Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Ministry of Agriculture
Plant Health Regulatory General Directorate

Plant Protection Directorate
Migratory Pest Survey and Control Case Team
Tel: 011-6-461147 Fax: 011-6-461147 zebdewosalato@yahoo.com /
tamirukebede55@gmail.com/belayfetaw2015@gmail.com/
solomonmirete7@gmail.com

DESERT LOCUST BULLETIN

MAY 2020 No. 171

DANGER | THREAT | CAUTION | CALM

Overview

In May, 2020 the situation of Desert Locust is very serious in most breeding areas of Eastern, South Eastern and North eastern districts of Somali, Oromia and Afar regions.

In Southern Ethiopia both South Oromia and South Nations regions because of intensive aerial and ground survey and control work the situation significantly improved. The Situation is very serious in south Eastern Oromia East Bale zone in Dawe Serer District where intensive hopper control is carried out. In Northern Somali region Siti zone (Erer, Shinile, Adigala, Ayisha, Debel) districts hoppers hatched earlier and vehicle mounted sprayers were deployed and efficient control operation is carried. In North eastern Ethiopia Afar region few swarms crossed from eastern Somali region laid eggs and hoppers hatched in Dulecha, Dawe, Adaar, Chifira and Magale districts. Ground and aerial control operations are in progress in the above mentioned regions, zones and districts.

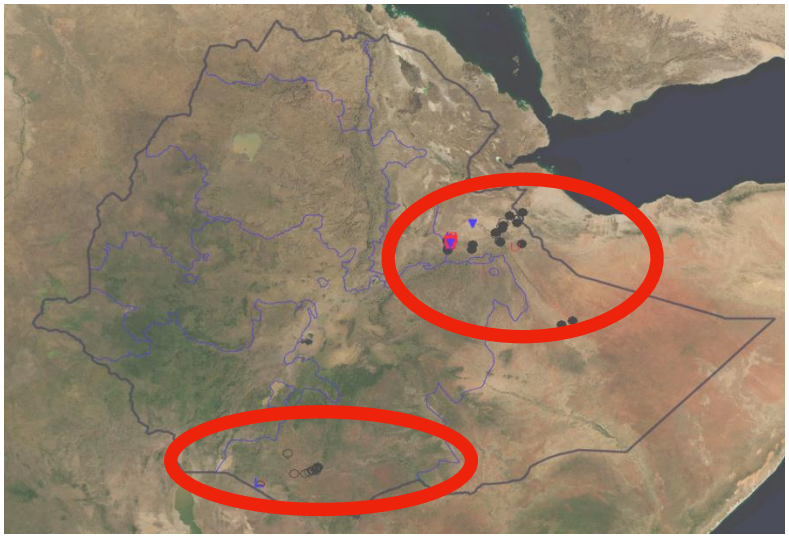

Figure1.1 Desert Locust Situation in May, 2020 in Ethiopia

Desert Locust Situation

In May, 2020 the situation of Desert Locust is very serious in most breeding areas of Eastern, South Eastern and North eastern districts of Somali, Oromia and Afar regions.

In Southern Ethiopia both South Oromia and South Nations regions because of intensive aerial and ground survey and control work the situation significantly improved. Revision survey and control activities are recommended because of Southern Oromia region Borana Zone, Wachile district remaining hopper control in few sites.

Currently starting from mid-May, 2020 additional experts, Field vehicles and vehicle mounted sprayers including spray aircraft in South leased by FAO shifted to East, South east and North eastern Ethiopia where there is massive egg laying, hatching, grown hoppers up to 3rd instars and fledgling immature adults.

The Situation is very serious in south Eastern Oromia East Bale zone in Dawe Serer District where intensive hopper control is carried out. In South east and eastern Somali region Shebele Zone (Gode and Berhano districts), Negob zone (Elkere, Bare and Chereti Districts), Afder zone (East and west Emi districts), Korayi zone (Kebrdhar district), Cherer zone(Degahabur District) newly hatching and already grown hoppers at 2nd to 4th instar are controlled by using vehicle mounted and motorized sprayers.

In Northern Somali region Siti zone (Erer, Shinile, Adigala, Ayisha, Debel) districts hoppers hatched earlier and eight vehicle mounted sprayers were deployed and efficient control operation is carried. There are remaining hoppers fledged and now areal helicopter survey and aircraft spray jointly operating and the situation is improving. In North eastern Ethiopia Afar region few swarms crossed from eastern Somali region laid eggs and hoppers hatched in Dulecha, Dawe, Adaar, Chifira and Magale districts. Survey and control team deployed from the Ministry and Region Bureau started control operation by using vehicle mounted, Motorized sprayers and hand held ULV.

The current month Desert Locust survey and control operation in the above mentioned regions, zones and districts covered survey area 105,108 ha, Desert Locust presence reported in 27,916 ha, Control operation carried out by ground and aerial and from which 11,153 ha have been controlled by using vehicle mounted and motorized sprayers and 12,290 ha operated by aerial spray with total control 23,433 ha and 23,021 liters of Chloropyrifos 24 % ULV is used,

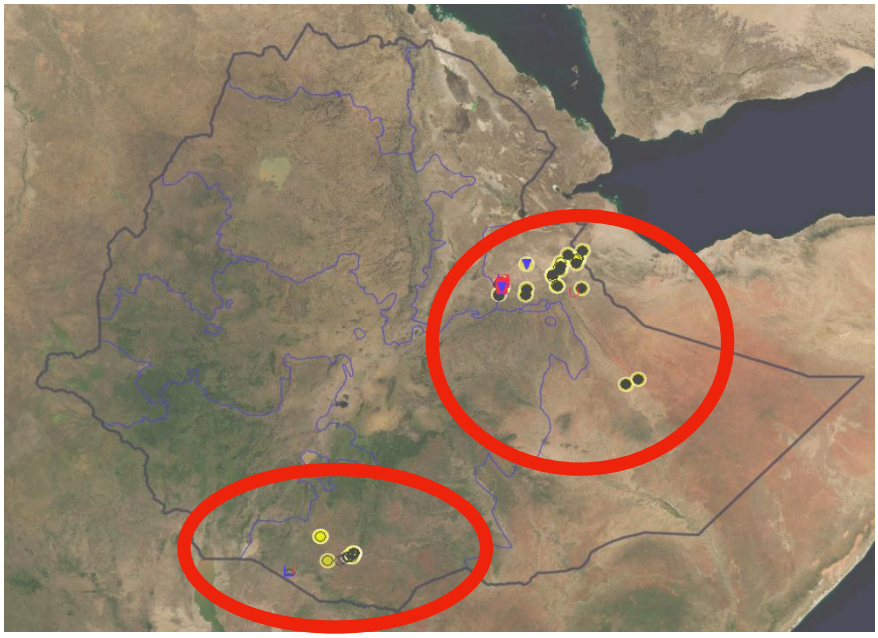

Figure1.2 Desert Locust Control in May, 2020 in Ethiopia

Environmental conditions

During May, Moderate rain fell in the southern Oromiya and Somali Region, the rain fall period extended to the next months and vegetation were green and temperature is good. The soil moisture becomes wet, and favorable for Desert Locust breeding.

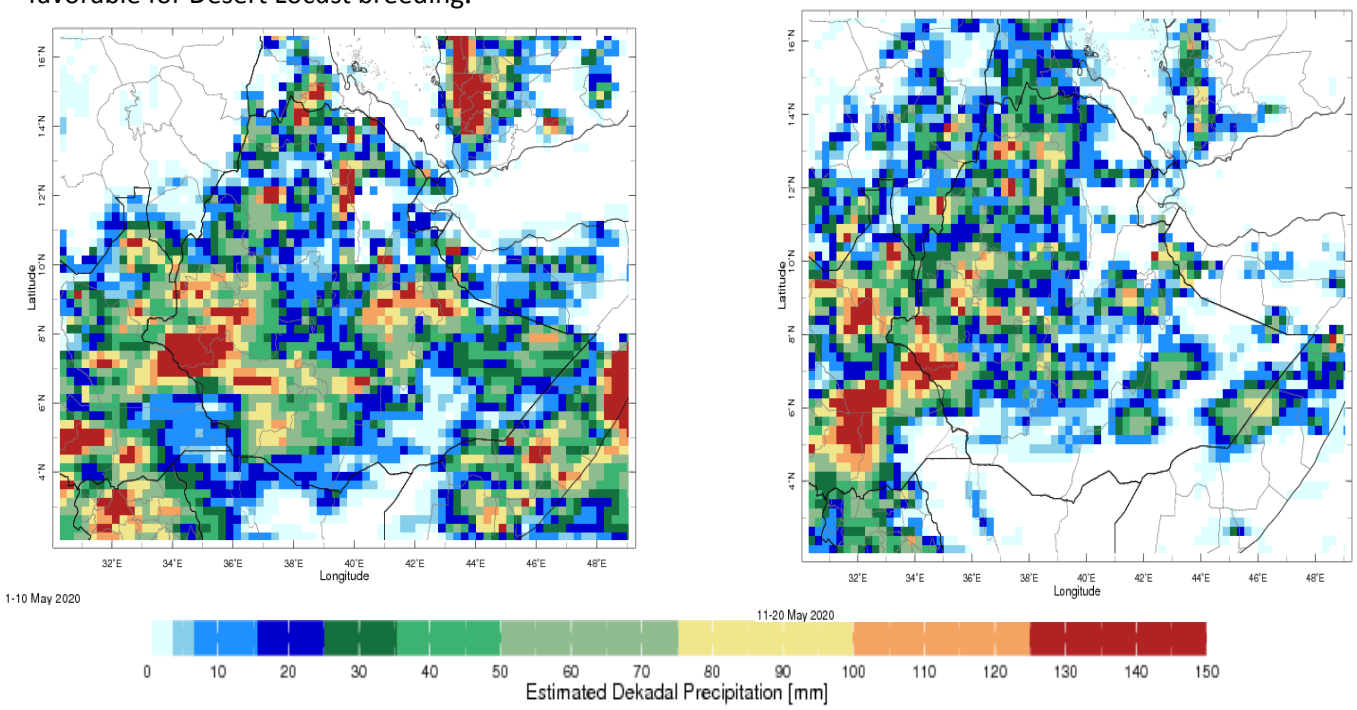

Figure1.3 Rainfall Estimate, May 2020 in Ethiopia

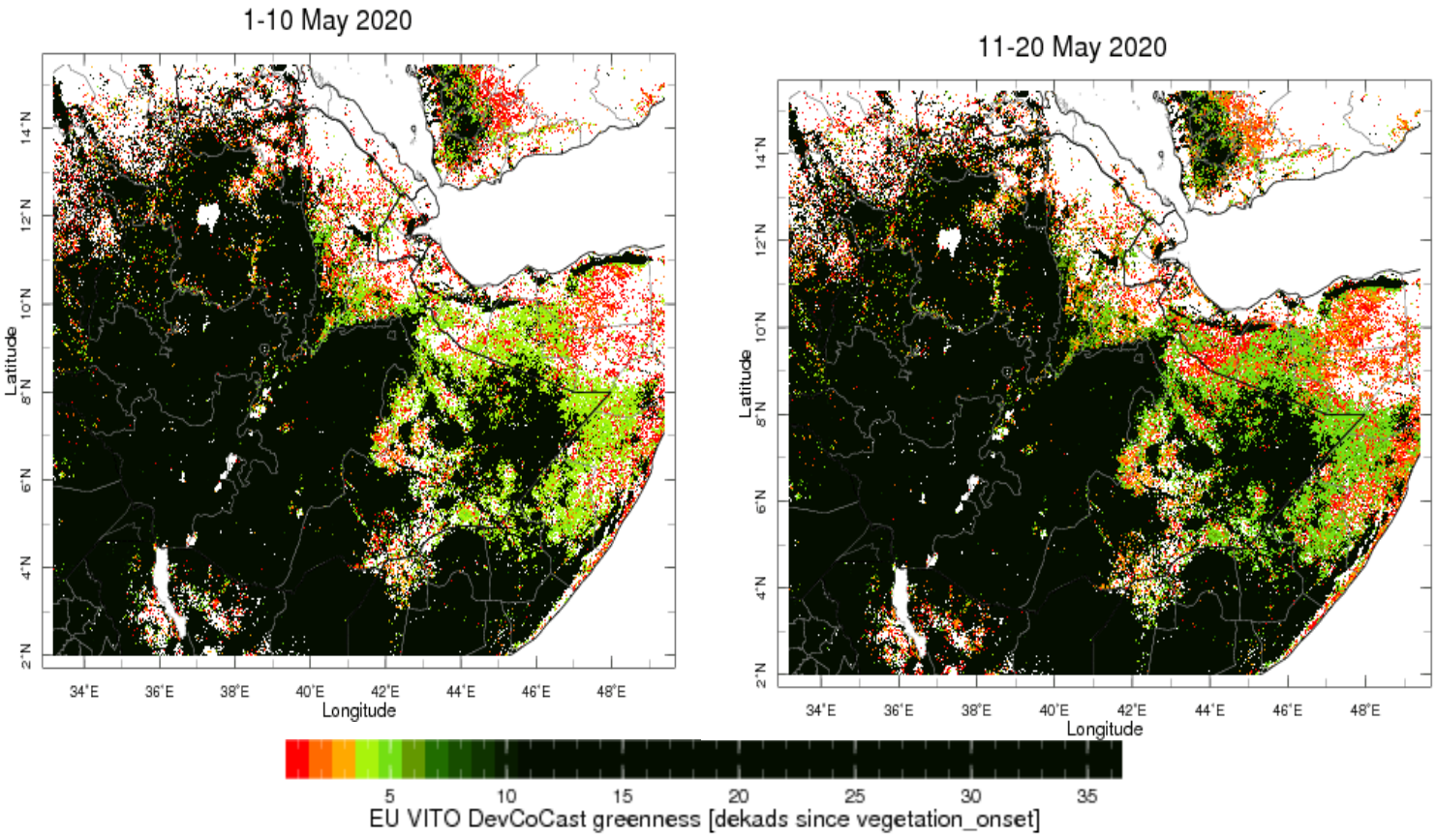

Figure1.4 Greenness Map, May 2020 in Ethiopia

Analysis and forecasting

Due to recently good rainfall in southeast parts of the country, ecological conditions are favorable for breeding. Consequently, further hatching will occur during June and hopper groups, bands, immature and mature adults are expected to form in areas of Somali, Oromia and Afar districts and also expected Matured swarms will migrate from Somali. This movement is expected to continue to southeast part of Oromiya, Somali and Afar. Their will threat in the country, Active monitoring and intensive surveillance and control operation is crucial.

Preparedness

Equipment

- Pickup vehicles are available for regular locust operations
- Sprayers available in central store (Addis Ababa):
  - Mist blower AU 8000 - 36
  - Spinning disk - 170
  - Vehicle mounted sprayers - 4
  - E-Pesticide loading pumps - 4
  - Motorised sprayers 73 (Somali Regions)
- ULV pesticides available:
  - in Addis Ababa – 10,200 L (Malathion 96% ULV)
- Survey and communication equipment available in locust unit (Addis Ababa):
  - eLocust3 - 10 (new 2 eLocust 3) ready to use in Addis Ababa
  - GPS - 26
  - Compass - 6
  - Anemometer - 6
  - Stopwatch - 6

Staff composition

- Plant Protection Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture - migratory survey and control case team is composed of 4 entomologists (2 are locust officers, 1 is pesticide officer and 1 is sprayer officer)
- Regional administrative level Plant Health Clinics (16 PHCs) -15 crop protection experts (6 are locust focal persons and 5 are technicians) and 26 scouts (in locust prone districts)

Bulletin distribution list

- DLIS Rome
- CRC EMPRES/CR
- Ministry of Agriculture, Ethiopia
- Regional Bureaus of Agriculture, Ethiopia
- WFP - Ethiopia
- FAO - Ethiopia
- USAID/OFDA - USA
- UNDP - Ethiopia
- USAID - Ethiopia
- DLCO - EA and Neighbouring countries (Sudan, Eritrea, Yemen, Egypt, Oman, Djibouti, Somalia, Saudi Arabia).