

Mali desert locust update for the third dekad of October, 2005

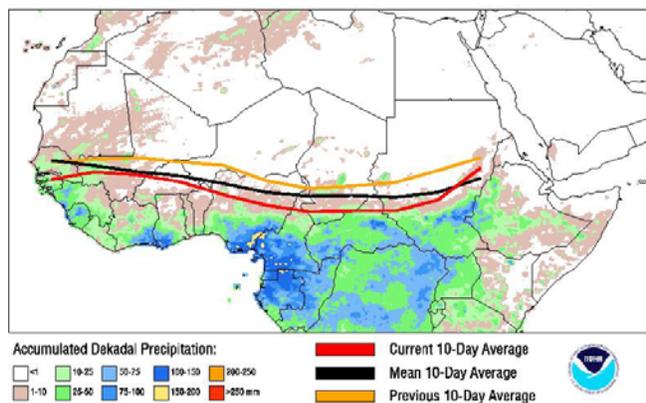
Summary

The desert locust situation remained calm in Mali during the third dekad of October. Neither hopper bands nor swarms were detected during ground surveys carried out by the teams dispatched to the outbreak areas. A few solitary individuals may be seen in patches of green vegetation but a significant development is not likely in the coming weeks.

Meteorological and ecological conditions

The ITCZ retreated southwards and no precipitation was recorded in the outbreak areas in Mali in the reporting period. Only a few patches of green vegetation were observed during surveys carried out by ground teams.

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITCZ
As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center
October 2005 Dekad 3



Locust situation

The locust situation remained calm and no hopper bands or swarms were detected during ground surveys carried out in the outbreak areas in Mali.

Mitigation actions

Three ground survey teams were deployed since October 27 to continue operations for one month. The team is being supported by a national locust expert provided by FAO.

Forecast

With the drying up of annual vegetation in progress, only a few solitary individuals may be seen in patches of green vegetation with no significant development in sight.

Pesticide inventory

The National Desert Locust Control Unit reported an inventory of 258,311 liters of ULV pesticides in the stores managed by the Plant Protection Department. Most of these are leftovers from the 2003-05 campaign.

Locust situation elsewhere in the region

Locust numbers continued to decline in most of the summer breeding areas in the Sahel. Only a few adults and hoppers were detected in western **Mauritania** and northern **Niger** where small-scale breeding was reported. Low density immature and mature adult locusts were detected in central and northern Tamesna, Niger. In the plains of the Anes Baraka, moist soil and abundant vegetation lead to small-scale breeding and first and second instar hoppers were observed in some locations. However, control interventions were not necessary due to extremely low density locust populations.

Locust numbers will likely increase slightly in western Mauritania and some places in northern Niger in the coming weeks but a significant development is not expected. Nevertheless, active surveillance and monitoring are essential to implement effective mitigation actions.

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