

PROCEEDING OF THE FIRST BORDER MEETING BETWEEN LOCUST OFFICERS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN HELD AT MUNABAO/ KHOKHROPAR BORDER POINT ON 19TH JULY, 2017

The first Indo-Pak border meeting of the year 2017 between the Locust Officers of India and Pakistan held on 19th July 2017 at Munabao/ Khokhropar border point (India side) at 0930 hours (IST)/ 0900 hours (PST) . The following officers participated in the meeting:-

INDIA

1. Dr. J.P.Singh, Joint Director (Entomology), LWO Jodhpur
2. Mr. Debasis Roy, Assistant Director (WS) FSIL Bikaner
3. Mr. D.S.Poonia, Plant Protection Officer(PP), LCO Bikaner
4. Mr. Om Prakash, Assistant Plant Protection officer, LWO Jodhpur
5. Mr. Chandra Shekhar Sharma, Scientific Assistant, LWO Jodhpur

PAKISTAN

1. Mr.Muhammad Tariq Khan, Deputy Director (Locust) 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/Desert Locust Information Officer Karachi

DESERT LOCUST SITUATION (01 June to 17 July, 2017)

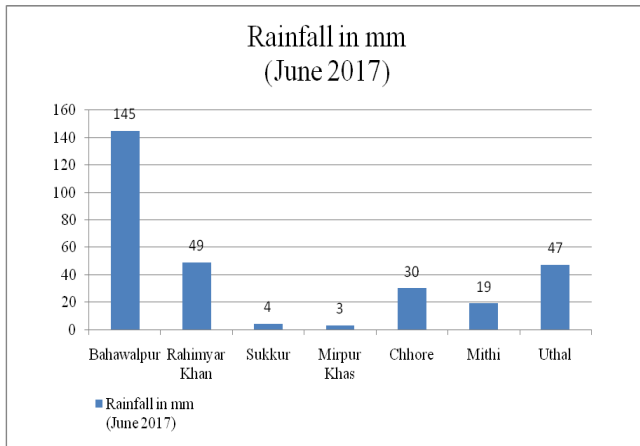
Distant, cross country and special border locust surveys in the Scheduled Desert Areas of India were conducted by 11 Locust Circle Offices in their respective jurisdiction. Based on the survey data/observations, it has been inferred that India has continued to remain free from gregarious locust activities. It is also pertinent to mention that no solitary locust population has been observed.

On Pakistan side, the routine locust surveys were carried out in the summer-monsoon breeding areas of Nara and Tharparkar deserts in Sindh, Cholistan desert in Punjab and in the seasonal-overlapping area of Uthal in Balochistan during the reporting period. During the survey, isolated mature solitarious adults were seen at four places southeast of Bahawalpur (2923N/7141E) and Rahimyar Khan (2825N/7018E) in Cholistan Desert as well as south of Uthal (254801N-663721E) in Balochistan. Isolated fledgling was also observed at Bijnote (281048N-712234E) in Bahawalpur area on 14-07-2017. No locust was observed in Sukkur area of Nara desert and Mirpur Khas area of Tharparkar Desert during the fortnight.

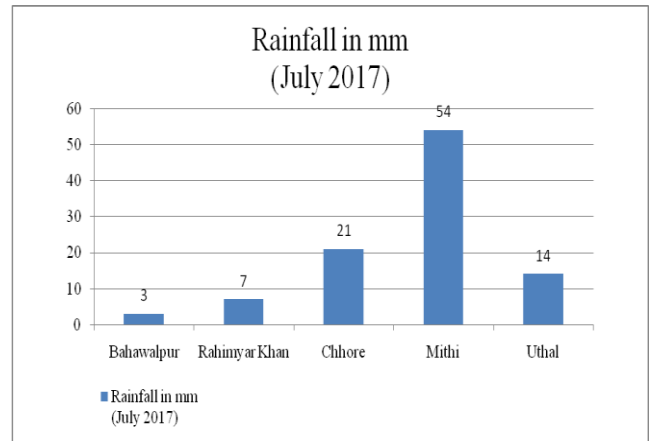
ECOLOGY AND WEATHER

During the period under report, light to moderate rainfall has been observed in widespread, whereas moderate to heavy rainfall has been observed in isolated pockets of Jodhpur, Bikaner, Nagaur districts of scheduled desert area. As far as vegetation is concerned, there has been gradual increase of greenness / greening of vegetation in the scheduled desert area which is found significant in the month of July over June 2017. This newly develop vegetation is critical as found widespread in the Scheduled desert areas.

Hot weather prevailed in the entire locust breeding areas of Pakistan during the reporting period. As per the rainfall estimation map for the first decade of July, light rainfall occurred in Bahawalpur, Rahimyar Khan and Uthal areas, whereas moderate to heavy rainfall occurred in the interior of Tharparkar desert. According to the greenness estimation map for the first decade of July, 2017 new growing vegetation was observed in Bahawalpur and Rahimyar Khan areas, where as it was found dry in Sukkur and Mirpur Khas areas. The details of rainfall are also shown in the following charts.



Light to heavy rainfall occurred in locust potential breeding area



Light to heavy rainfall occurred in locust potential breeding area

FORECAST

Due to recent light to heavy rainfall in the potential locust breeding areas on both sides of the border, the ecological conditions have become favourable. However, as the nil population is recorded yet in India side it is unlikely to get any serious locust activity in scheduled desert area of India. Whereas on the basis of presence of low density isolated solitary desert locust in some localities in Pakistan resulting solitary adults may further increase and small scale solitary breeding may occur, if the rains persist in the coming months. Therefore a need to keep continuous and close watch on the population buildup in the scheduled desert area in order to avoid any locust problem.

MISCELLANEOUS

Fortnightly desert locust situation bulletins, recent FAO locust bulletin, RAMSES maps showing locust situation, green vegetation and rainfall estimation for the reporting period of both the countries were exchanged and discussed during the meeting.

VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The 2nd border meeting of the year 2017 is proposed to be held at Khokhropar/ Monabao border point on 22nd August 2017 at 0900 hours (PST) / 930 hours (IST) on Pakistan side.

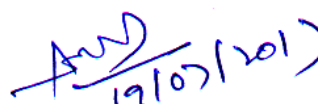
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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 at Munabao border point (India). Delegates from both the countries thanked each other for their cooperation for smooth conducting of the meeting. Pakistani delegation thanked Indian side for cordial welcome & hospitality extended during the course of first border meeting of the year 2017.

Place: Munabao Meeting Hall, India
Date: 19th July, 2017

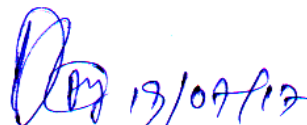
PARTICIPANTS

INDIA



Dr. J.P. Singh

Joint Director (Entomology)
Locust Warning Organization, Jodhpur



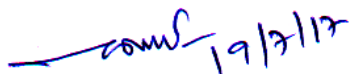
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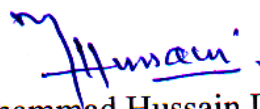


Mr. Chandra Shekhar Sharma
Scientific Assistant
LWO, Jodhpur

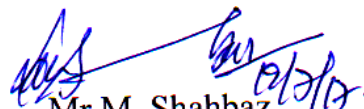
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Locust Assistant/DLIO
Karachi



Receiving of Pakistani delegation at BSF Check Post Munabao Border (India side)





Interactions on Locust situation and related activities



Exchange of approved proceeding of meeting



Distribution of gifts to Pakistani delegation



Group photo of the delegates participated in the meeting