

SITREP.10.02

A SITUATION REPORT ON EMERGENCY TRANSBOUNDARY OUTBREAK PESTS (ETOPS) FOR OCTOBER WITH A FORECAST TILL MID-DECEMBER, 2002

SUMMARY

1. **Summary:** This report provides an update about recent activities on emergency transboundary outbreak pests (ETOPs) in Africa, the Middle-East, Central and Southwest Asia, and Latin America. The report includes activities that took place in October and a forecast till mid-December, 2002. Key ETOPs, including desert, Italian, the African migratory, red, brown, Moroccan, and Madagascar migratory locusts, grasshoppers, armyworm and grain-eating red-billed *Quelea* birds are covered by the report. A brief overview of the current status of each of these pests is outlined in the remainder of this summary with detailed accounts provided thereafter.

DESERT LOCUST, *SCHISTOCERCA GREGARIA* (FORSKAL)

2. **Desert locust, *Schistocerca gregaria* (Forsk.)**. Some localized breeding was reported in a few places in central western Mauritania, northern Mali and Niger. Other countries in the region remained relatively free of locusts. Apart from small-scale breeding that could occur in northwestern Mauritania, and parts of southern Algeria where unusually good rains fell in October no significant locust

activities are expected during the forecast period.

3. A few hoppers were seen and treated by ground means on 200 ha on the Red Sea coast near Aden, Yemen. Some of the escapee locusts may reach the Red Sea coasts in northern Somalia and Eritrea and start breeding during the forecast period. Limited breeding is a slim possibility along the Red Sea coasts of Yemen and Saudi Arabia. The locust situation in other countries will likely remain fairly calm during the forecast period.

4. Locusts were not reported in the summer breeding areas of India and Pakistan. Reports were not received from Iran or Afghanistan and significant developments are not likely during the forecast period.

OTHER LOCUSTS AND GRASSHOPPERS.

5. **Red locust, *Nomadacris septemfasciata* (Surville)**. The red locust situation in the IRLCO/CSA region remained calm with only a few locusts remaining in the unburned patches of grasses in the Iku-Katavi, Wembere, and Malagarasi outbreak areas in Tanzania. It is likely that these locusts will coalesce and start breeding if conditions become favorable with the onset of the rains. No significant locust activities were reported from the other outbreak areas, however, residual populations could aggregate and begin mating in areas that received rains in October, including Buzi-Gorongosa, Mozambique and Kafue Flats, Zambia. It is also likely that some locusts may be sighted in the other outbreak areas should the rains fall during the forecast period. If mating takes place as predicted, eggs will likely

hatch in late December into January 2003 and give rise to hoppers.

6. **Madagascar migratory locust, *Locusta migratoria capito* (L.)**. No locust reports were received in Madagascar, however, it is likely that locust populations have developed in the outbreak areas in the south west and the Horombe plateau. Vigilant surveillance and monitoring are recommended to avert any serious outbreak that could lead to a serious crop loss.

7. ***Anacridium melanorhodon* (Walker)**: DLCO-EA staff and the staff of the Crop Protection Department of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) in Eritrea were engaged in the control of tree locusts, *A. melanorhodon* (Walker) and grasshoppers in the Zoba Gashbarka region, western Eritrea in October. More information is being awaited. No reports were received on the African migratory locust, ***Locusta migratoria migratorioides* (L.)**, brown locust, ***Locustana pardalina* (Walker)**, Moroccan locust, ***Dociostaurus maroccanus* (Thunberg)**, Italian locust, ***Calliptamus italicus* (L.)**, the Senegalese grasshopper, ***Oedaleus senegalensis* (Krauss)**. No locust activities were reported from Central Asia in October. No reports were received on locusts from Latin America or other countries in the region.

8. **Armyworm, *Spodoptera exempta* (Walker)**. A late received report indicated that an armyworm outbreak occurred in late September on 500 ha of maize and sugarcane fields in Angoni District, Tete Province, Mozambique. Armyworm activities were not reported in October other IRLCO/CSA or DLCO-EA member countries. However, there

is a likelihood of armyworm outbreaks in the IRLCO/CSA member countries should the rains continue to fall in the outbreak countries during the forecast period. Armyworm trap operations must be enhanced in both the DLCO-EA and the IRLCO/CSA regions.

9. **Red-billed quelea, *Quelea quelea* (L.)**. Quelea birds were reported damaging rice in Nakura, Nyando, Kisumu, Homabay, and Siaya Districts, Kenya. DLCO-EA and the MoA are making plans to control the birds. Quelea birds were also controlled between October 1-9 on more than 1000 ha of teff, Barley, Sorghum and Wheat fields in the Amhara, Oromia and Somalia regions, Ethiopia. Spray operations were carried out using DLCO's 5Y-BCK aircraft. 9000 ha of sorghum and maize fields were also sprayed with 9000 lt of Queleatox in Sudan. No further reports were received on quelea from the other DLCO-EA or IRLCO/CSA member countries. End of Summary.

ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATION: WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

10. Light to good rains fell in parts of Mauritania, Mali and Niger. Conditions are favorable in parts of Mali. Other countries in the region remained fairly dry and hot.

11. Good rains fell in southern Algeria and conditions may improve in these areas. Other countries in the region remained hot and dry and conditions unfavorable.

12. Dry and unfavorable conditions persisted in the southeastern coastal plains of Egypt. Light showers were reported in the summer

breeding areas in the interior of Sudan. Most of the summer breeding areas along the Red Sea coasts in Eritrea remained hot and dry and green vegetation was only sighted in the low laying wadis. Light showers fell on October 5 in Dire Dawa, eastern Ethiopia, but vegetation was drying and conditions continued to be unfavorable in this region. Vegetation was green in the interior parts of Djibouti where light rains fell, but the coastal areas remained hot and dry. Light showers also fell in northwestern Somalia, but conditions were unfavorable.

13. Good rains fell in the Red Sea coastal plains of Saudi Arabia and Yemen and conditions are favorable in these areas. Isolated showers fell in early October in the northern interior of Oman, but conditions remained unfavorable.

14. The summer breeding areas along the Indo-Pakistan border remained dry with unfavorable conditions.

15. The seasonal rains began in most of the red locust outbreak regions with 57 to 138 mm being reported in the Buzi-Gorongosa outbreak areas in Mozambique and 21 mm recorded in the Kafue flats, Zambia. No weather data were received from other countries in the region.

DESERT LOCUST ACTIVITIES

16. **Western and northwestern Africa.** Isolated immature and mature adults were seen in October in the south and south-central parts Mauritania. Early instar hoppers were also seen in the mid-western part of the country. Hoppers were reported in Tilemsi Valley, Timetrine, and Adrar des Iforas, Mali.

Hoppers and adult locusts were sighted in mid-October in a few places in northwestern Niger. No locusts were reported from Chad, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya.

17. Forecast: An increase in locust numbers is possible in Inchiri and southern Adrar, Mauritania where small scale breeding may occur. A limited scale breeding is also a possibility in the Adrar, Tilemsi, Timetrine, Mali and Arlit, Niger. Locust numbers will be on the decline in other parts of these countries. Low numbers of adult locusts may be seen in southern Algeria and joined by migrating individuals from northern Mali and Niger and breed, but significant populations are not likely during the forecast period.

18. **Eastern Africa, northeastern Africa, and the Near East.** No locusts were reported in October in Sudan, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia and Saudi Arabia. Solitary hoppers, immature adults and fledglings were seen in a few places near Aden, Yemen, where ground control was effected on October 21 against hoppers and adults on some 200 ha. No locusts were reported from other countries in these regions.

19. Forecast: A few isolated adults could appear and breed on the Red Sea coastal plains in Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia, Saudi Arabia and Yemen. Limited-scale breeding may be seen during the forecast period in a few places that received rain recently. The locust situation will likely remain calm in Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Oman, Kuwait, UAR, Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Qatar, Syria, and Turkey during the forecast

period.

20. **Eastern region.** A few isolated mature and immature adults were seen in October in Cholistan Pakistan, but no locusts were seen in India, Iran, or Afghanistan during this period.

21. Forecast: Locust numbers will likely continue to further decline even in areas where a few immature and mature adults were seen in October and no further development is expected during the forecast period.

OTHER LOCUST AND GRASSHOPPER ACTIVITIES

22. **Moroccan/Mediterranean locust, *D. maroccanus* (Thunberg) and the Italian locust, *C. italicus* (L):** No reports were received on the Moroccan/ Mediterranean or the Italian locust in Central Asian at the time this report was compiled.

23. Forecast: No locust activities are expected to occur during the forecast period. Eggs that were laid by the Moroccan locust in parts of Afghanistan and other countries in the region will remain inactive until next the Spring.

24. **Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).** No reports were received on locusts or grasshoppers in LAC countries in October.

25. Forecast. No significant developments are expected during the forecast period.

26. **Red locust, *N. septemfasciata* (Surville).** The red locust situation in the IRLCO/CSA region remained calm with only a few locusts remaining in the unburned patches of grasses in the Iku-Katavi, Wembere, and Malagarasi

outbreak areas in Tanzania. No significant activities were reported from the other outbreak areas.

27. Forecast: It is likely that residual locusts from the earlier activities and those on going will coalesce and begin breeding provided that conditions become favorable especially in areas that received rains in October, including Buzi-Gorongosa, Mozambique and Kafue Flats, Zambia. It is also likely that locust activities occur in other outbreak areas should the rains fall during the forecast period. If mating takes place as predicted, eggs will likely hatch in late December into January 2003 and give rise to hoppers.

Note: The end of the current drought affecting Zambia, Malawi, Swaziland, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, will likely trigger serious outbreaks of ETOPs and affect the traditional red locust, quelea as well as armyworm outbreak regions in these countries.

Post-drought outbreaks of brown locusts may also become more evident in southern Botswana, southern Namibia and South Africa. It is imperative that regular survey and monitoring activities are carried out to avert any massive invasions that could occur once the drought spell is broken.

28. **Madagascar migratory locust, *L. migratoria capito* (L).** Detailed information was not available on the Malagasy migratory locust at the time this report was compiled. However, it is likely that locust populations have developed in the outbreak areas in the south west and the Horombe plateau and

could be causing some damage.

29. **Brown locust, *L. pardalina* (Walker):** No reports were received on brown locust, *L. pardalina* (Walker). No outbreaks are expected during the forecast period, however, vigilant surveillance and monitoring are always recommended to avoid unexpected surprises and minimize any potential damage to crops and pasture.

ARMYWORM ACTIVITIES

30. **Armyworm, *S. exempta* (Walker).** A late received report indicated that an armyworm outbreak was sighted in late September on 500 ha of maize and sugarcane fields in Angoni District, Tete Province, Mozambique. Armyworm activities were not reported in October in either the DLCO-EA or the IRLCO/CSA member countries.

31. Forecast: There is a likelihood of armyworm outbreaks in the IRLCO/CSA member countries should the rains continue to fall in the outbreak countries in the southern Africa region. Moth trap operations must be enhanced in both the DLCO-EA and the IRLCO/CSA regions. **Please, see Para. 27 for a post-drought pest phenomenon, which is applicable across the board to all ETOPs.**

QUELEA BIRD ACTIVITIES

32. **Red-billed quelea, *Q. quelea* (L).** Quelea birds were reported damaging rice in Nakura, Nyando, Kisumu, Homabay, and Siaya Districts, Kenya. DLCO-EA and the MoA are making plans to control the birds. Quelea birds were also controlled with some 2,000 liters of Queleatox (Fenthion) on more

than 1,000 ha in the Amhara, Oromia and Somalia regions, Ethiopia. Spray operations were undertaken between October 1-9 by DLCO-EA and the MoA using DLCO's 5Y-BCK fixed wing aircraft. The crops protected include barley, sorghum, Teff and wheat. Quelea birds were also controlled on more than 9000 ha in several locations in Sudan using more than 9000 liters of Queleatox. No further reports were received on quelea from other DLCO-EA or IRLCO/CSA member countries.

33. Forecast: Quelea and other grain eating birds are likely to continue being a problem to small grain cereal crops in Nyanza Province, Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan and Eritrea during the forecast period.

RECOMMENDATIONS

34. Although much of the current locust and other migratory pest populations, largely did not warrant significant control actions, some intensive control operations were carried out against quelea birds in Kenya, Ethiopia and Sudan. It is clear that had these pests been left unaddressed, they could have resulted in a serious damage and also increase in number to a level that could pose more serious threats to crops and pasture. It is important that regular monitoring, surveillance and reporting are maintained and that the information is communicated promptly to the appropriate bodies within the national, regional and international structures.

ACTION REQUESTED AND CONTACT INFORMATION

35. The Africa Emergency Locust/ Grasshopper Assistance (AELGA) project, which has been

administered by the US Agency for International Development's (USAID), Bureau for Africa (AFR) for more than fourteen years, has now been transferred to the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA), and is being administered by the Office for US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA).

AELGA works closely with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, Agriculture Production and Protection Division, Plant Protection Services (UN/FAO/AGPP/PPPD/MPU), DLCO-EA, IRLOC/CSA, USAID bilateral and regional missions, host country ministries, and research establishments. Information on ETOPs is regularly collected from these and other entities, including the Information Core for Southern Africa Migratory Pests (ICOSAMP) to continuously monitor and analyze the potential risks for large-scale emergency outbreaks, and compile and disseminate as AELGA's SITREPS to all interested parties. Unsolicited reports or information about ETOP situations and activities in your region or country are always welcome and much appreciated.

36. Missions with programs on food security, emergency pests and other related activities, host countries and regional organizations with similar portfolios, and other stakeholders are **kindly requested to forward their reports by the last day of the reporting month or within the first three days of the following month. Please, forward reports, information, questions, and/or requests to Dr. Yeneneh T. Belayneh, ybelayneh@afr-sd.org FAX: 202-219-0506 (USA).** Please, feel free to cc your message to Drs. Joe Vorgetts, jvorgetts@afr-sd.org, and Harry

Bottenberg, hbottenberg@afr-sd.org

For more information on the weather conditions, please, visit the following web sites:

<http://www.fao.org/WAICENT/faoinfo/economic/giews/economic/english/esahel/sehtoc.htm>

<http://www.fews.net>

For more information on ETOPs activities, you may visit:

<http://www.fao.org/news/global/locusts/locuhome.htm>

<http://www.english/newsroom/news/2002/5000-en.htm/>

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT AELGA'S ACTIVITIES, DO VISIT US AT OUR WEB SITE: WWW.AELGA.NET

UPCOMING EVENTS

Interregional Trainer Training Course on Alternative Application Strategies and Tactics (AAST) for acridid control, in 2003. **Those interested can contact Dr. Yeneneh T. Belayneh, via e-mail: ybelayneh@afr-sd.org or phone/fax: 202-219-0495/202-219-0506 (USA)**

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