2.4 Ethiopia

African Armyworm

Incidences were not reported.

Fall Armyworm

Incidences were not reported.

4.2.5 Kenya

African Armyworm

During January, approximately 646 ha were affected in 5 counties of Machakos, Kajiado, Narok, Bomet and Busia. However, as most parts of the country were dry during the month, there was limited fresh vegetation for the survival of the larvae and to support further pupating.
The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development continued supporting the affected counties with pesticides, spray equipment and protective gear, surveillance, control, awareness creation and capacity building activities to help in proactive management of the pest.

Fall Armyworm

Reported in irrigated Maize farms.

Forecast until end of February, 2023

African Armyworm:

It is likely that significant AAW developments to occur and spread to more locations mainly in central, Rift Valley and western parts of Kenya, eastern and northern parts of Uganda, Southern and southeastern parts of South Sudan and southern and southwestern parts of Ethiopia. There could also be enhanced infestations in Tanzania and likely of moth migrations to north; where re-infestations to occur in southern, Rift Valley and southwestern parts of Kenya and, southern and eastern parts of Uganda.

Fall Armyworm

It is likely that infestations to continue in irrigated Maize fields in all previously affected areas.

4.3 Tsetse fly (*Glossina spp.*)

4.3.1 Uganda

Incidences not reported.

For Director
Mehari Tesfayohannes

CIFO, DLCO-EA

07 February, 2023

For more information about the Organization, please visit DLCO-EA's Website: www.dlco-ea.org