LOCUST SITUATION INDIA: Distant, cross country and special border surveys on locust in the Scheduled Desert Areas (SDA) of India were conducted by 11 Locust Circle Offices (Jaisalmer, Barmer, Bikaner, Suratgarh, Churu, Nagaur, Phalodi, Jodhpur, Jalore, Palanpur and Bhuj) in their respective jurisdiction and surveyed 282 localities. Based on the survey data/observations, India remained free from gregarious as well as solitary desert locust activities.

ECOLOGY AND WEATHER: Rainfall estimates (11-20 July 2018) shows moderate to heavy rainfall in the SDA of India and light to heavy rainfall in locust potential breeding areas in Pakistan. Greenness estimates of 2nd decade of July, 2018 indicate fresh vegetation patches in the areas of Bikaner, Nagaur, Churu, Suratgarh, Barmer, Jaisalmer and Bhuj of India and Surface vegetation was observed green/greening in Bahawalpur, Rahimyar Khan and Mirpur Khas areas of Pakistan except Sukkur area where it was observed dry during the survey. Widespread soil moisture has been observed favorable for locust breeding in the SDA of India and Pakistan except Sukkur area.

LOCUST SITUATION PAKISTAN: The routine fortnightly locust surveys were carried out in the summer-monsoon breeding areas of Nara and Tharparkar deserts in Sindh, Cholistan desert in Punjab and overlapping area of Uthal in Balochistan during the reporting period. A total number of 403 localities were surveyed. No gregarious locust activity was found in Pakistan. However, isolated mature solitary adults were seen at four localities southeast of Bahawalpur (285832N-711738E) in Cholistan Desert with a density of 12 adults/hectare on 24-07-2018.
MISCELLANEOUS  Both the countries Exchanged and discussed Desert Locust Situation bulletins, FAO locust bulletin, RAMSES maps showing locust situation, green vegetation and soil moisture for the period of July, 2018

ACKNOWLEDGMENT : The Locust Officers of both the countries expressed their deep and sincere thanks to the Border Security Force of India and Pakistan Rangers for extending their full cooperation and support for making necessary arrangements for the meeting. Delegates from both the countries thanked each other for their cooperation for smooth conducting of the meeting. Delegation of Pakistan thanked Indian side for cordial welcome & hospitality extended during the course of second border meeting of the year 2018.

FORECAST : Considering ongoing monsoon season, fresh surface vegetation, significant soil moisture and other ecological considerations, conditions have become favourable for locust breeding, so the solitary adult may further increase. Therefore, routine surveys / locust awareness campaign to be continued in both the countries.

VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING: The 3rd border meeting of the year 2018 is proposed to be held at Khokhrapar/Munabao border point on 4th September at 09.00 hours (PST) / 9.30 hours (IST) (Pakistan side).

Participants

INDIA
1. Dr. J. P. Singh, Joint Director (Ento.), LWO, Jodhpur
2. Mr. Mahesh Chandra, PPO(PP), LCO, Barmer
3. Mr. Om Prakash, Plant Protection officer (E), LWO Jodhpur
4. Mr. Rahul Raman, APPO, LCO, Suratgarh
5. Mr. Chandra Shekhar Sharma, APPO, LWO Jodhpur

PAKISTAN
1. Dr. Mohammad Ishfaq, Entomologist, HQs, Karachi
2. Mr. Muhammad Hussain Dars, Assistant Entomologist (Locust), Mirpurkhas
3. Mr. M. Shahbaz, Assistant Entomologist (Locust), HQs, Karachi
4. Mr. Jawed Iqbal Khan, Locust Assistant, HQs, Karachi

Second Indo-Pak locust officers border meeting of year 2018 was held at Munabao post (India side) on 2nd August, 2018 at 9.30 (IST) / 9.00 (PST)