

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EASTERN AFRICA

..... (DLCO-EA)



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DESERT LOCUST AND OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS SITUATION REPORT FOR

APRIL, 2018



1.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

In the Central Region, good rains fell in the spring breeding areas in the interior of Saudi Arabia accompanied by strong winds and dust storms. Ecological conditions were improving and may be sufficient for small-scale breeding to occur near Tabuk and Wadi Dawasiri, and perhaps to a lesser extent between Hail and Gassim if more rains fall. Although good rains fell at times on the northern and central Red Sea coastal plains in Eritrea, mainly near Qrora and Ghelealo, their impact on locusts is likely to be minimal due to high temperatures and the end of the seasonal rainy period on the coast. In Yemen, light to moderate rains fell at times during the second half of April along the Red Sea coastal plains and in parts of the interior between Marib and Wadi Hadhramaut. In the Horn of Africa, good rains fell in eastern Ethiopia and northern Somalia. Annual vegetation became green on the Somali plateau between Hargeisa and Jigjiga, Ethiopia. (FAO DL bulletin No. 475)

1.1 Djibouti

Light to moderate rains fell on 4th and 13th of April in the southern and southwestern regions of the country. However, vegetation was drying out in the areas which have benefited from the few rains that occurred during March.

Generally, dry conditions dominated the entire territory during the month and temperatures ranged from 27°C during the night to around 35°C during the day.

1.2 Eritrea

Generally, the short rain season has started and light to moderate amount of rains fell mainly on the southern and central highlands. Scattered moderate to heavy rains also fell in some of the northern and southern Red Sea coastal areas and the eastern escarpments during the month.

1.3 Ethiopia

During April, cloudy and humid weather conditions prevailed throughout the country. During the month, due to the commencement of the short rains season, some parts of the country have also continued to receive light to heavy rains; including DireDawa, Aysha and Harewa areas where Desert Locust breeding occurs.

The annual (grasses and bushes) and perennial vegetations were green and the soil was mostly wet. The ecological conditions generally were favorable for Desert Locust activity during April.

Rainfall records (mm) during April

Date	DIRE DAWA (0936N/04150E)	Remark
1	Trace	
2	1.5	
3	3.0	
4	1.5	
6	Trace	
8	10.0	
10	9.5	
11	4.5	
12	3.0	
13	1.8	
18	18.0	
19	8.0	
20	Trace	
22	35	
25	1.5	
26	Trace	
27	1.5	
28	3.5	
30	4.5	
Total	106.8	

1.4 Kenya

The whole country received moderate to heavy rains throughout April. Consequently, some villages and agricultural schemes were flooded and damages were reported mainly in the eastern and northeastern parts of the country.

1.5 Somalia

Some scattered light to moderate rains fell during April in the northern coastal plains, the northwestern, plateau and on the escarpments. Greening of vegetation was also observed on the plateau, escarpments and in areas bordering eastern Ethiopia.

1.6 Sudan

No rains received in the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coast during April.

1.7 Tanzania

During April, most parts of the country including Isles of Unguja and Pemba received moderate to heavy rains. The Lake Victoria Basin, Western region and Southwestern highlands received

moderate showers to heavy rains. Very heavy rainfalls which fell in some of the northern highlands had caused floods consequently, deaths of human and animals, and destruction of infrastructures were reported.

During the month, the central parts (Dodoma and Singida regions), the southern region (Ruvuma and southern parts of Morogoro regions) remained mainly cloudy but have experienced with dry conditions.

Vegetation was greening, green and drying in different parts of the country depending on the time of rainfall commencements.

1.8 Uganda

During April, seasonal medium to heavy rains continued to fall all over the Country. As a result, annual and perennial vegetations were green and greening across most parts of the Country.

2.0 Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

2.1 Djibouti

Incidences were not reported.

2.2 Eritrea

Incidences were not reported.

2.3 Ethiopia

Incidences were not reported.

2.4 Somalia

No reports were received in April.

2.5 Sudan

No reports were received in April.

Desert Locust situation in other Regions and Forecast (Extracted from FAO DL Bulletin No. 475)

Central Region: No locusts reported.

Western Region: A few more isolated adults reported in central Algeria compared to March, some of which were laying eggs.

Eastern Region: Isolated mature solitary adults were present in a few coastal and interior areas of southern Iran.

3.0 Forecast until mid-June, 2018

3.1 Djibouti

No significant developments are likely.

3.2 Eritrea

No significant developments are likely.

3.3 Ethiopia

Isolated adults may be present along the railway area where small-scale breeding could occur if rains fall.

3.4 Somalia

Low numbers of adults may be present on the northwest coast or escarpment where they could breed on a small scale in areas of recent rainfall or runoff. No significant developments are likely.

3.5 Sudan

No significant developments are likely.

3.6 Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

The countries are expected to remain free of Desert Locust infestations.

4.0 OTHER MIGRATORY PESTS

4.1 Red-billed Quelea birds (*Quelea quelea sp.*)

4.1.1 Kenya

Quelea birds infestations and damages on irrigated Rice and Sorghum were reported in Siaya/Busia County during April. A DLCO-EA aircraft was

deployed to the area and an estimated of 2 million birds, which were roosting on 5 sites were killed using 160 liters of Varnish.

4.1.2 Tanzania

During April, Quelea birds were reported posing threat to Millet, Paddy and Sorghum in Korogwe district in Tanga, Bahi and Dodoma rural Districts in Dodoma region.

Even though the bad weather conditions didn't allow conducting aerial control operations on time however, successful operations were conducted in four locations in Dodoma region on 6th, 24th, 26th and 27th of April. During the control operations, an estimated of 11 million birds which were roosting on 235 hectares of Acacia and Typha grasses were killed using 450 liters of Queletox.

1.3 Ethiopia

Incidences not reported.

4.1.4 Eritrea

Monthly report not received.

4.1.5 Sudan

Monthly report not received.

4.1.6 Uganda

Incidences not reported.

4.2 African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*)

4.2.1 Tanzania

African Armyworm

During April, incidences were not reported.

Fall Armyworm (FAW) infestations continued occurring on Maize crops and reports were received from many parts of the country.

Sensitization and meetings of farmers and district officers concerning the FAW attacks were also organized during the month.

4.2.2 Uganda

African Armyworm incidences not reported.

Fall armyworm (FAW); there were reports of the worms attack on Maize crops however, the infestation was mostly under control due to the intensive monitoring and control operations which were introduced in the Country.

4.2.3 Eritrea

African Armyworm

Monthly report not received.

Fall Armyworm

National media outlets reported that FAW infestations have occurred in many parts of the country during April.

The report indicated that the worms were attacking Maize crops in some locations in the Southern, Central, Northern Red Sea and Gash Barka regions. Consequently, farmers were chopping and burning infested Maize crops in order to minimize further infestations.

4.2.4 Ethiopia

African Armyworm

Incidences not reported.

Fall Armyworm

During April, Fall Armyworm infestations continued to be reported in irrigated and short rain season cropping areas in 8 administrative regions of the Country; (Oromya, Amhara, Afar, Ethio-Somali, Benishangul, Tigray, SNNPR and Gambella).

The pest was reported affecting 85,683 ha of Maize plantation in 1,551 villages. Consequently, control operations using insecticides and cultural practices were conducted on 13,781 and 13,249 hectares of infested areas respectively. During the operations, 14,003 liters of pesticide was sprayed on the infested areas.

4.2.5 Kenya

African Armyworm

Incidences not reported

Fall Armyworm

During April, infestations continued occurring in several counties. Consequently training, distribution of pesticides and control operations by the affected farmers were in progress during the month.

Forecast until end of May, 2018

African Armyworm: even though it is less likely outbreaks to occur during the forecast period, however, monitoring of the situation is advisable mainly in the southwestern and southern parts of Ethiopia.

Fall Armyworm

As planting and growth of Maize crops continue during May, it is highly predicted that the **Fall Armyworm** infestations to increase and spread to more regions across the eastern and Horn of African countries.

Consequently, countries are advised to continue monitoring of moth movements in order to detect early infestations mainly in newly planted Maize fields. It is also highly advisable to continue with field scouts and farmers training and sensitization programs for better understanding of the pest and successful control outcomes.

4.3 Tsetse fly (*Glossina spp.*)

4.3.1 Uganda

4.3.1.1 Tsetse flies:

Incidences not reported

CIFO

For Director,

04 May, 2018

For more information about the
Organization,
Please visit DLCO-EA's Website:
www.dlcoea.org.et