

The Migratory Pests Control Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture informed that Desert Locust control operation is still underway in the Northern Red Sea Region of the country.

According to the information from the unit, so far more than 17,000 hectares of land infested with desert locust is treated in Northern Red Sea Region starting from November 2019. The control operations are being conducted from five base stations namely; Marsa-Gulbub, Sheeb, Wekiro, Girat (Emahmime) and Foro.

When it comes to crop situation, crop harvesting is already started in Sheeb, Afabet and Wekiro and; Crops in Emberemi and Foro are at their fruiting stage. However, Karora and Emahmime crops are still under seedling and knee-height stages.

Based on the reports from the region, since ecological conditions are favorable for locust breeding more infestation is expected. In addition, various swarms are still coming from different directions of neighboring to the Northern Red Sea Region.

### **Desert Locust situation update 6 January 2020**

According to Desert Locust Watch, the Desert Locust situation remains extremely serious in the Horn of Africa where it threatens pastures and crops in Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya. Numerous swarms have formed in eastern Ethiopia and adjacent areas of northern Somalia. A number of large immature swarms moved south in the Ogaden of eastern Ethiopia and adjacent areas of central Somalia and reached southern Somalia, southeast Ethiopia and, on 28 December, northeast Kenya. There is a risk that some swarms could appear in northeast Uganda, southeast South Sudan and southwest Ethiopia. Ground and aerial control operations continue in Ethiopia and aerial operations started in Kenya on 6 January. Insecurity and a lack of national capacity have so far not allowed control operations in Somalia. During January, swarms will mature and lay eggs in the Ogaden and north central Somalia that will hatch and cause numerous hopper bands to form. There is a low risk of breeding in Kenya.

A potentially threatening situation is developing along both sides of the Red Sea where ongoing breeding is causing locust numbers to increase on the coasts of Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, Saudi Arabia and Yemen. Widespread laying and hatching occurred in Saudi Arabia and gave rise to numerous hopper groups and bands, and a few immature swarms moved into the interior in late December. Hopper bands and swarms are also forming on the Red Sea coast in Yemen. More swarms are likely to form in both countries later this month.

In Sudan, hopper bands are forming on the northern coast near Egypt and new swarms could form later in January. Breeding in adjacent areas of southeast Egypt is likely to cause groups to form. A second generation of breeding is in progress and will continue on the central and northern coast of Eritrea where hoppers are forming groups, which could lead to hopper bands. Control operations are in progress in all affected countries.