



## 16 AUGUST 2023: LOCUST IN ETHIOPIA

**OVERVIEW.** In Eritrea, there was breeding in June on the central coast of the Red Sea coast. When vegetation started to dry out in July, some immature adult groups moved to the Eritrea highland while others probably moved further south on the coast. On 26 July, some immature adults were found in the lowland area in western Afar north of Chifra in Ethiopia and, three days later, a small group of immature were seen at Chifra. During the first week of August, a few small immature swarms appeared on the Tigray highland east of Adigrat and some moved further south to southeast Tigray near Korem. During the second week, a few small immature swarms were on the highland in the central parts of eastern Tigray to the north and south of Mekele. Some rains fell in parts of Tigray since last month. So far, 395 ha treated.

**CURRENT SITUATION AND FORECAST.** While it is difficult to make surveys in Tigray, it appears the number of groups and swarms is low and more locusts are not expected to come from Eritrea. Since this is the summer breeding time, Desert Locust adults prefer to become mature, copulating and laying in sand areas in plains and wadis usually in the interior of Sudan, western lowland of Eritrea and perhaps in the lowland areas of Afar in Ethiopia rather than clay soil in the mountains of the highland areas of Tigray and Amhara. In the next week, some light to moderate rains should occur in the highland of Tigray and Amhara, especially the eastern part, while some light rain may occur in the western part of the lowland areas in Afar. Once locusts become mature, it will take about two weeks for hatching to occur and hoppers will take about six to eight weeks before they become adults, probably about the end of October.

**CURRENT SITUATION IN OTHER COUNTRIES.** Locust surveys and a few control.

- **ALGERIA.** Isolated immature adults in the central areas (Adrar).
- **EGYPT.** Isolated mature adult in Lake Nasser.
- **ERITREA.** Immature adult groups in the northern highland area with some treated.
- **MAURITANIA.** Isolated immature adults in the southwest and mature adults in the central and southeast areas.
- **NIGER.** Isolated mature adults in the central pasture area (Tasker).
- **PAKISTAN.** Isolated immature and mature adults in Tharparkar, Nara and Cholistan deserts near Indo-Pakistan area.
- **SOMALIA.** Few mature adults in the northwest area.
- **SUDAN.** Adults and a few groups along the Nile Valley and Atbara River plus some laying (3 ha).
- **YEMEN.** Some mature adult groups in the Hadhramaut Valley, scattered immature and mature adults in the interior, and scattered immature adults on the east coast.

**LOCUST FORECAST.** The predicted for the rest of this month.

- **WESTERN REGION.** Some rain may occur in parts of southern Mauritania, northern Mali and Niger, central and northern Chad, and southern Algeria where small breeding is likely to be in some areas.
- **CENTRAL REGION.** Small breeding is likely to occur in the interior of Sudan, the western lowlands of Eritrea, the interior of Yemen, perhaps the lowlands area of northeast Ethiopia, and persist in northwestern Somalia.
- **EASTERN REGION.** One generation of small breeding along the Indo-Pakistan border.

