

PROCEEDING OF THE SECOND BORDER MEETING OF THE LOCUST OFFICERS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN HELD AT MUNABAO/ KHOKHROPAR BORDER POINT (INDIA SIDE) AT 0930 HOURS (IST) 0900 HOURS (PST) ON 30TH AUGUST, 2016

The second border meeting of the year-2016 between the Locust officers of Pakistan and India held on 30th August, 2016 at Munabao / Khokhropar border point (India side) at 0930 hours (IST)/ 0900 hours (PST). The following officers participated in the meeting:-

INDIA

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|------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Dr. S.K. Verma | Deputy Director (Entomology) | LWO Jodhpur |
| 2. Mr. Mahesh Chandra | Plant Protection Officer (PP) | LCO, Barmer |
| 3. Mr. B. L. Meena | Asstt Plant Protection Officer | LCO, Jaisalmer |
| 4. Mr. Chandra Shekhar | Scientific Assistant | LWO, Jodhpur |

PAKISTAN

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Mr. Shams-ur-Rehman | Entomologist | DPP, Karachi |
| 2. Mr. Ghulam Qadir Lund | Entomologist | DPP, Karachi |
| 3. Mr. Dharam Pal | Assistant Entomologist | DPP, Mirpur Khas |

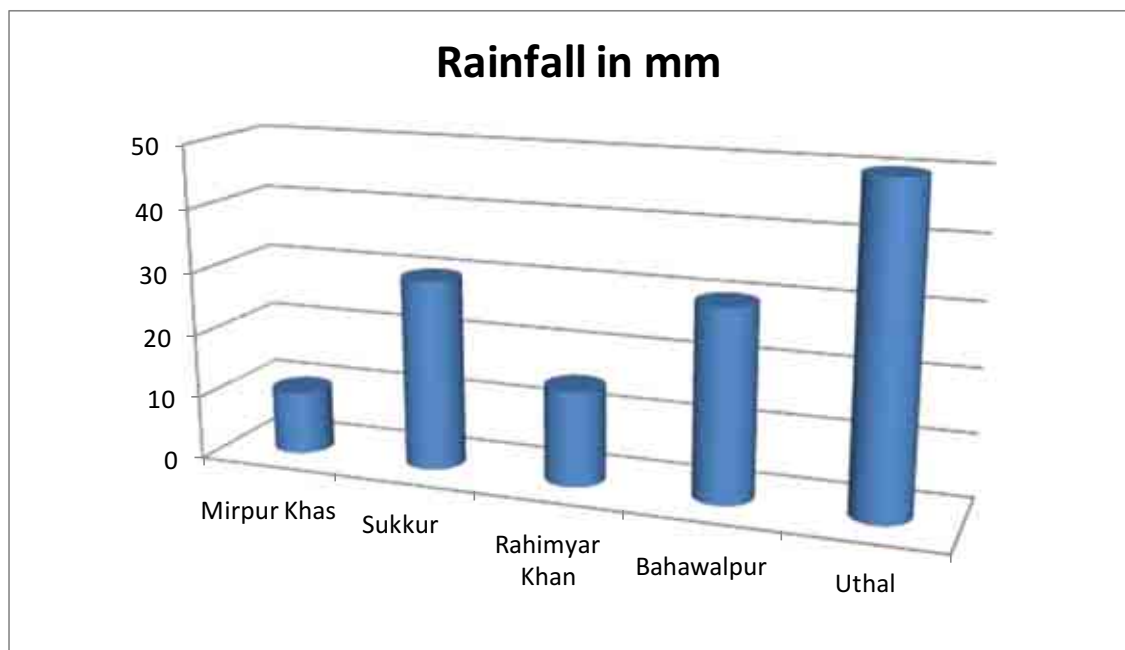
LOCUST SITUATION

(21st July, 2016 to 30th August, 2016)

Distant cross country and special border Locust surveys in the Scheduled Desert Areas of India were conducted by the Locust officers and staff of respective jurisdiction. Based on the survey data and other information it has been established that India remained free from gregarious desert Locust activity during the period under report, however solitary locust populations were observed in two places in Bikaner district with density of 20 adults per hectare at NAL 280123N-731204E on 1/8/2016 and 12 locusts per hectare at BITHANOK 275310N-724218E on 27/07/2016 during the surveys in India. Keeping in view latest FAO bulletin forecasting, three teams were deputed to Indo-Pak border area to conduct intensive locust survey as precautionary measures. Whereas, in Pakistan the routine locust surveys were carried out in summer monsoon breeding areas of Sindh, Punjab and the overlap areas of Uthal in Balochistan during the month of July and August, 2016. In the last week of July, 2016 no gregarious activities from any part of survey areas in the country were reported. It was indicated some swarms migrated with high wind from Yemen and same arrived in Gadani, Sonmiani and Winder the coastal area of Balochistan. Most likely adult mature swarms from Yemen disbursed, mixed, copulated with local solitary population and laid eggs, which hatched in first week of August, 2016. On the 03rd August, 2016 adult, mature, yellow swarms were reported in Alyani goth near Winder in Uthal, district Lasbella. Ground control team was immediately moved to Winder where control operation was started from 04th August, 2016. Adult swarms and hoppers were controlled. The area was cleared by treating 440 hectares on 17th August, 2016. Some adults may have escaped / migrated from overlap area to northeast such as Sukkur and Rahimyar Khan. More vigilance is required in Thar, Nara and Cholistan deserts. In Sukkur a small group of hoppers was observed in one hectare and same was treated on 10th August, 2016.

ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

Weather remained hot, cloudy and rainy during the month of July and August in the Scheduled Desert Area of India and Pakistan. Moderate rainfall was observed in the Jaisalmer area adjoining to Bikaner, Jodhpur, Jalore Suratgarh, Churu, Barmer and Nagaur during July 2016. Moderate to heavy rainfall was observed in all the scheduled area of Rajasthan and Gujrat during August 2016. Green / greening vegetation was observed in almost all the parts of scheduled desert area of Rajasthan and Gujarat. Whereas, on Pakistan side light to moderate rainfall occurred in Mirpur Khas, Sukkur, Rahimyar Khan, Bahawalpur and Uthal areas. Vegetation was reported as green to drying. Soil moisture for same period was ranging as wet in recent rainfall areas while other areas were reported as dry.



Rainfall recorded on Pakistan side during the period of report

FORECAST

Keeping in view of ecological conditions like soil moisture, green vegetation rainfall in potential locust breeding areas unusual gregarious locust activity is not expected, whereas, solitary locust population may remain there.

MISCELLANEOUS

Fortnightly Desert Locust Situation Bulletins, FAO Bulletin, RAMSES maps showing locust situation, green vegetation and rainfall estimation for the reporting period of both countries were exchanged and discussed. In the light of FAO Desert Locust bulletin and the Locust Watch of the 12th August, 2016 the locust situation / activity in Yemen was also discussed.

VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The third border meeting of the year-2016 is scheduled to be held at Khokhropar / Munabao border point on 29th September, 2016 at 0900 hours (PST) / 0930 hours (IST) on Pakistan side.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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 in arranging this meeting. Delegates from Pakistan thanked Indian counterparts for their cordial welcome, hospitality and courteous dealing during the course of meeting.

PLACE: Munabao Meeting Hall, India

Date: 30th August, 2016

PARTICIPANTS

PAKISTAN

(Shams- ur- Rehman)
Entomologist
DPP, Mirpur Khas

(Ghulam Qadir Lund)
Entomologist
DPP, Karachi

(Dharam Pal)
Assistant Entomologist
DPP, Mirpur Khas

INDIA

(Dr. S.K. Verma)
Deputy Director (Ento)
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(Mahesh Chandra)
Plant Protection Officer (PP)
LCO, Barmer

(B. L. Meena)
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