



DESERT LOCUST ALERT

FAO Emergency Centre for Locust Operations



(17 Nov 2004)



General Situation as of 17 November 2004

A large immature swarm appeared in Cairo, Egypt today about midday and then moved east to the Gulf of Suez where it landed on the coast about 50 km south of Suez at Ain Sukhna. The swarm probably came from the swarms that have been reported earlier this week in the Nile Delta between Cairo and Alexandria. These swarms originally arrived from northeast Libya at the beginning of the month and drifted east along the northern coast to the delta.

Control operations are in progress in the north but have been hampered because farmers were burning tires and other material that cause smoky conditions. This makes swarms disperse so that they are no longer good control targets.

Most of the swarms in northern Egypt are expected to move towards the Red Sea, first appearing in on the coast of Egypt and then move southwards in the Red Sea trench to traditional winter breeding areas on the coast between Shalatyn, Egypt and Massawa, Eritrea. A few swarms could also cross the Red Sea and reach the coastal plains north of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Sudan and Saudi Arabia were already alerted today.

There is also a moderate risk that a few swarms in northern Egypt could continue further east and reach the Sinai Peninsula and perhaps coastal areas of Palestine and Israel.

In northeast Libya, control operations treated 1,500 ha and no further locusts have been reported. Therefore, the risk of additional swarms arriving in northern Egypt from Libya is extremely low.

FAO will continue to keep all countries informed of any significant developments. The most up-to-date information on the situation and photos are available on the Internet (www.fao.org/news/global/locusts/locuhome.htm) as well as maps of the latest infestations (193.43.36.11/mapper).

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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