

Proceedings of Fifth Indo-Pak border meeting held on 4th October, 2005 at Munabao / Khokhropar border meeting point

The 5th Indo-Pak border meeting of the year 2005 between the locust officers of India and Pakistan was held on 4th October, 2005 at Munabao / Khokhropar border meeting point at 0830 hours (IST)/ 0800 hours (PST). Following officers / officials participated in the meeting:

India

S. No.	Name of the Officer/ Officials	Designation
1	Shri A.K. Bandhyopadhyay	Deputy Director (Ent.), LWO Jodhpur
2	“ K.P. Singh	Deputy Director (Engineering), LWO Jodhpur
3	“ Anil Sharma	Assistant Plant Protection Officer, LWO Jodhpur

Pakistan

S. No.	Name of the Officer/ Officials	Designation
1	Mr. Zafar Ali	Deputy Director(HQ) Karachi
2	Mr. Syed Akhlaq Hussain	Entomologist (L), Mirpurkhas
3	Mr. Bashir Muhammad	Assistant Entomologist (Locust), Karachi

Locust situation in India (1st Sept, 2005 to 30th Sept, 2005): Scheduled short, distant and border desert locust surveys in Scheduled Desert Area (SDA) of India and adjacent Indo-Pak border were conducted by the officers and staff of Locust Warning Organisation (LWO) which revealed mixed locust activity in Baru village (272013N-715417E) Tehsil Phalodi, district Jodhpur and in Loharki village (270746N-714858) Tehsil Pokatran, district Jaisalmer. Prompt control operations were started on 9th Sept, 05 and a total of 1014 hectares area was cleared using Malathion ULV. Yellow mature adults in groups entered across the border in Raichandwala, Naurangwala and Kalewala areas in about 5 Sq. Km area on 20.9.2005 in the evening as informed by the BSF and confirmed on 21.09.2005 forenoon by teams of Locust Officers from Jodhpur and Jaisalmer. Control operations were started immediately and 880 hectares have been cleared. Soil moisture was not suitable for locust breeding along Indo-Pak border in the districts of Bikaner, Barmer and Palanpur except Jaisalmer district. Special border desert locust surveys were conducted from 20th to 28th Sept,05 as decided in the 4th Indo-Pak Locust Officers meeting and yellow mature adults were reported in groups along the Border areas of Jaisalmer.

Weather:

- a) **Rainfall:** Light to heavy rainfall has been reported from some parts of the scheduled desert areas of India in the range of 0.2 to 38.8 mm. District-wise number of localities and rainfall data are given below:

S. No.	District (HQ)	Frequency	Rainfall in mm	Place and date where highest rainfall occurred
1.	Jodhpur	8	0.7 to 19.8	Jodhpur on 17.09.2005
2.	Jaisalmer	8	3.5 to 81.2	Jaisalmer on 09.09.2005
3.	Barmer	1	6.2	Barmer on 19.09.2005
4.	Nagaur	8	0.5 to 70.0	Nagaur on 10.9.2005
5	Churu	1	5.2	Churu on 15.9.2005
6	Bikaner	4	0.06 to 10.0	Kolayat on 14.09.05

- b) **Wind direction:** Wind direction at 300 m remained **South West to North East** during the report period.

Locust Situation in Pakistan (1st Sept, 2005 to 30th Sept, 2005): During the last month, the summer breeding areas of Nara, Cholistan, Tharparkar and Lasbela Deserts remained free from gregarious locust activity. However, solitary mature locusts were reported from 47 localities of Bahawalpur, Rahimyar Khan, Sukkur and Mirpur Khas ranging from 5-625 per hectare. No hopper or breeding was reported during this period.

A. SWARM MOVEMENT: In the last week of September, 2005 one copulating and laying swarm of 4 Sq Km was reported to be entered from the eastern border at Pillar No. 490 between the Salamsar and Nasand area (275846N – 714953E). Four swarmlet measuring 1 Sq Km each were observed infiltrating from the east at Ahmed Wala (275624N – 714939E). Salam Toba (275446N-714920E), Nasand (275631N-714840E) and Jinduwala (275940N-714850E) in Cholistan of Bahawalpur district. One pairing swarm of one Skm was observed near pillar No.523 Orangwala (2750N-7110E) in Rahim Yar Khan area.

B GREGARIOUS / SOLITARY BREEDING:

C SOLITARY ADULTS: Mature solitary adults ranging from 5-625 per hectare were reported from 47 localities of Bahawalpur, Sukkur, Rahimyar Khan and Mirpur Khas areas. A maximum population of 625 adults/ ha was recorded at Maluwala (2808 N-7158E) in Bahawalpur area on 27.09.2005. Detail of population is given below:

Region/outposts	No. of localities	Range of population / ha	Place of maximum population	date
Karachi				
Mirpurkhas	9	6-18	Khensar (2522N-7028E)	22.09.2005
Bahawalpur				
Bahawalpur	9	13-625	Maluwala (2808 N-7158E)	27.09.2005
Rahim Yar Khan	19	5-50	Islamgarh(2751N-7048E)	25.09.2005
Sukkur				
Sukkur	10	13-50	Danewaro (2649N-6832E)	19.09.2005

D CONTROL OPERATIONS: Immediate control operations against swarm / groups of various sizes were undertaken by vehicle mounted micronair sprayer and cleared 570 hectare area using 570 litres of Malathion 95%. Control operation in both the areas (Bahawalpur and Rahimyar Khan) is in progress.

Weather: Hot and dry weather prevailed over the entire region during the report period, except Chhore which received 4 mm of rainfall on 24.09.2005.

Forecast: Control operations are in progress in both the countries. However, it is apprehended that due to seasonal migration towards winter / spring breeding areas further movement of groups / swarmlets may likely to move towards west during October, 2005. All out efforts would be required to wipe out the locust infestations.

Miscellaneous:

- 1 Locust Situation Bulletins of both the countries were exchanged.
- 2 Surveillance and control effort must be continued so that formation of swarms could be prevented effectively
- 3 Delegates of both the countries agreed to intensify the locust surveillance work close to Indo-Pak border pillars for location of adult population and swarmlets in the area.
- 4 Keeping in view the current locust situation, it is proposed that a meeting between the locust officers of both the countries be arranged at Gunianwala / Sarkari tar border on 19.10.2005 at 0800 AM (PST) / 0830 AM (IST) subject to approval of the competent authorities.

- 5 The third special locust border survey under FAO assistance programme should be conducted from 18.10.2005 to 27.10.2005. The findings of the survey would be discussed in the next meeting.

Venue of the next meeting: The 6th border meeting of the year 2005 between the locust officers of Pakistan and India is proposed to be held on **10th November,2005 at 0800 hours (PST) / 0830 hours (IST)** at Khokhropar / Munabao border point (Pakistan side).

Acknowledgement:

The locust officers of both the countries expressed their deep and sincere thanks to the BSF of India and Rangers of Pakistan for extending their full cooperation and support in arranging the meeting at Indo-Pak border point. Pakistan delegates thanked to the Indian delegates for cordial welcome, hospitality and courteous dealing during the course of meeting.

Place : Munabao / Khokhropar (Indian side)

Date : 4th October, 2005

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