

Mali desert locust update for the second dekad of December 2006

Meteorological and ecological conditions

According to the National Center for Desert Locust Control (CNLCP), north-easterly wind dominated the gregarization zones during the second dekad of December. The temperatures oscillated between 27 °C and 37 °C during the day time and 10 °C to 15 °C at night.

The annual vegetation has deteriorated and only patches of green vegetations were observed in the northern gregarization zone where nomadic populations herd their livestock. The moisture level in the Sahelian strip is insufficient for the annual vegetation to persist except in low laying areas and a few ponds.

Desert locust situation

The desert locust situation remained calm in most of the outbreak areas during this period. Only some populations at densities varying between 150 to 150,000 insects/ha were observed in Tombouctou region.

Interventions

Ground control teams treated 1,000 ha in Tombouctou region during this period. Survey and control teams have returned to the base in Gao as of December 8, 2006.

Forecast

Ecological conditions will likely remain unfavorable for locusts to breed in the coming months. Only a few local populations may persist in areas where perennial vegetations exist and significant development is not expected during this period.

Pesticide stocks

CNLCP reported that 222,524 l ULV pesticides are stored in DPV storage facilities.

Other related matters

The chief of operations led an assessment mission in northern Tombouctou from 7-19 December, 2006. The mission evaluated survey and control interventions carried out by the ground teams that have been operating in the region since October 13, 2006. The survey and control team covered 243,160 ha in total of which 12,085 ha were infested and 1,000 ha were treated.

During the course of the assessment, the evaluation team found out that the northwest zone of Tombouctou region constitutes a significant gregarization zone. The team recommended that particular attention should be given to this zone and that it is regularly surveyed like all other gregarization areas in the country (CNLCP).

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