

## ETOP update for dekads 1 & 2 January 2006

### Desert locust

The desert locust situation remained relatively calm in most of the Sahel, northwest Africa and the Red Sea coast during the past two dekads. Very few solitary adults and hoppers were detected in parts of central and eastern **Mauritania** and **Niger** and a similar situation may exist in southern **Algeria**. A few scattered immature and mature adults as well as 5<sup>th</sup> instar hoppers were sprayed on 73 ha in **Aftout Faye**, central Mauritania during the first dekad of January. Low density immature adults were seen in a few places in **Tamesna** and 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> instar solitary hoppers and immature adults at 50-100 insects/ha were detected in patches of green vegetation in **Agaliouk, Air, Niger**. Control interventions were not necessary due to low density and patchy nature of the locusts. A few isolated solitary adults may persist in Tokar Delta, Sudan and Baluchistan, western Pakistan. Other outbreak regions remained relatively calm. Scattered solitary adults and hoppers will persist in the outbreak areas where vegetation is green, but significant development is not expected during the coming weeks. Monitoring is essential.

### Red locust

The red locust season has begun in southern and south-central Africa and some activities have been reported in **Zimbabwe** and **Zambia**. Further detail was not available at the time this update was compiled. More information is being awaited from colleagues at the International Red Locust Control Organization for Central and Southern Africa in Ndola, Zambia.

As the season progresses, more locusts will likely be seen here in **Mozambique, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia** and **Zimbabwe**. Given the good rain that fell in most of these countries, breeding conditions will likely remain favorable in many of these countries and allow the pest to further development in the coming months. Active surveillance, monitoring and preventive control interventions are recommended.

### Armyworm

The armyworm season is progressing in **Tanzania, Malawi**, parts of **Zambia** and **Zimbabwe**. Crop and pasture damages have been reported in southern and southwestern Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Some control interventions are being carried out by the affected farmers with the assistance from the plant protection staff, but lack/scarcity of technical and material resources has been reported as a bottleneck.

In anticipation of a potential for increased invasions by subsequent generations, countries in the diffusion paths of the pest need to implement active surveillance, monitoring and a timely reporting of the situation to the appropriate bodies responsible for the coordination/launching of interventions.

### Upcoming Event

Member countries of the FAO/EMPRES (Emergency Prevention System for the Desert Locust) Program for the Western Region - the Sahel and northwest Africa will be meeting late February/early March 2006 to develop action plans and prepare for the upcoming summer operations.

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