



Farmers of Foro sub zone avoid maize planting to tackle Fall Armyworm

Farmers of Foro subzone have changed their long lived practice of maize planting in to sorghum cultivation to escape FAW threat.



Mr. Tesfay Tewolde

Mr. Tesfay Tewolde, head of Agriculture branch at the subzone told this newsletter that out of the 8300 hectares of potential cultivable area of Foro sub zone, around 5000 hectares is under sorghum cultivation. More than 97% of this land is under spate irrigation and the rest depends on rainfall.

Mr. Asmerom shumendi, plant protection expert at the subzone pointed out that the decision to carry out a tactical move to sorghum cultivation has brought a satisfactory result thanks to the continuous awareness raising programs. He also commended the farmers' full participation and adoption of the tactical move.

Moreover, Mr. Omer Salih Abdella, administrator of Ayromale kebabi, told this newsletter that farmers of the area are expecting a good harvest because of the good rain and integrated pest management approach in the sub zone. He disclosed that they missed two harvests due to heavy

rain and flood. In addition, he urged government bodies to continue the ongoing efforts of controlling African Migratory Locust (AML) and Desert Locust (DL) infestation to safeguard the sorghum crops planted at around 450 hectares of land and which are at promising condition.

Generally, It is to be noted that FAW infestation is insignificant in the Northern Red Sea region except in a very limited area in Sheeb sub zone.



Mr. Omer Salih Abdella



Operations to control Desert locust and African Migratory locust underway

Desert Locust (DL) and African Migratory Locust (AML) controlling operations are underway in around 5900 hectares of sub zones of Foro, Afabet, Karora and Sheeb.

These migratory pests have presence in some sorghum crops and vast areas of grasses and other vegetation.

The operations are executed using motorized and manual sprayers both



Mortality of AML due to chemical spraying is high, Kezan, Afabet Sub zone

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with the help of sprayer mounted vehicles and human labour.

According to Mr. Hagos Ghebretinsae, head of Agriculture branch at Afabet sub zone, around 300 hectares of sorghum infested with AML has been treated.



Mr. Hagos Ghebretinsae

Since continuous chemical spraying and monitoring are underway, both the African migratory locust and desert locust infestations are being contained.

Generally, Afabet sub zone has the potential of cultivating more than 20,000 hectares of land with the help of spate irrigation and rainfall.

Mr. Hagos told this newsletter that sorghum crops planted at around 5000 hectares of land are at ripening stage; and around 4000 hectares of land is planted with pearl millet. The earlier sorghum and millet crops which were planted in the remaining area of land were already harvested after the good summer rains.



Mr. Hagos concluded that the sorghum crops have tolerated the small scale FAW infestation and as a result good harvest of sorghum is expected from the land cultivated with spate irrigation.

In Focus

African Migratory Locust

The African migratory locust (AML), *locusta migratoria migratoryoides* (Linnaeus 1758) is one of the most economically important species of locust in Africa, especially in areas where continuous irrigation is practiced.



The middle Niger flood plains are considered the main outbreak area where four or five generation may occur annually. However, in the other tropical African countries, particularly the southern part of the continent, the infestation is less. Heavy and wide spread infestations of African migratory locusts were recorded north of the equator, in Sudan and Ethiopia in 1974, 1978, 1982 and 1987.

Life cycle

The life cycle of AML is similar to that of the desert locust. Oviposition takes place in moist soils. Preference is generally for light clays and silts rather than heavy clays and sands.

AML lay their eggs, they scrape the soil over the hole and pat the surface. Desert locusts have never been seen to do this. The female lay 2-4 egg pods in moist soil. In solitary locusts, the mean number of eggs laid is 115 where as in the gregarious ones, it is 65.

Under cold conditions the incubation period ranges between 20-40 days where, under warm conditions the period reduces to 10-20 days.

In both the solitary and gregarious phases, the hoppers go five instars. However, under very dry conditions, there may be six instars in the solitary phases.

The hopper stages in the middle Niger usually last 24-35 days. The adult locust may live for up to five months during cool season. The color of the solitary adult is green, brown. Solitary hoppers are grey, green, buff, brown, red and black. Whereas gregarious adults are yellowish-brown. Their hoppers are brown and black .

Recently, Africa migratory locusts were detected in our country in different sub zones of Northern Red sea and adequate manual and motorized measures are underway to control these locusts .

