



DESERT LOCUST UPDATE

FAO Emergency Centre for Locust Operations



(13 August 2004)



General Situation as of 13 August 2004

The overall situation in West Africa is further deteriorating with more swarms arriving in Mauritania and Mali and maturation, egg-laying and hopper development occurring there and in some other Sahelian countries. Serious damage was reported locally. Arrival of swarms was confirmed in Chad. A few swarms again reached the Cape Verde Islands and there was an unconfirmed report of yellow adults in northern Burkina Faso. By contrast, the situation is becoming calm in Northwest Africa where less than 7,000 ha were treated in Algeria. No reports were received from other Northwest African countries. Control efforts in the Sahel are still hampered by a lack of resources although the funding situation is beginning to improve. International assistance continues to be urgently required to supplement the major efforts already made and to prevent the situation from developing into a plague.

In Mauritania, swarms moving from the North towards the South were reported in Tiris Zemmour, Adrar, Inchiri and Nouakchott. South of 18N, maturation and copulation continued mainly in Trarza and Brakna causing severe local damage to crops. Hopper bands up the 3rd instar were present in Guidimaka where damage was reported on crops and pasture. Swarms and hopper bands were also reported in Assaba and Hodh El Gharbi, where some hoppers already reached the 4th instar. Consequently, the first adults of the summer generation could start to appear by the end of the month. Control operations

treated 6,029 ha on 1-10 August. In Senegal, immature, mature, copulating and egg-laying adults and swarms were continuing to be reported along the Senegal River Valley and were also reported in the Ferlo Valley, at Linguere. More than 16,000 ha were treated from 18 July to date. In Mali, 45 small hopper bands were reported in the West, at Nara, where swarms appeared during the second half of July. In the Adrar, mobile as well as copulating incoming swarms were mixed with resident populations. Immature and mature adults and hoppers were present near Gao, and maturing swarms, at a density up to 60/m², were reported at Douentza. About 700 ha were treated during the first decade of August. There was an unconfirmed report of yellow adults at low density in northern Burkina Faso on 9-10 August. No report was received from Niger where hopper development may be occurring. Late reports received from Chad indicate that three swarms entered from the West during the last decade of July causing some local damage. As good rains have fallen throughout the Sahel, ecological conditions are favourable for hopper development in West Africa. On 5th August, a few swarms at a density of up to 50 adults/m², again reached the Cape Verde Islands on Boa Vista, Santiago, Fogo and Maio during another brief period of northeasterly winds. Numerous dead locusts were seen on the beach.

The situation was becoming calm during the first decade of August in Algeria where immature adult groups were only reported from a few locations. Less than 7,000 ha were treated. As the vegetation is drying out in the south, no further development is expected in the forthcoming weeks.

No report for the first decade of August was received from any other country including Sudan.

Up-to-date information on the situation and photos are available on the Internet (www.fao.org/news/global/locusts/locuhome.htm).

The FAO Desert Bulletin is issued monthly, supplemented by Updates during periods of increased Desert Locust activity, and is distributed by fax, e-mail, FAO pouch and airmail by the Locusts and Other Migratory Pests Group, AGP Division, FAO, 00100 Rome, Italy. It is also available on the Internet.

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