

Kenya Armyworm Update for April, 2006

Armyworm situation:

According to the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA), armyworm infestations that began in mid-March in Kenya continued well into April with heavy outbreaks reported in primary outbreak area in the country. The infestations have spread east and north into Meru, Marsabit and the coastal regions. Thousands of hectares of maize, millet, sorghum as well as pasture have been reported affected in Meru north and central, Kilifi, Marsabet, Kajiado, Machakos, Mobassa and other districts.

Control interventions are in progress in most of these areas and the Kenya Plant Protection Services (PPS) of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) is working with the DLCO-EA to assist farmers with pesticides, vehicle mounted sprayers and aircraft. It is reported that MoA/PPS has provided pesticides and spray equipment worth 26 million Kenya shillings (\$368,000) and expects to spend 25-30 million Ksh (\$354,000-\$425,000).

Forecast:

High moth catches in Nakuru and Naivasha districts in the Rift-valley province indicate an eminent danger of armyworm spread into other regions, including southern Ethiopia. Vigilant surveillance and early interventions are essential. AELGA will continue monitoring the situation and issue updates as necessary.