

Emergency Transboundary Outbreak Pest (ETOP) update for October, 2006

Desert Locust:

Western Region

The desert locust (DL) situation continued developing in northwest **Mauritania** where, according to the National Locust Control Center (CLAA), medium to low density swarms were detected on October 5 on an areas covering ~ 8 sq. km. Reports from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and CLAA, indicated that hopper groups and bands have begun forming (see Fig. 1, source FAO) in these areas.



Ground control sprayed nearly 1,450 ha in October. Intensive survey operations are underway in the northwest and northern parts of the country. So far, the outbreak has been limited to the northwest but there is a slight risk of adults moving into northern **Mauritania** and **Western Sahara** where a few locusts may be present already. If the temperatures remain warm and adequate rains fall, second generation breeding could occur in these areas in the coming months.

Scattered solitary adult locusts were reported near Toumbouctou, **Mali** but other areas surveyed by the National Locust Control Unit remained calm in October.

Conditions are favorable for breeding and gregarization in the Air and Tamesna in

Niger. Small-scale breeding has already commenced in Tamesna and hopper groups are forming. Localized gregarization could be seen in a few places, but the country will not experience significant developments in the coming weeks. Control operations were carried out against rice grasshopper, *Hieroglyphus daganensis*, in Maradi, Tahoua, Tillaberi and Zinder, where more than 7,000 ha were sprayed.

Morocco remained relatively calm in October and very few locusts were seen during this period. On October 7, a small swarm flying over the Bir Guendouz sub-sector was reported and scattered solitary, transient adults were detected on 18 October on patches of green vegetation at 22°27'14"N-015°08'43"W near Maatallah, west of Aousserd. Solitary adults coming from the southeast and heading northwest through the Aousserd sub-sector were seen earlier in the month. On November 1, four solitary adults were seen in Bouanane near Laaouija. Survey operations are in progress, and significant developments are not likely in the coming weeks.

Triggered by the swarms detected on October 5 in Mauritania, **Senegal** rapidly deployed survey officers to monitor its northern border, but so far no locusts have been detected. With the drying up of the vegetation any residual populations will move further north or go solo and significant developments are not in sight.

No locusts were detected in **Algeria** and **Libya** during surveys carried out in October. A late report indicated that scattered solitary adults were seen in eastern Chad near Kalait (1550N/2054E) and Fada (1714N/2132E) during the second and third dekad of September. Significant developments will not occur in most of these places in the coming months, nevertheless, survey and monitoring

should continue in areas where locust activities were detected and conditions are favorable for breeding.

Central Region:

The Locust Control Center in Sudan reported low numbers of adult locusts along the Red Sea coasts near Atbara River in northeast **Sudan** and scattered solitary mature adults south of Suakin (190106N/372132E and 185811N/371709E). Low density mature and immature adults were also seen north of Suakin at 1930N/3714E and 1910N/3717E. Mating has commenced in Klanayeib. Favorable conditions are present in winter breeding areas in areas where light to moderate rain fell on 30th October along the Red Sea coasts. Isolated solitary adults were also found along the Red Sea coasts of **Yemen**. Small-scale breeding will likely continue and locust numbers increase in a few places on the Red Sea coastal plains of **Eritrea, southeast Egypt, Sudan, Saudi Arabia** and **Yemen**. It is important that active surveillance and monitoring are maintained in these areas.



Eastern Region:

Low numbers of scattered solitary adult locusts were reported along the **Indo-Pakistan** borders where small-scale breeding may commence in flooded areas in the coming month. However, significant developments are not likely.

No information was received on **Red Locust** at the time this report was compiled, but a late received report indicated that aerial spray operations were carried out against red locust swarms and concentrations of populations on some 7,000 ha in the South Rukwa and Iku plains, Malagarasi Basin and Bahi Valley in Tanzania in September. Locusts were also observed in the Lake Chilwa/Chiuta plains in Malawi but Mozambique and Zambia remained relatively calm during that period.



Residual populations in the outbreak areas will likely sexually mature and breed with the onset of rains in October/November and a successful breeding could result in large populations in Iku-Katavi and Wembere plains, Malagarasi Basin and South Rukwa Valley plains in Tanzania and Lake Chilwa and Lake Chiuta plains in Malawi.

Armyworm:

Armyworm activities were not detected and no reports were received during this period. The outbreak season in the southern region will begin with the onset of the rains in October/November.



Quelea Bird:

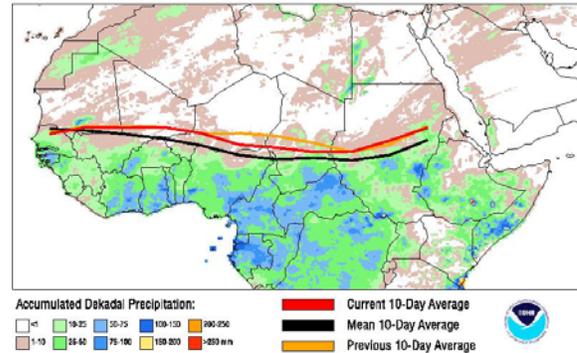
Quelea birds continued posing threats to late planted millets and sorghum in Tillaberi and Zinder in Niger. Quelea birds were also seen causing problem to wheat in Narok, Nakuru etc. districts in Kenya and on irrigated wheat in Zimbabwe.



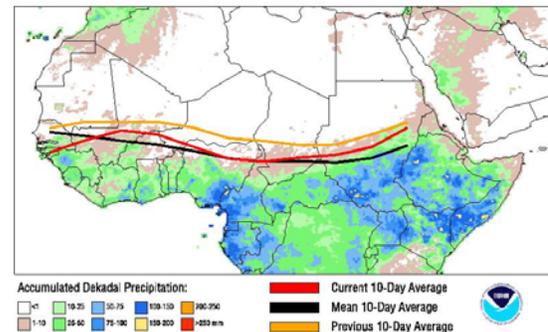
Quelea can travel ~ 100 km/day looking for food. Each bird can consume 3-5 g of grain and perhaps destroy approximately the same amount each day. A colony of up to a million birds is capable of consuming and destroying 7-10 tons (= 7,000 – 10,000 kg) of seeds/day.

As a result, the amount of rainfall in the summer breeding areas in the Sahel West, northwest Africa, Sudan, and the Red Sea coastal areas progressively declined and very few places reported moderate to light showers during this period.

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITCZ
As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center
October 2006 Dekad 2



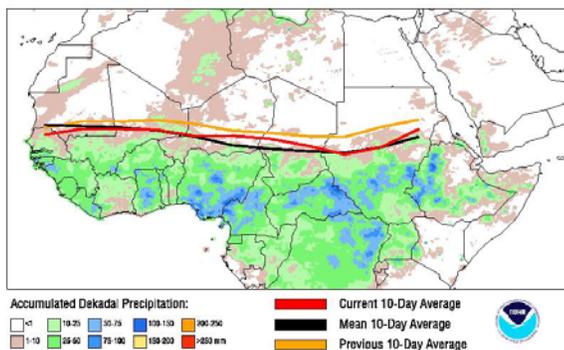
Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITCZ
As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center
October 2006 Dekad 3



WEATHER

The Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) over Africa migrated from its average position of ~ 15.3 N in the first dekad of October to 12.8 N in the third dekad, when averaged from 15W-35E latitude (see Figs. Dekad 1-3), i.e., a 2.5 degrees difference.

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITCZ
As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center
October 2006 Dekad 1



PESTICIDE STOCKS

The quantities of pesticides available in many of the front-tine countries did not change much from the previous month as only limited spray operations were carried out in Mauritania against DL and in Niger against the rice grasshopper *Hieroglyphus daganensis*. Efforts to develop effective and safer handling and use of the products and avoid potential disposal problems are in progress.

Country	Quantities in liters
Algeria	Data not available
Libya	Data not available
Mali	225,813
Mauritania	590,200*
Morocco	4,000,000
Niger	187,590*
Senegal	527, 783
Tunisia	Data not available
Eritrea	41,000 ULV

* This quantity is reduced due to spray operations carried out against DL or grasshoppers.

AELGA (Assistance for Emergency Locust and Grasshopper Abatement) will continue monitoring the ETOP situation and related matters and issue updates and advices as often as necessary.

Announcement

We are pleased to announce that AELGA webpage (WWW.AELGA.NET) has been reconfigured and moved to the Agency website and can now be accessed at:

http://www.usaid.gov/ourwork/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/locust/

The contents of the page will be expanding and more documents, both archival and active, will be continuously added to our page to better serve our customers.

For further information on AELGA and related matters, please, contact [Dr. Yene T. Belayneh](mailto:ybelayneh@ofda.gov): ybelayneh@ofda.gov

: Ybelayneh/Sitrep 2006/ETOP update 10/06