



FAO SUDAN



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FAO FOR A WORLD WITHOUT HUNGER

In this issue:

Desert Locust Threat

Campaign to Protect Sudan's Crops and Pastures

FAO's Senior Desert Locust Forecaster Keith Cressman has warned that a second generation of desert locust swarms could ravage Sudan's spring and summer crops and pastures this year if urgent control measures aren't carried out.

Mr Cressman from FAO's Headquarters in Rome took part in a joint mission by FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture's Plant Protection Directorate this month and found evidence of substantial locust egg laying and hatching over a 1,000 kilometre stretch of the Nile from Wadi Halfa in Northern State to Atbara in River Nile State.

Hatching began in mid-to-late March and hoppers (black, wingless nymphs) are grouping together to form small but dense patches and bands. There are approximately 70 eggs in a locust's egg pod, and an estimated 500 egg pods per square metre so there is real

potential for the current situation to intensify.

The eggs were laid by swarms that reached the Nile Valley in February. Those swarms were successfully controlled by extensive ground and air spraying efforts by the PPD resulting in negligible crop damage.

Urgent control operations are being launched by the PPD to control the hoppers before they can become immature flying locusts. At the immature stage, desert locusts can consume their body weight in food meaning large swarms could easily destroy crops and pastures. The FAO Representative a.i. Mr Charles Agobia has warned of an imminent food insecurity emergency if the desert locust threat isn't controlled.

In the northeast, few locusts remain on the Red Sea coast or near the Egypt border.



[Regional Desert Locust Effort p2](#)



[Agricultural Census p4](#)

New Funding

FAO has secured almost \$US 1 million to help Sudan fight the current locust threat.

Saudi Arabia is contributing \$US 400,000, FAO's Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region (CRC) is contributing \$US 75,000 and FAO will mobilise from its own resources up to \$US 500,000.

Read more on page 2.

Desert Locust Threat

FAO's Financial Support

FAO has announced that it has secured almost \$US 1 million to help Sudan combat desert locusts in River Nile and Northern states. The announcement was made this month by FAO Representative a.i. Mr Charles Agobia at a joint media conference with the Federal Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Dr. Abdul-Halim Ismail Al-Mutaa'fi at the Sudan Media Centre in Khartoum.

FAO's Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region (CRC) secured the financial contributions. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is contributing \$US 400,000, the CRC's Emergency Trust is contributing \$US 75,000 and FAO will mobilise from its own resources up to \$US 500,000. The assistance is to address the immediate needs of the current control campaign.

Dr. Al-Mutaa'fi thanked FAO for the support and said he wants to continue Sudan's close partnership with FAO. He also requested the support of other donor nations and partners to assist Sudan at this critical time.

As an indication of the scale of Sudan's efforts so far, the PPD sprayed 181,000 hectares of land between September last year and now compared to 45,000 hectares sprayed in Saudi Arabia and 40,000 hectares in Egypt during the same period. The majority of the region's control operations took place in February this year.



*TOP: A desert locust egg pod in River Nile state in mid-March.
BELOW: the black spots are one-day old hoppers next to an onion field in Northern state, mid-March.*

LEFT: FAO Representative a.i. Mr Charles Agobia (left) with Federal Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Dr. Abdul-Halim Ismail Al-Mutaa'fi (right) after FAO's announcement that almost \$US 1 million has been secured to help Sudan fight the current desert locust threat.



Cattle Migration

are migrating into South Sudan through border checkpoints in Blue Nile and Sennar states. The Fulani are reportedly paying heavy fees per head of cattle and sheep. The crossings are taking place only in areas controlled by the government on the Sudan side; there is no monitoring of SPLM North-held border areas.

The concentration of animals in areas with limited pasture and water leads to overgrazing and can have a longer term negative impact on the quality of the pasture. Livestock health can also be affected and the risk of disease outbreak increases. Competition for the limited resources could also spark inter-tribal conflict or violence between herders and farmers.



TOP LEFT: (file photo) Traditional migratory livestock routes into what is now South Sudan have been largely impassable since separation in mid-2011.

BOTTOM LEFT: A solar panel to run a fridge for veterinary vaccines being installed in Sennar state.

Emergency Livestock Support

FAO's livestock specialists have held a three-day training session on the provision of water, feed, health services, shelter and stocking and destocking for livestock caught in emergency situations. The Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS) training was funded by USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and was carried out in Wad Medani for government and NGO livestock officers based in South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Sennar states.

Under FAO's OFDA funding, five solar fridges have been delivered to difficult-to-reach areas in South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Sennar states to safely store veterinary vaccines. At the site in El Dali locality in Sennar, for example, there is no electricity and the area is usually cut-off during the rainy season so the provision of the fridge will mean vital vaccines are always available. Vet officers from each state's Ministry of Agriculture have been trained in maintaining the fridges.

Livestock Livelihoods

Seasonal Migration Update

Insecurity and uncertainty along the Sudan-South Sudan border is continuing to hamper the seasonal migration of nomadic livestock owners and their herds. According to FEWSNET and FAO field reports, a large number of cattle owned primarily by the Rezeigat and Messeriya groups in East Darfur and South Kordofan are still unable to cross the Bahr al-Arab River into South Sudan. Similar situations affecting other pastoralist groups are playing out in South Darfur, Blue Nile and Sennar states.

Up until the separation of Sudan and South Sudan, seasonal migrations allowed livestock to access pastures and water sources in the south as resources dried up in the north.

However, FAO field officers report that cattle owned by nomadic Fulani herders

Agriculture Census

Measuring Growth

FAO has begun providing technical support for a comprehensive agriculture census to be carried out in Sudan this year. The last census was held in 1966, and new data is needed to measure the full extent of the nation's agriculture and livestock sector.

The Government of Sudan has charged its Central Bureau of Statistics to carry out the census with support from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries with technical assistance from FAO.

FAO has contributed \$US398,000 to fund its technical activities during the project period, which will run until the end of this year.

FAO is currently seeking a national census consultant and an international data processing consultant to join the census team. For more information: Zoie.Jones@FAO.org

Voices of the Hungry

Food Insecurity Yardstick

FAO will pilot a fast new tool to measure hunger and food insecurity around the world. The Voices of the Hungry project will run in four sample countries this year: Angola, Ethiopia, Malawi and Niger.

The new approach relies on gathering information on the extent and severity of hunger from food-insecure people through a carefully-designed annual survey to be conducted in collaboration with polling specialists Gallup.

At the moment, FAO is able to accurately monitor food availability at the national level, particularly in terms of potential energy intake, whereas the new indicator will measure food access at the individual level and will provide a clearer idea of personal experiences with food insecurity.

Survey results will be available in days rather than years, allowing FAO to take an almost real-time snapshot of a nation's food insecurity situation.

The project will run for five years and will lead to the establishment of a new FAO-certified standard for food security monitoring that could then be easily adopted by other household surveys.



ABOVE: Sudan's national livestock herd including camels, cattle, sheep and goats will be counted under the national agriculture and livestock census. The last census was conducted in Sudan in 1966.

Sustainable Agriculture

New Theme Launched

"Sustainable Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition" will be the focus of World Food Day this year. The official theme is announced at this time each year, ahead of the start of preparations leading up to the October 16th international day.

Unsustainable models of development are degrading the natural environment, threatening ecosystems and biodiversity that will be needed for our future food supply. So, World Food Day 2013 is a chance to focus on the profound changes that are needed in agriculture and food systems to make them sustainable.

CONTACT US

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