

Desert Locust update for May, 2006

LOCUST SITUATION

Small-scale breeding was reported in south-eastern and central Algeria where ground control operations treated some 4,000 ha of hoppers and solitary adults in May. A few adults and hoppers were also detected in Talekhnafissine in the Tafilalet region of Morocco near Algeria border where solitary adults were seen mating and laying in early April. Other spring breeding areas in North West Africa, the Middle East and Southwest Asia remained calm. Survey operations were not necessary in Mali, Niger, Senegal and Sudan where unfavourable ecological condition persisted in the primary breeding and/or outbreak areas.

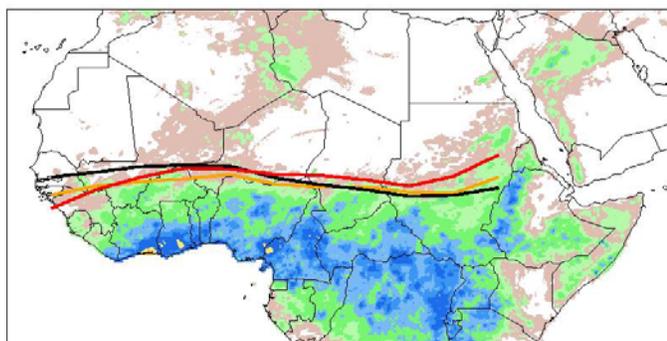
WEATHER

The Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) moved further north in May compared to its position in April. This was accompanied by rain in many of the areas east of Nigeria. A southward bias was observed in its position west of Nigeria where it remained south of the 14th parallel and hence, no rain was recorded in the summer breeding areas in Western Sahel.

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITCZ

As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center

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Accumulated Dekadal Precipitation:



Current 10-Day Average

Mean 10-Day Average

Previous 10-Day Average



FORECAST

Small-scale breeding will likely commence in the summer breeding areas along the Red Sea coasts and elsewhere in the eastern outbreak areas, along the Indo-Pakistan borders where monsoon rains are expected in the coming months. As the vegetation in most of the spring breeding areas in North West Africa dry out locust numbers will further decline, a few may concentrate in areas of green vegetation and perhaps move south to northern Sahel where they could commence breeding at the onset of the summer rains. Nevertheless, significant developments are not expected in the coming months.

PESTICIDE STOCKS

Large quantities of pesticides stocks exist in Sahelian West Africa and Northwest Africa, most of which are leftovers from the 2003-05 DL campaign (see table below). Unless immediate solution is looked into, large quantities of these products could become a major disposal problem in the near future.

Country	Quantities in liters
Algeria	??
Mali	230,419
Mauritania	> 500,000
Morocco	4,000,000
Niger	187,590
Senegal	609,205

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