

## Emergency Transboundary Outbreak Pest (ETOP) update for September, 2006

### SUMMARY

Hoppers and adult **desert locust** were controlled on 14 September in 120 ha in irrigated areas in **Adrar, Central Sahara**. Small-scale breeding occurred in central and southern **Mauritania** and the **Tamesna** plains, **Niger**. Survey and control teams were deployed to the **Timetrine** and **Adrar des Iforas, Mali** but did not report any locust activities. However, given the favorable ecological conditions that persisted over the past months, isolated breeding may in progress in the summer breeding areas where surveys could not be carried out. DPV/Mali will maintain its survey and control officers in **Gao** for another month to ensure that undetected locusts will not pose a threat.



Isolated, scattered adults were seen along the **Red Sea** coasts in **Saudi Arabia** and **Yemen** as well as northwest **Somalia** where small-scale breeding was seen. Scattered solitary adult locusts were also reported in **Rajasthan, India** and **Tharparkar** and **Cholistan** deserts, **Pakistan**.

**No locusts** were reported in **Burkina Faso, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Iran, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Senegal, Sudan, and Tunisia** or from other invasion **countries**.

Significant DL developments are not expected during the coming months, but a few concentrations of locusts may be seen breeding in areas of green vegetation. Hence, surveillance and monitoring should be continued in primary breeding areas where locust activities were detected during the reporting months.

Grass burning that began in June in the outbreak areas, including the Iku-Katavi, Malagarasi Basin and Wembere plains forced adult **red locust** populations to concentrate in patches of green vegetation where they may have formed small

groups and perhaps moved to adjacent fields. Scattered immature locusts may be present in the Lake Chilwa plains in Malawi, Buzi-Gorongosa in Mozambique, the Kafue Flats in Zambia, Mweru wa Ntipa in Zambia, and the Rukwa Valley in Tanzania.



Residual populations of red locust in Iku-Katavi, Wembere and Malagarasi, Tanzania will likely mature during October and begin mating at the onset of the rains sometime in November. This could also happen in the other red locust outbreak areas. Eggs will likely begin hatching in late December or early January depending on when they are laid.

Control operations were carried out against rice grasshopper, **Hieroglyphus daganensis**, on several thousand ha in Diffa, Tera, and Maine Soroa, **Niger**.



The **Armyworm** season has ended and no reports were received during this month.



**Threats of Quelea birds** were reported in mid- September in Mashonaland Central, Zimbabwe where more than 6,670 ha of winter wheat were at a grain-filling stage. The Provincial MoA (PMoA) indicated that wheat crops in Muzaabati, Guiruve and other areas are also under a serious threat. Grass burning that has destroyed grass seeds, the primary food source of the birds, has aggravated the situation. The PMoA is gearing up to control this pest and farmers have been advised to report where the birds roost. IRLCO-CSA provides advice and assistance to its member countries. A similar situation may be present in Kenya, Ethiopia and other countries.

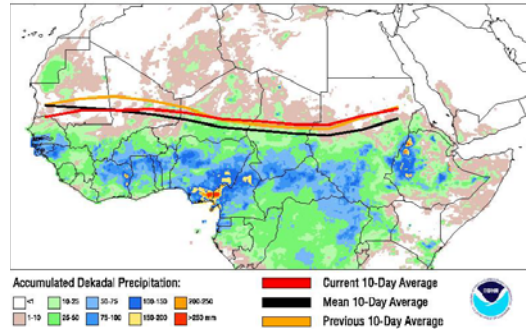
Quelea bird can travel up to 30 km looking for food in just one go – a trip it can triple in a day. An individual bird can consume 3-5 g of grain and perhaps destroy approximately the same amount each day. A single swarm that contains up to a million birds is capable of consuming and destroying 7-10 tons (= 7,000 – 10,000 kg) of seeds/day. So far the most effective, but yet the least safe means available for controlling this pest is spraying with chemicals.

**WEATHER**

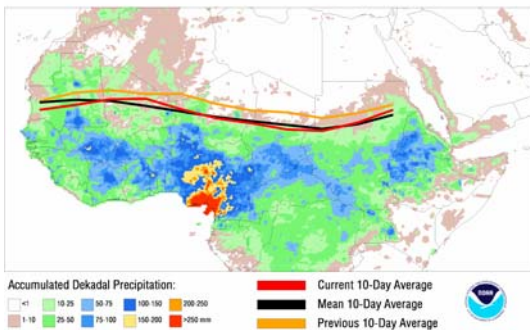
The Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) over Africa migrated slightly north in September compared to the climatological mean for this time of the year, but the overall location of the front is markedly south of its position of around 19-20 N during the third dekad of August. As a result, the amount of rain that fell in the summer breeding areas in the Sahel west, northwest Africa, Sudan, the Red Sea coastal areas and the Indo-Pakistan region progressively declined after the first dekad of September and a few places received rain during the second dekad.

Nonetheless, ecological conditions remained favorable in most of the areas that received heavy rain in the previous months.

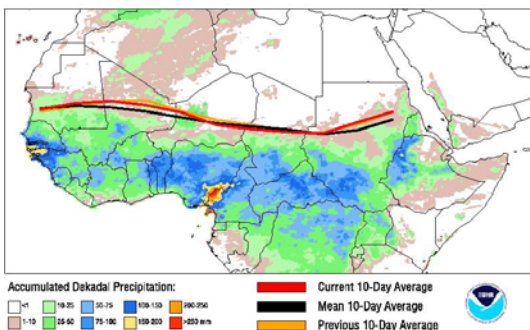
**Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITCZ**  
As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center  
September 2006 Dekad 3



**Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITCZ**  
As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center  
September 2006 Dekad 1



**Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITCZ**  
As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center  
September 2006 Dekad 2



**PESTICIDE STOCKS**

The quantities of pesticides available in many of the front-line countries did not change much from the previous month as only limited spray operations were carried out in Algeria on 120 ha against DL and in Niger on a few thousand ha against the rice grasshopper *Hieroglyphus daganensis*. A dialogue is in progress between affected-countries and partners to develop strategies to explore ways and means to avoid a potential disposal problem in the future.

| Country    | Quantities in liters |
|------------|----------------------|
| Algeria    | Data unavailable     |
| Libya      | Data unavailable     |
| Mali       | 225,813              |
| Mauritania | 590,200              |
| Morocco    | 4,000,000            |
| Niger      | 187,590*             |
| Senegal    | 527, 783             |
| Tunisia    | Data unavailable     |
| Eritrea    | 41,000 ULV           |

\* Quantity reduced due to spray operations carried out against rice grasshopper in September.

AELGA (Assistance for Emergency Locust and Grasshopper Abatement) will continue monitoring the ETOPs situation and related matters and issue updates as often as necessary.

**Announcement**

*We are pleased to inform you that the former AELGA webpage ([WWW.AELGA.NET](http://WWW.AELGA.NET)) has been moved to the Agency website and can now be accessed at:*

*[http://www.usaid.gov/ourwork/humanitarian\\_assistance/disaster\\_assistance/locust/](http://www.usaid.gov/ourwork/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/locust/)*

*The contents of the page will be expanding and more documents, both archival and active, will be continuously added to our page to better serve our partners.*

*:/Sitrep 2006/ETOP update for September 06*