

Eritrea desert locust update, 28 December, 2006 - 20 January, 2007

Summary

According to Department of Plant Protection (DPP)/Asmara, the desert locust infestation that began on 9 December 2006 has continued well into the second dekad of January 2007. Scattered solitary and gregarious adult locusts were detected in the eastern lowland and controlled on 4,000 ha from 28 December to 18 January 2007. The current ecological conditions, will likely favor further breeding and slight increase in locust numbers over the coming weeks, but significant developments are not likely.

Meteorological and ecological conditions

A DPP report indicated that rain continued falling in Marsa-Gulbub, Melhate, Derbabu, Negae, Gheleb-Sagla, Koken-Feres, Rihib, Wedimedeni, Meleet, and Embre along the eastern lowland north and south of Massawa where the soil is wet and vegetation is green and abundant. However, some areas, including Shelshela and its environ remained fairly dry during the reporting period.

Locust situation

Scattered solitary and gregarious locusts were seen copulating and laying eggs in Ghelb-Sagla, Gumgum and Derbabu north of Massawa during surveys carried out between 10-20 January. Locusts were also observed infesting pearl millet on some 100 ha in Derbabu. Scattered solitary adults were seen copulating and laying in Ember,

Negae, and Meleet/Shinati. The situation was relatively calm south of Massawa.

Survey and control operations

Survey operations were carried out between 10-20 January from Karura to Assab (Ghahro) along the coastal areas north and south of Massawa. Some 4,000 ha were reported sprayed with 2,000 l of Malathion 96% ULV in Shelshela, Kezan, Marsa-Kobae, Mietir, Gubet, Gadem-Halieb and Derbabu from 28 Dec to 18 January.

Forecast

With the rains continue falling, vegetation abundant and green and the soil moist, locust activities will likely persist and numbers slowly increase in the eastern lowland over the coming weeks. Vigilant survey and monitoring are essential.

Constraint

According to DPP, the presence of landmines in Derbabu, Gumgum and the surrounding areas has hindered survey and control operations.



:/Sitreps 2007/Eritrea DL update I.01.07
YTB 1.23.07