



ECLO Operations Report

UPDATE

EMERGENCY CENTRE FOR LOCUST OPERATIONS

General situation

Only very limited breeding has occurred so far this month in Northwest Africa, mainly in northeast **Algeria**. Unless good rains fall and substantial hatching occurs in the coming weeks, swarms are not expected to form in Northwest Africa this spring nor threaten the Sahel this summer. Currently in the Sahel, at least one small swarm has moved from **Guinea** towards northern **Mali** and a few more could follow. The situation improved near Red Sea along the Egyptian-Sudanese border where infestations declined and a few adults moved towards the Nile Valley in northern **Sudan**. In the Eastern Region, a joint Iran/Pakistan survey is underway in the spring breeding areas in **Baluchistan**, western **Pakistan** and southeast **Iran**.

Training of Trainers

The first session of the regional Training of Trainers programme on Desert Locust, started on 14 March 2005 at the regional centre of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (*Institut international de recherche sur les cultures des zones tropicales semi-arides* - ICRISAT), in Niamey, Niger, has been officially closed on 6 April. The training was attended by 21 participants from 10 West African countries (3 from Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal; one participant from Burkina Faso, Cape-Verde, the Gambia, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau) and Djibouti.

At the end of the three-and-a-half weeks sessions on the different aspects of the locust control and on the best way to transmit the knowledge, all participants, future trainers, presented their national training proposals. It has been agreed that they will organise three national trainings to 90 technicians of the locust control units and of the agriculture and plant protection services in their respective countries. These national trainings will take place between beginning of May and mid-June, before the starting of the next Desert Locust control campaign in the Sahel. Consultants are in the course of recruitment to technically guide the national trainings whose evaluation will be carried out by the training supervisor. Additional material is also in the course of acquisition to ease these trainings.

Events and Meetings

A **contingency planning workshop**, organized by FAO with the support of the World Bank, will be held in Bamako, Mali, from 25 to 29 April. Technical experts from seven West African countries and four North African countries will prepare for the 2005 campaign by endorsing a plan of action for each country as the first step of a contingency plan. A donor meeting from 2 to 4 May will also be organized by FAO and the Bank in Bamako.

A **joint WMO/FAO Locust meteorology workshop** was held with the Centre AGRHYMET of Niamey, from 19 to 22 April. Its objective was the improvement of the meteorological support provided to the national locust control units in the French-speaking countries. The workshop brought together responsible persons from the national meteorological services and the national locust control units of Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Djibouti, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Chad and Tunisia were participating at this training session.

A **regional training of trainers' workshop in quality control** of the locust control spraying operations and the taken measures for health and environment safety was held from 13 to 23 April in Nouakchott, Mauritania. The workshop addressed the spraying effects on water, fauna and flora. It identified also the most vulnerable species not-targeted during the operations. The workshop lays within the scope of the national capacities building of six countries: Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal. Practice on the ground took place from 18 to 23 April, in Akjoujt.

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For more information on the desert locust situation, including operational activities, donor funding, country briefs and previous situation reports, go to <http://www.fao.org/news/global/locusts/locuhome.htm>

Funding update

- FAO had received US\$66.2 million from donors to which the Organization had contributed a further US\$6.3 million of its own funds.
- US\$7.8 million had been pledged by donors.
- US\$2.7 million is being negotiated with donors.
- The total budget allocation for locust control operations is US\$80.3 million.
- US\$42.7 million (59 percent of funds received) had been committed for locust control operations.
- The balance of funds received is US\$29.8 million.