



DESERT LOCUST UPDATE

FAO Emergency Centre for Locust Operations



(15 Oct 2004)



General Situation as of 15 October 2004

Desert Locust swarms continued to leave the Sahel in West Africa during the first half of October and appeared in Northwest Africa. Most of these swarms were moving towards the north and northwest. So far, they have arrived in northwest Mauritania, southern Western Sahara, southern Algeria and the Cape Verde Islands. Some of the swarms in Western Sahara continued north and nearly reached the southern side of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco. Other swarms were forming south of the Atlas Mountains in Algeria and probably in Morocco because of breeding during the summer by residual populations from the spring. Locusts will decline in the Sahel in the coming weeks as more swarms move north. More than 350,000 ha have been treated so far this month.

More locust swarms continued to arrive in Northwest Africa during the first ten days of October. Immature swarms appeared in southern Algeria near Tamanrasset, and local breeding continued further south near the Malian border where hoppers were forming groups. Small immature swarms crossed the border of Mauritania at the end of September and early October, arriving in the southern part of the Western Sahara. Some of the swarms continued north, reaching the Draa Valley in Morocco on 8 October. During the summer, small residual populations have persisted and bred in a few places along the southern side of the Atlas Mountains in

Algeria and probably in Morocco. By early October, several immature swarms formed in Algeria near Beni Abbes and similar swarms were reported in Morocco between Errachidia and Ouarzazate. Aerial and ground control operations treated 27,000 ha in Algeria and 11,600 ha in Morocco during the first decade of October. Several successive waves of immature swarms reached the Cape Verde Islands during the first week of October. Hatching and band formation continued in areas where swarms had laid eggs in September. Nearly 500 ha were treated from the beginning of October.

Swarms continued to form in southern and southwest Mauritania during the first decade of October where there were still some late instar hopper bands. Most of these swarms are moving towards the centre and northwest of the country. Large dense swarms have been reported in the northwest where breeding conditions are favourable. In the southeast, no further bands have been seen and vegetation is drying out. Aerial and ground control operations treated 94,000 ha during the decade. In Senegal, hopper bands and swarms are present in the north and centre of the country where control operations treated nearly 200,000 ha during the first half of October. A ship report of swarms off the coast of southern Senegal may indicate that some swarms are moving towards the Casamance region in the south. In Niger, swarms were seen moving northwards near Agadez and near Tillaberi in the west of the country. Hopper bands were present in Tamesna and hatching was in progress in the Sahelian zone. Control operations treated 24,000 ha from 29 September to 6 October.

No new information has been received from Burkina Faso, Mali, or Chad.

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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In the Central Region, isolated adults are present in only a few places in the summer breeding areas in Northern Kordofan, **Sudan**. Control operations treated 135 ha of late instar hoppers that were forming small groups and adults in early October on the northern Red Sea coastal plains in **Yemen**. Good rains have fallen recently in these areas.

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).



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