

## EARLY WARNING: INCREASED RISK OF CROP-DAMAGING PESTS IN THE COMING WEEKS

Agricultural activities are highly susceptible to changes in weather and climate which impose major implications on livestock health, crop yields, food security, and ultimately livelihoods. This is because when climate hazards occur, they strain livelihoods even outside primary areas of occurrence. Agrometeorological early warnings lead to early actions that can protect vulnerable communities from climate-related hazards.

A close assessment of agrometeorological indicators for the period 01 – 10 October 2023 across Yemen shows that near-surface minimum temperatures across the highlands will decrease to around 18°C and as low as 14°C on the Northern Highlands of southern Amran, as such, low temperature-related hazards are unlikely. However, much of eastern Yemen is still expected to experience high temperatures which will range between 35 and 40°C and slightly over 40°C across north-eastern parts of the country (Fig. 1), therefore, heat remains a hazard across this area (though reducing). High temperatures impact crop growth in several ways and these can include enhanced soil moisture uptake which in turn stunts root and plant growth. Continued irrigation of crops and gardens in spite of the light rains that may be experienced is, therefore, recommended.

Further rainfall decreases are forecasted across the country. Notwithstanding the decreases, the borders of Taiz and Ibb will likely receive up to 40 mm cumulatively. Although significant flooding is not expected, rainwater pooling is still possible.

Regarding Desert Locusts (DL), breeding is forecasted especially in the interior where some of them have started developing the first coat of feathers (fledging). As the rainfall withdrawals further, vegetation will quickly dry up and most of the DL will likely migrate to the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden coasts (Fig. 2); these areas are usually affected by FAW Armyworms during this time of the year. There is therefore potential for increased risk of crop-damaging pests. However, on-the-ground operations remain limited<sup>1</sup> and as such, vigilance is encouraged.

Fig. 1: Areas forecasted to be affected by extremely high temperatures



Fig. 2 Areas forecasted to be affected by Desert Locusts



<b>No Alert</b>	No Alert
<b>Minimal Risk</b>	Precaution is advised. Decision-making should kick-start contingency plans
<b>Alert</b>	Avoiding exposure to the hazard and implementation of contingency plans is advised
<b>High Risk</b>	Avoiding exposure to the hazard and implementation of contingency plans is <i>strongly</i> advised

Cyclones	Desert Locusts	Drought Intensity	Extremely High Temperatures	Floods	Frost/Low Temperature	Hail	Sand and dust	Thunderstorms	Fall Armyworms
No Alert	Minimal Risk	No Alert	Minimal Risk	No Alert	No Alert	No Alert	No Alert	No Alert	No Alert

<sup>1</sup><https://www.fao.org/ag/locusts/common/ecg/1914/en/DL539e.pdf>

- Sources:
- Precipitation, dust, desert locusts, temperature, and wind forecasts were sourced from the Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority (CAMA), WRF-Chem model (IERSD/NOA), FAO Locust Watch, and the Climate Prediction Centre respectively.
  - Drought conditions were sourced from GIEWS.
  - Flood impact estimate is based on the intersection of areas to be affected and local population.

Please contact: [YE-FSNIS@fao.org](mailto:YE-FSNIS@fao.org)

