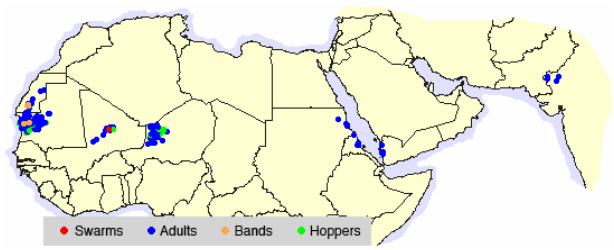
Emergency Transboundary Outbreak Pest (ETOP) update for November, 2006

DESERT LOCUST:

Western Region

The desert locust situation was relatively calm in November in most of the outbreak areas in the western region. Only a few hopper bands and adults were detected and controlled in northwestern **Mauritania** (894 ha), southwestern **Morocco** (600 ha) and the **Tamesna Plains** in **Niger** (1,706 ha) (FAO, CLAA, CNLAA, DPV/Niger) during this period. No locusts were reported elsewhere in the region. A late received report indicated the presence of solitary adult locusts and late instar hoppers in a few places in Chad in October (FAO/ECLO, DPV/Chad).



Central Region:

Low-density immature and mature solitary adult locusts (50-200 insects/ha) were detected on some 240 ha of approximately 13,000 ha surveyed from 26 November to 3 December along the Red Sea coasts and the adjacent areas in Sudan. Small-scale breeding was in progress south of Tokar Delta where moderate rains fell during the third dekad of November and ecological conditions were favorable (Sudan Plant Protection Department). Breeding was reported in the Red Sea coasts in **Eritrea** and a few locusts were also sighted in **Yemen**.

Eastern Region:

The **Indo-Pakistan** outbreak areas remained relatively calm. Only low numbers of scattered solitary adults were reported in **Rajasthan**, **India** where small-scale breeding occurred in an area that was flooded in August (FAO/ECLO).

Forecast

Locust activities will be limited to small-scale breeding in the western region and this situation could only change if rains fall in the coming weeks.

Small-scale breeding is expected to continue on the Red Sea coastal areas stretching from southern **Egypt** to central Eritrea and central **Saudi Arabia** to Yemen. As a result, locust numbers could slightly increase over the coming months.

Significant developments are not likely in the eastern region. Regular survey and monitoring are recommended in areas where locust activities have been reported.

RED LOCUST

No information was received on **Red Locust** at the time this report was compiled, but egg laying may have begun in the primary breeding areas. Breeding may have begun and will likely continue with hoppers appearing in crops and pasture in the coming months.

TREE LOCUST

Tree locust infestations were reported on citrus orchards in the Somali region of southeastern Ethiopia (DLCO-EA). Further detail was not available at the time this report was compiled.

EDIBLE GRASSHOPPER

An outbreak of edible grasshopper, *Homorocoryphus nitidulus vicinus,* occurred in central, western and other parts of Uganda. Most of the swarms concentrated on streetlights in urban areas, on grasses and shrubberies with no apparent damage to crops or pasture (DLCO-EA).

ARMYWORM

A late received report indicated armyworm infestations in Machinga Agricultural Development Division, Balaka District, Malawi on October 13. The caterpillars were seen attacking irrigated maize and pasture. Armyworm activities will likely occur more often here and in neighboring countries in the coming months.

Front-line countries have begun pre-positioning resources, including pesticides in preparation for impending infestations. An armyworm infestation was also reported in Ghana in November, but details were not available at the time this report was compiled. There is a medium to high probability of armyworm infestation in Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe over the coming months. Active survey and monitoring are essential.

QUELEA

The Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) treated 90 ha against roosting **Quelea** populations on 14th and 18th November in Kisumu, Siaya and Dominion, western Kenya. Similar operations were also carried out by DLCO-EA in five locations in northeastern Ethiopia where some 2.4 million birds were controlled. Ground operations controlled quelea birds in Senegal in November. No reports were received from other counties.

Breeding is likely to commence in Tanzania, Mozambique and Zimbabwe in January and February. Parental birds and fledglings will likely threaten small grain cereals.

Note: Quelea can travel ~ 100 km/day looking for food. Each bird can consume 3-5 g of grain and perhaps destroy approximately the same amount each day. A colony of up to a million birds is capable of consuming and destroying 7-10 tons (= 7,000 – 10,000 kg) of seeds/day. **End note**.

WEATHER

The rainy season in the summer breeding areas in the Sahel West and the central region outbreak areas ended a while back. Only very light to moderate rains fell in a few places in northwest Africa and the Red Sea regions in November. Flooding occurred in Somalia, Ethiopia and parts of northern Kenya. In southern Africa, the rainy season has begun in a number of countries. Ecological conditions are expected to improve – a recipe for ETOP invasions. Survey and monitoring are essential.

PESTICIDE STOCKS

Pesticides stocks in front-line countries did not change much in November. Only small quantities were used in Niger, Mauritania and Morocco. Efforts to develop effective and safer handling and use of the products to avoid potential disposal problems are well underway.

untry	Quantities in litters
geria	Data not available
ya	Data not available
li	225,813
uritania	587,548*
rocco	4,000,000*
ger	185,884*
negal	532,960**
nisia	Data not available
itrea	41,000 ULV

* The current quantity may be less than this due to spray operations carried out against DL and/or grasshoppers.

** In Senegal, the slight increase (5,177 l) over the quantity reported in October was attributed to a recent nation-wide re-assessment of stocks.

Announcement

Assistance for Emergency Locust and Grasshopper Abatement (*AELGA) webpage (WWW.AELGA.NET) has been reconfigured and moved to the Agency website and can now be accessed at: 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 customers.

For further information on AELGA and related matters, please, contact Dr. Yene T. Belayneh: ybelayneh@ofda.gov

: Ybelayneh/Sitrep 2006/ETOP update 11/06