

Mauritania Desert Locust update for the 2nd dekad of November, 2006

I. Meteorological and ecological conditions

According to Mauritania National Locust Control Center (the Center), dry weather persisted over most of northern Trarza and Inchiri where 70% and 20-30% of the annual vegetation, respectively have dried up. In Dakhlet Nouadobou only 5% of the annual vegetation was dry and ecological conditions remained relatively favorable during the 2nd dekad of November.

II. Desert locust situation

The Center reported that the locust situation was generally calm, however, immature and mature adults with patches of hopper groups were detected in the following areas:

Central region – northern Trarza

Young adults at densities between 2-29 insects/site were dispersed over sizable areas.

Northwestern region (Inchiri and Nouadhiou)

In Inchiri, mature adults at 2-12 individuals/site and 1st to 5th instar hoppers at densities ranging from 20 -500 insects/site were detected. Patches of 2nd and 3rd instar hoppers at 120 – 250 insects/ m² were also seen in areas measuring 80 to 400 m² south of Dakhlet Nouadhibou (1940N/1609W) on November 18. Mature adults at densities ranging from 7-32 insects/site (about 3% mating) were also observed in this region.

Northwestern region (Adrar)

Adult locusts at 2-17 insects/site were detected in the northwest. 1st to 4th instar hoppers up to 20 insects/site were seen dispersed in south Adrar. Hoppers mixed with mature and immature adults at 20 insects/100 meter transects were controlled on November 15 in Lebheir 1936N/1235W.

III. Actions taken

The Center re-deployed 15 survey teams and 9 control teams as well as one survey/spray helicopter to the northwestern and northern regions. Some 240 ha were sprayed during this dekad bringing total areas sprayed as of now to 1,785 ha. Mechanical control means were also utilized against hoppers in protected areas in Banc d'Arguin during this dekad.

V. Forecast

Concentrations of locusts will persist in areas where favorable conditions exist in the northwest. Small patches of hoppers and some mature adults will likely appear in the Dakhlet Nouadhibou region.

VI. Other related matters

A team of the MC4 society of France, working for FAO, visited the country from 10-19 November to prepare a documentary film on the locust situation.