ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Via delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 - ROME Cables: FOODAGRI ROME Telex: 610181 FAO I Telephone: 5797

AGP Division

Locusts, other migratory pests and emergency operations group

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION SUMMARY AND FORECAST

No. 19 March 1980

SUMMARY

The most important populations reported were in Sudan, Egypt and Ethiopia. Conditions were still favourable for breeding in some areas and considerable numbers of adults could be produced in inaccessible areas. Control was in progress in Sudan. Scattered adults were also reported from the Tihamas of Saudi Arabia and the Yemen Arab Republic but these areas were becoming unsuitable for breeding. Small numbers of adults were also reported from the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Pakistan and India.

No locusts were reported from West or North-West Africa.

W/N6971

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION - MARCH 1980

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

LIBYA

No locusts were reported.

No reports have been received from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.

WEST AFRICA

No reports have been received.

EASTERN AFRICA

Weather

The southern sector of the Red Sea coast of Sudan received good rains in the first half of March and ecological conditions were favourable for breeding. In the northern sector ecological conditions were less favourable.

SUDAN

Pockets of adults and hoppers continued to be found in some wadis in the northern sector of the Red Sea coast in the first half of the month. Control operations were in progress against these infestations.

ETHIOPIA

"Notable" infestations of mature adults and late instar hoppers were reported in the northern Red Sea coastal area near the Sudan border.

No reports were received from DJIBOUTI, KENYA, SOMALIA, TANZANIA and UGANDA.

NEAR EAST

Weather

In Saudi Arabia rainfall was reported on the Hijaz Asir mountains; Riyadh and surrounding areas received light showers. Dry conditions prevailed along the southern Tihama and ecological conditions had become unsuitable for breeding. In the Yemen Arab Republic light and isolated showers were received in the Tihama. Some rainfall was also reported from the mountains and foothills. In the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen isolated light to moderate showers were received in the areas around Aden on 1 and 2 March and in wadi Am-Rija on 7 March.

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

Scattered adults were found at a few localities on the Qunfidah Tihama, the maximum density was 102 per hectare in wadi Lith. A few late instar hoppers were also reported from north of Qunfidah and wadi Alahsiba. Scattered adults at densities ranging from 55-100 per hectare over an area of 200-300 square kilometres were reported south of Jizan and another five adults were observed at three localities on the Jizan Tihama.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Low density scattered adults continued to be found in wadi Hayran. Ecological conditions in the Tihama were not suitable for breeding.

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

During special surveys undertaken along the western coast, low density scattered adults were observed in wadi Am-Rija (1301N/4435E) on 15 March and in wadi Fajarah (1259N/4418E) on 17 March. The adults were generally seen around cultivated Sorghum fields. Ecological conditions in wadi areas were suitable for breeding.

EGYPT

Scattered copulating adults and hoppers of all stages were reported from the south-eastern desert.

IRAQ was reported clear during February. KUWAIT and UNITED ARAB EMIRATES were reported free. No reports were received from BAHRAIN, JORDAN and SULTANATE OF OMAN.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Weather

An upper air cyclonic circulation over north Rajasthan on 5 and 6 March caused some rain in northern districts of Rajasthan and Mohindergarh district of Haryana. There was very light rain at one or two places in north Rajasthan on 12 March and isolated rains occurred during 24 and 26 March. Light to medium rainfall was recorded throughout locust breeding areas of Pakistan during the first fortnight.

INDIA

Scattered adults at a density of 15 per square kilometre were reported from only one locality of Sri Kolayatji (2749N/7258E) on 18 March.

PAKISTAN

Two adults were observed at Rumra (2524N/6344E) in coastal belt of Pasni on 8 March. No report has yet been received for the second fortnight.

No reports were received from AFGHANISTAN and IRAN.

A few solitary adults were reported from two localities with green vegetation in the Chahbahar area of south-eastern Iran in the second week of February.

FORECAST FOR MAY-JUNE 1980

This is the period when the main movements from winter-spring breeding areas to summer breeding areas occur. These will result in considerable numbers of adults reaching the interior of the Sudan and possibly adjacent areas of northern Ethiopia and Chad and of small numbers reaching the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and possibly the interior of the Yemen Arab Republic and the northern Somali peninsula and of small numbers reaching the summer breeding areas of Rajasthan and adjacent areas of Pakistan and Niger, Mali, Mauritania and southern Algeria.

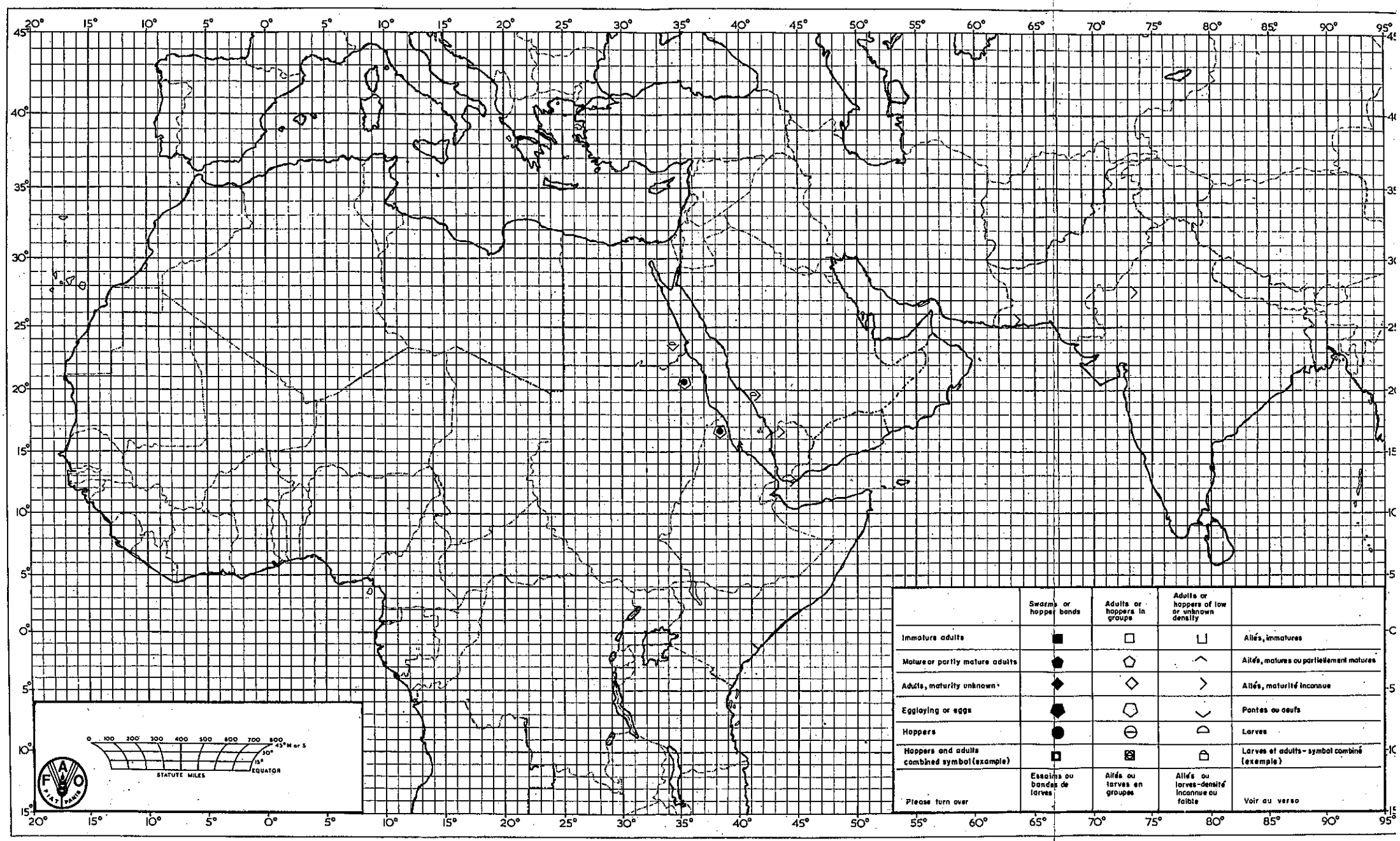
In Eastern Africa breeding in sub-coastal areas of Sudan and coastal and sub-coastal areas of northern Ethiopia will end. Adults produced as a result of this breeding will move into the interior of Sudan and adjacent areas of northern Ethiopia. The scale of the escapes from this breeding is difficult to assess because a considerable part of the potentially important breeding areas has not been accessible to survey teams. It is possible, however, that the escapes could include some small swarms. In addition there could be a considerable influx of adults from Egypt. If the Inter-tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) gives rise to early rains north of about 14°N summer breeding could commence, but hatching is unlikely during the forecast period. Small numbers of adults may also reach the northern Somali peninsula.

In the Near East breeding in the south-eastern desert of Egypt will end and any escapes are likely to move to the interior of Sudan and possibly Chad, where breeding may start if the ITCZ brings early rains. In the Arabian peninsula small numbers of adults may reach the interior of the Yemen Arab Republic and interior and coastal areas of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. Breeding may commence on early "Séifi" rains. Small numbers of hoppers and adults may continue to be present on the Tihama of the Yemen Arab Republic and of Saudi Arabia.

In South-West Asia breeding will end in the winter-spring breeding areas of Baluchistan and southern Iran and any adults produced are likely to move into the traditional summer breeding areas of Rajasthan in north-west India and adjacent areas of Pakistan. The scale of this immigration is likely to be small but special attention should be paid to the border areas where, in several recent years, important breeding has occurred.

In North-West Africa there may be breeding in a few restricted localities in western, central, eastern and southern Algeria and western Libya, where ecological conditions are favourable. Any adults produced will move south to southern Algeria and West Africa.

In West Africa it is possible that considerable numbers of adults could reach Chad from the east and small numbers of adults will arrive in summer breeding areas from North-West Africa to augment those which have overwintered south of the Sahara. If there are early summer rains breeding could commence during the forecast period.

Rome
18 April 1980

Desert Locust Situation Summary No. 19 MARCH / MARS 1980