

Ad Hoc Meeting, Khartoum, 15-17 March 2004

Participants: Mr. Bereke Ogbamichael, Head of Plant Health Division, Eritrea,
Mr. Ghazi Hawari, Director of Locust Research & Control Centre, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,
Mr. Rabie Khalil, Head of Locust Control Section, Sudan,
Ms. Zeinab Haider, Information Officer at the LCS, Sudan,
Mr. Abdel Moneim Khider, Head of the Survey and Control Unit of the LCS, Sudan,
Mr. Abdu Farea Al-Romaih, Director of Desert Locust Monitoring and Controlling Centre, Yemen,
Mr. Munir Butrous, Secretary of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region,
Mr. Christian Pantenius, EMPRES/CR Programme Coordinator

Possible Desert Locust developments and precaution measures in Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Yemen and Eritrea

March A few more adult groups and swarms may form on the northern Red Sea coastal plains in Saudi Arabia as the last of the remaining instar hopper bands fledge. A second generation hatching and band formation will continue and it is likely that new swarms could start forming from the second half of March onwards. In Sudan, groups of locust adults may form on the northern Red Sea coast.

→ *Continue survey and control operations on the Red Sea coast and the interior of Saudi Arabia with the objective of reducing populations and limiting migration.*

Saudi Arabia: Six survey teams started monitoring the spring breeding areas in the interior of the country. 45 survey and control teams have been mobilized in the area of Medina, Qassim and Hail for intervention. Additional six teams will be maintained along the Red Sea coastal area to monitor and control the remaining infestation.

Five aircraft have been contracted and are at stand-by. Also additional aircraft can be made available in case needed on a short notice.

Sudan: One survey and control team¹ is based in Oseif (North Red Sea area).

▪ *Two additional teams should be placed in Oseif.*

No team has been based in the Tokar area.

¹ One team consists of two vehicles

- *One survey and control team should be moved to Tokar.*

Three teams are based in Dongola (Northern State) and additional two in Abu Hamad to cover the River Nile State areas.

Two aircraft have been contracted and are at stand-by.

Yemen: Two survey team with one vehicle each are based at the Red Sea coast (Hodeidah/Hadja). One team is based in Aden to survey the Gulf area.

- *Each team should consist of two vehicles as standard unit.*

Eritrea: One survey team is based in the Eastern Lowlands at Mehimeet.

- *The Information Office in Eritrea should make it a standard procedure to inform the PPD in Sudan regularly of any locust activity observed from the Karrora area.*

April: As vegetation will dry out in the winter breeding areas, it is likely that any swarms from the coast in Saudi Arabia will move into the interior of Saudi Arabia and will lay eggs. New swarms could start forming by the end of April from hatching that occurred in March. On the coast of Sudan, locust numbers will decline as vegetation dries out.

→ *The main teams and resources in each of the four countries should be maintained the same way as during March along the Red Sea coast and the interior of Saudi Arabia.*

May: The risk of swarm formation is likely throughout the month of May in the spring breeding areas in Saudi Arabia. As soon as the vegetation dries up, swarms could move towards the summer breeding areas in Iran and along the Indio-Pakistan border as well as in Yemen, Eritrea and in Sudan.

Saudi Arabia: The 51 survey and control teams should be kept in the spring breeding areas and should conduct intensive survey and control operations. In case of additional resources will be needed, more teams should be mobilized. The six teams at the Red Sea coast should be kept at stand-by at the Locust Centre in Jeddah.

Sudan: In case of rainfall in the summer breeding areas surveys should be conducted in North Kordufan, North Dafur, White Nil State and Khartoum State.

- *Each survey team from the States should be accompanied by one team from the PPD HQ to jointly survey the identified summer breeding areas.*

One team will be maintained at Suakin to monitor the Red Sea coastal plain. Also the five teams based in Northern Sudan should be maintained.

By mid to end of May, pesticide fuel and equipment stocks as well as seasonal camps should be pre-positioned at strategic places in Obeid (Gebrat el Sheikh, Sodari, Um Sayala, Hamrat el Sheikh), Fashir (Al Malha, Umkaddada, Kutum), White Nile (Helba, Shigeig), Dongola, Damer, Kassala, and Khartoum.

Yemen: The two teams from the Red Sea coast will be transferred to the HQ.

- *In case of early rains in May, two teams from the Locust Centre will join the two teams located in Shebwa and Hadramaut. Two teams from the Centre will conduct regular surveys in Mareb and Al Jawf. In case of no rain the two local teams will continue conducting regular surveys.*

Eritrea: In case of rainfall the teams from the Red Sea coast will be transferred to the Western Lowland to conduct regular surveys. Otherwise it will be held at stand-by at the HQ in Asmara.

- *Maintain the Information Officer permanently at the HQ.*
- *Provide vehicle, survey equipment and qualified staff from the HQ to strengthen the capacity of the local staff in conducting surveys.*

June: Swarms from the later breeding will continue to form, and will move to the above mentioned summer breeding areas. In case of rainfall continues in June in the summer areas all precaution measures should be maintained as recommended for May.

Saudi Arabia: The 51 survey and control teams should be kept in the interior of Saudi Arabia and should continue to conduct intensive survey operations as during the month of May and should initiate control operations as soon as the locust situation requires.

Sudan: Additional areas that could potentially receive rainfall such as Kassala, Western Darfur, Durdeib area (Red Sea Summer Belt) teams from the HQ should join the local teams.

From early June onwards, survey and control operations should be intensified. By end of June swarms may appear in the summer breeding areas in North Darfur, North Kordufan, White Nile, Khartoum and Kassala states. In case of good rains, locusts will lay eggs.

Operations as indicated for May should continue.

Yemen: Swarms may appear in the summer breeding areas, mainly in Shabwa area. In case of rainfall, survey and control operations in the targeted areas should be reinforced.

Eritrea: Swarms may appear in the Western Lowland. The survey and control operations in the Western Lowland should be intensified.

N.B.: Some areas in Sudan may be difficult to access due to security problems i.e. northwest of North Kordufan, North Darfur and northeast Kassala.

July: Swarms will lay eggs in the summer breeding areas. Sudan, Yemen and Eritrea should pursue search and control operations as in June.

→ *Assessment surveys should be conducted in Sudan, Eritrea and Yemen and the same actions pursued as for May and June.*

Sudan: Additional swarms from the Western Region may arrive in the summer breeding areas therefore additional survey and control teams should be mobilized from the PPD HQ and field stations as far as the situation requires.

▪ *At least eight aircraft should be ready by early July at stand-by.*

Eritrea: Additional ground support should be expected from DLCO-EA.

August: Breeding will take place in Sudan, Eritrea and Yemen. The scale of the breeding depends on the rainfall and incoming locust populations. Hopper groups and/or bands start to appear and could lead to the formation of adult groups or swarms.

→ *Same actions for the same countries should be maintained.*

Yemen: Aircraft support should be mobilized in case it is needed for control operation in the summer breeding areas by the DLMCC from Saudi Arabia and /or CRC.

Eritrea: Additional pesticides should be ordered for the pre-positioning for the winter campaign.

September: A second generation of the Desert Locust could appear by end of September in Sudan, Yemen and Eritrea. The population of the Desert Locust is expected to increase, as a result of that, numbers of bands and swarms will increase.

→ *In general, the same action in Eritrea, Sudan and Yemen should be followed as in August and July.*

Eritrea: One DLCO-EA aircraft should be based in Asmara at stand-by.

October: If good rains persist in the summer breeding areas, breeding will continue and locust groups and swarms will continue forming in the interior of Sudan, Eritrea and Yemen. These swarms could move towards the winter breeding areas along the Red Sea coast in Sudan and Eritrea, and the Arabian Sea in the case of Yemen.

Sudan: Maintain the forces in the summer breeding areas, but strengthen the defense line in Durdeib area by additional team(s) from Suakin. Pesticide stocks, fuel and spray equipment should be placed in Suakin, Tokar and Sofaia for the preparation of the winter campaign.

- *The Suakin and Tokar airstrips should be repaired and be operational by end of October.*

Eritrea: One survey and control team should be maintained in the Western Lowlands to monitor the remaining infestation. One team should now be moved to the Eastern Lowlands.

Yemen: Monitoring of the locust situation along the Arabian Sea and the Red Sea Coastal plains by conducting regular surveys. Operations in the summer breeding are likely to be seized.

Saudi Arabia: Monitoring of the Desert Locust along the Red Sea coastal area will be again initiated between Jeddah and Omlouj, were 5 – 10 teams will be based in five stations and a new airstrip will be operational in Thawal by October.

Four aircraft will be put at stand by and 35 additional survey and control teams will held at stand-by in Jeddah.

November: Infestation in the summer breeding areas will decline, but some may remain in Sudan, mainly in River Atbara and along the River Nile in the north.

Sudan: Survey and control teams from the HQ will be returned from the operations in the summer breeding to the PPD in Khartoum. Enforce monitoring capacity along the Red Sea coast between Tokar Delta and Oseif by six survey and control teams from the HQ in addition to the existing two teams already based in Durdeib.

Eritrea: Remove survey and control teams from the Western Lowland to join the operations in the Eastern Lowland. DLCO-EA aircraft and ground support should be kept at stand-by and the airstrip at Sheib should be operational.

Yemen: Maintain regular surveys along the Red Sea coast and the Arabian Sea.

Saudi Arabia: Intensify surveys and conduct control operations if necessary.

December: Breeding is likely to occur along both sides of the Red Sea coast. In case of good rainfall, locust populations will increase drastically during the following months.

Sudan: Seize the operations in the summer breeding areas and move the teams from Durdeib to Suakin, making the total teams at the Red Sea coast eight.

- *Four aircraft should be kept at stand-by. These forces should be maintained until end of March 2005. Collect remaining pesticides from field and seasonal stations in the summer breeding areas and position them at the state PPD main stations at Obeid, Kosti, Khartoum, Sennar, Gedarif, and Kassala.*

Eritrea: The two teams (plus DLCO-EA forces) should be kept in the Eastern Lowland until end of March 2005. Likewise the DLCO-EA aircraft in Asmara.

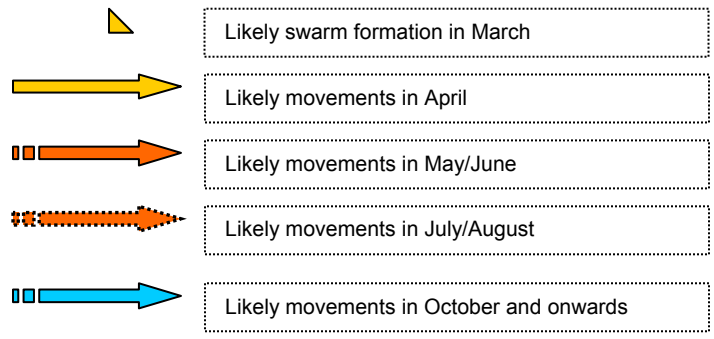
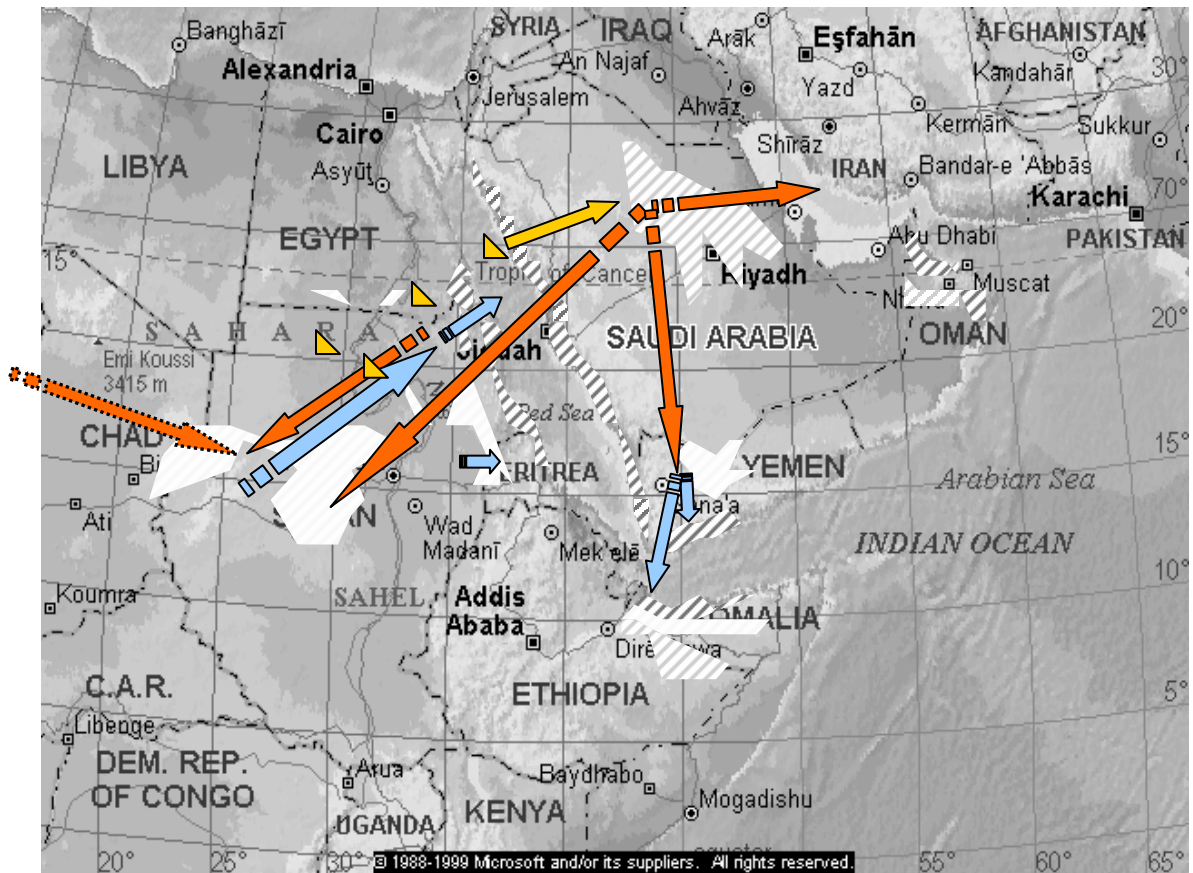
Yemen: Regular surveys at the Red Sea coast and the Arabian Sea coast will be maintained as in November. 12 survey and control teams should be kept at stand-by at the HQ in Sana'a.

Saudi Arabia: Operational budget, flying hours cost, and pesticides will be available by early December. Five survey and control teams will be distributed in each station of the Omlouj, Yanbo, Rabigh, Thowal and Osfan. Additional 25 teams will be held at stand-by in Jeddah. Intensive survey and control operations should continue.

Common important considerations

- At least two training courses should be conducted in the four countries according to the recommended standards by using the national Master Trainers during the period for March – May. The performance check list should be used prior to the training and during the survey and control operations.
- The standard survey and spray monitoring forms should be used during all survey and control operations. In case of any difficulties, CRC or EMPRES should be contacted.
- Full use should be made of the RAMSES data base and all survey and control data entered immediately after field information has been received at the Information Office of the HQ of the Locust Centre.
- The guideline provided for drafting national Desert Locust Bulletins should be used. Copies of the nation Bulletins should be distributed to the relevant government institutions, FAO Representations, CRC, EMPRES, DLIS and all other relevant donor representations in the country.
- The capacity spread sheet should be updated every 6 months. The first update is expected by early April and the second by early October latest.
- Survey operations should be planned and directed according to RAMSES data, SPOT satellite imageries, FAO monthly bulletin and any other relevant information from national sources.
- Based on this regional action plan, individual detailed action plans should be prepared by the participating national Locust Control Centres for the forthcoming months. These action plans could be considered as part of the national contingency preparations. Copies should be sent to CRC and/or EMPRES by end April.

Likely Desert Locust movements in the Central Region, 2004²



² Assumption: Climatic conditions remain favourable for locust breeding; control operations had no significant impact on the locust population.