

# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

## January – March, 2019

### COURTESY VISIT TO ETHIOPIAN STATE MINISTER

The DLCO-EA Director, Dr. Stephen W. Njoka, OGW, made a courtesy visit to the Ethiopian State Minister for Agriculture & current Chairman of DLCO-EA Council of Ministers, H. E. Sani Redi Ahmed on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

During the visit the Director briefed the Minister on a wide range of DLCO-EA matters including the upcoming 64<sup>th</sup> Council and Executive Committee Sessions scheduled for Ethiopia and on the role DLCO-EA plays in ensuring Food Security in the Region by Monitoring and Controlling Migratory Pests.



### COMMUNITY BASED FALL ARMYWORM MONITORING, EARLY WARNING AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (CBFAMEW) IN EASTERN AFRICA

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for Eastern Africa region (FAO/SEF) and the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) have agreed to continue supporting the project “Establishing an Emergency Community Based Fall Armyworm Monitoring, Forecasting, Early Warning and Management System in Eastern Africa”.

DLCO-EA is supporting and coordinating activities in three countries, Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania.

### FARMER’S FIELD DAYS (FFD’s) IN TANZANIA

The Farmers Field Days (FFD’s) are the 5<sup>th</sup> milestone in the series of the project implementation programs where it is implemented before the final Stake Holders meeting is held. The Stake Holders Meeting is the final program of the project implementation program after which the project funding comes to end by 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2019.

Each Village in the five Districts, which were implementing the CBFAMEW Project organized and held a one day Farmers’ field. The Community Focal Person and Extension Staff who were trained earlier

and Farmers from the neighboring villages participated in the field day.

During the field days, Community Focal Persons and Rural Development Agents shared their experiences with other participants.

The field days also give the National Fall Armyworm Coordinators an opportunity to meet and interact with the Focal Persons.

Consequently, the implementation of the Farmers Field Day program in Tanzania started on 11<sup>th</sup> March in Mbeya District, in Mbeya Region. The region is one of among the 6 National food-basket regions in the southwestern highlands of the Country.

Among the objectives of the FFD's and the important topics covered during the field day are:

- ✚ Sharing of Fall Armyworm situation reports among community Focal Persons, Village Agricultural Officers and other large group of farmers, which is also aimed at building capacity in order to mitigate losses caused by this pest.
- ✚ The pest's origin, biology and distribution in Tanzania, Crops affected, pheromone traps and their function and field scouting.

During their opening remarks, the District Agriculture Office Heads thanked the organizers of the Project and the field day especially, the National Ministry of Agriculture.

They also thanked and expressed their satisfactions with DLCO-EA, (FAO/SFE) and the donor (USAID) for organizing and funding of such kind of essential program. Since the Districts selected were where Fall Armyworm outbreaks and infestations were first reported. The provision of installing pheromone traps and use of FAMEWS

Mobile application at target and villages was highly appreciated by the officials.



**Thadey Ngambila ( in red shirt) Mbeya DPPPO, giving an introductory speech on importance of FFD's during opening of Farmers Field Day in one of the affected farm in Isongwa village in Mbeya District on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019.**

Fortunately, during field visit and scouting demonstration, which was done on 3 hectares of Maize farm, an average of 4 plants, out of 10 plants sampled, were found infested with FAW. At the same time, good number of predators was also found preying on the worms as seen in the following picture.



**One of the very important Beneficial insects -Ear wings (Euroborellia annulipes) as found eating its killed prey inside the maize cob already damaged by the FAW larvae in one of the attacked maize in early planted farm in Nzihi village- Iringa District during FFD visit in the area on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019.**

**DESERT LOCUST ASSESSMENT  
MISSION**

## 1) Eritrea

An assessment mission which was composed of staff from the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa, staff from the Eritrean Ministry of Agriculture Head Office and the Northern Red Sea Regional Ministry office was organized. The assessment was conducted between 13<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of February 2019 and its' mission was therefore to evaluate the Desert Locust situation on the Red Sea coastal plains of Eritrea and further to forecast the overall coming situations, developments and make recommendations.

The assessment mainly covered locations which are historically known as traditional Desert Locust breeding places in the Northern Red Sea coastal plains of Eritrea between the Port City of Massawa and Habel Ketin; on the northern Red Sea coast bordering Eritrea and Sudan, and some locations to the South of Mssawa (Hirgigo, Foro, Erafaile, Wongebo).

The mission found that despite with the intensive efforts of interventions made by the ground teams of the Ministry of Agriculture to control the Desert Locust infestations on the coastal plains of the country the Desert Locust situation was very serious in many of the surveyed locations along the Red Sea coastal plains. Crops and other annual vegetation were found infested mainly with medium to dense sizes of 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> instars stages, fledglings, immature groups of gregarious adults and small size immature swarms.



Group photo of the Team

## 2. Sudan:

The coastal area of the Red Sea in Sudan recognized as one of the most important traditional breeding area of the Desert Locust.

It is characterized by undulating sandy plain, interspersed with some small live sand dunes, such area usually utilized for Millet cultivation. The plant community composed of the annual herbs such as *Heliotropium* spp., *Zygophyllum* spp., *Euphorbia* spp., *Amaranthus* spp., *Launaea* spp., *Tribulium* spp., *Crotalaria* spp., *Cyperus* spp., *Eragrostis* spp., and the tussock grasses *Panicum turgidum*., the under shrubs *Aerva javanica*., and the perennial plants such as *Calotropis* spp., *Suaeda* spp., and *Prosopis* spp.,

In October, 2018 the coastal plains of Red Sea received heavy rain consequently, the locust from the summer zone migrated to the areas which had received rainfall such as Tokar Delta and to the Southern area Iyterba and Garora.

During survey in November, 2018 at different locations, copulating locusts, egg laying, hatching and first instar hoppers were reported, such locations were closely monitored and observed. In December, 2018 grouping of mature solitarious adults,

and different stages of solitary hoppers, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> instar were reported in same areas. On the same month four mature swarms covering an area of 585 ha were reported.

Based on this information a team composed of DLCO-EA and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Plant Protection Directorate conducted an assessment starting from 11<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

The assessment mission visited:

Hidoub - (N 185316.8/E 372409.1),  
 Aram - (N 184032.1/E 372737.0),  
 Humbokaieb - (N 191846.2/E 371713.5),  
 Arrbaat - (N 194618.0/E 371148.8),  
 Takomate - (N 195045.5/E 371147.4).

The mission found, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> hopper instars, immature solitary adults at a density of 120 locusts/ha. Mature solitary adults ready for eggs laying were observed with high density more than 500/ha.

Aerial control using DLCO-EA and 2 other private Aircraft and ground control operations were conducted and the control operation expected to continue up to the end of mid of April, 2019.



Mission on Assessment

## MIGRATORY PEST SITUATION JANUARY – MARCH, 2019

### DESERT LOCUST

Desert Locust developments and minor outbreaks were reported during December, 2018 in Eritrea and Sudan but, the situation became serious on both sides of the Red Sea coast during January, 2019. Even though, the infestations initially started as a local breeding, but since January, 2019 it has become a regional issue where some swarms were reported moving across the borders of Sudan and Eritrea, Sudan and Egypt and across the Red Sea towards Saudi Arabia.

Though intensive efforts of interventions were made by the control teams in Eritrea and Sudan the Desert Locust infestations on the coastal plains of both countries remained serious until mid March. Many small to large sizes of hopper bands mainly 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> instars stages, fledglings, immature groups of gregarious adults and small to medium sizes of immature swarms also developed but were controlled successfully.

A DLCO-EA Aircraft was also deployed in Sudan and, due to the intensive control operations conducted and the unfavourable ecological conditions that existed since mid-January, 2019 the situation became less and less alarming and by the end of March, it became calm in all of the coastal plains of both countries.



5<sup>th</sup> instars Desert Locust hoppers at Jemahir  
(160429N/383531E), Eritrea



#### Facts:

A locust swarm can be small ( $\leq$  a half a hectare) or huge (more than 1000 km<sup>2</sup>). There could be 50-80 million locusts per km<sup>2</sup>.

An adult locust eats an amount approximately its own weight per day i.e. 2 g.

A swarm size of just a km<sup>2</sup> devours 100-160 tons of vegetation (crops & pastures) per day.

A swarm travels on average 250-300 km per day while hoppers travel about 1.5 km a day (Symmons & Cressman, 1994).

Under suitable conditions, they could have 2-3 generations per year and multiply 16-20 times per generation (Symmons & Cressman,

#### QUELEA BIRDS

During January – March, 2019, Quelea birds infestations mainly on Rice crops under irrigation were reported in Kenya and Tanzania, and Wheat crops in Ethiopia.

Consequently, in all of the infested locations DLCO-EA Aircraft were deployed and millions of birds, which were threatening the crops, were controlled successfully.

#### AFRICAN ARMYWORM

The region remained free of any Armyworm infestation.

#### FALL ARMYWORM

As this pest is already established in the Maize and Sorghum growing areas of the region, reports of infestations mainly on irrigated Maize crops were received from Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda during January to March, 2019,. Some chemical spray and cultural control practices were conducted to contain the spread of the pest and, at the same time, monitoring of movements of the pest and farmers sensitizations programs have continued.

#### NEW APPOINTMENT

Mr. Barnabas Getu Ayalew has been appointed as the new Internal Auditor of the DLCO-EA positioned at Headquarters since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019. He is responsible for developing and implementing a system of Internal Audit for the Organization.

In addition, the Internal Auditor is expected to provide value added service and support to improve the systematic and disciplined approach to the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes.

## BEREAVEMENT



The Staff of DLCO-EA learnt with deep sorrow and shock of the death of the DLCO-EA former Chief Research Officer Dr. Abdurahman Abdullahi Yusuf, who served the Organization as Dire Dawa Base Manager, Research Officer, Senior Research Officer and Chief research Officer for 15 years from 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1999 until his retirement on 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2014.

Dr. Abdurahman passed away on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2019.

May God grant his Family Peace and Mercy as they bear the dear loss of Dr. Abdurahman Abdullahi.

May he RIP.

DLCO-EA AIRCRAFT SITREP AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 2019

A/C REG	5Y-BCJ	5Y-BCK	5Y-BCL	5Y-KRD	5Y-DLA	5Y-DLO		5Y-BBB		5Y-DLD
A/C TYPE	BEAVER	BEAVER	BEAVER	BEAVER	CARAVAN	BARON		ISLANDER		T/ BEAVER
A/C SERIAL NO.	1572	1579	1552	1439	00107	TH-987		809		1562(TB3)
C OF A DUE DATE	13/5/2020	IN PROGRESS	24/01/2020	AOG	04/03/2020	19/2/2020		DUE		20/6/2019
CHECK III OR MAJOR CHECK	13/05/2020	IN PROGRESS	4/01/2022	IN PROGRESS	N/A	26/6/2021		DUE		4/7/2021
AIRFRAME TSN	9209.49	10,248.46	8,735.15	6,322.25	18,112.6	5,210.26		3,174.25		13,393.78
ENGINE S/NO.	P-226291	P-226468	P-17313	N/A	PCE PC1717	PORT	STBD	PORT	STBD	PCE-14089
						831862-R	831861-R	RL-23500-R	RL-10488-R	
ENGINE TSN	6,962.10	9,789.05	8,815.30	N/A	2097.9	41.42	41.42	2370.45	2370.45	4,114.40
ENGINE TSO	687.10	585.21	21.00	N/A	1,502.1	1,795.01	1,795.01	1555.67	1555.67	509.95
PROP S/NO.	EMA 1253	EMA 1254	EMA 1281	N/A	070914	PORT	STBD	PORT	STBD	BUA 30776
						ED 3415	ED1769	AU11720 B	AU11718 B	
PROP TTSN	1,114.83	1013.22	610.58	N/A	5,902.6	1,389.34	1,321.01	216.00	216.00	478.70
PROP TSO	470.22	54.70	21.00	N/A	2,180.8	41.42	41.42	N/A	N/A	28.87
LOCATION	LOCUST SUDAN	DUE CHECK III & C OF A	QUELEA ETHIOPIA	UNDER REPAIR (NBI)	CHARTER OPERATIO N NAIROBI	STANDBY NAIROBI		MAINTENANCE NAIROBI		QUELEA TANZANIA

NB

 IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

 TO BE NOTED

 (TSO)TIME SINCE OVERHAUL

AOG AIRCRAFT ON GROUND