



# JOINT PROCEEDING

## FIRST INDO-PAK LOCUST OFFICERS BORDER MEETING 2019

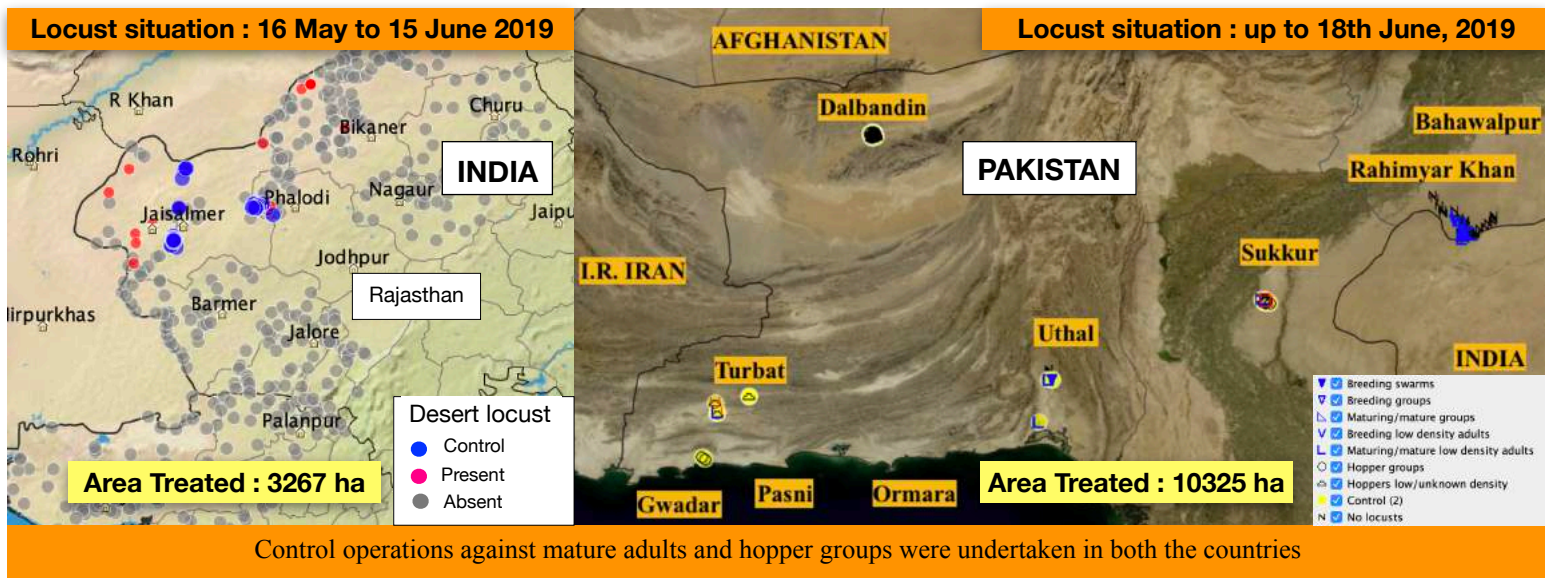
YEAR 2019 / NO. 1

Date : 19.06.2019

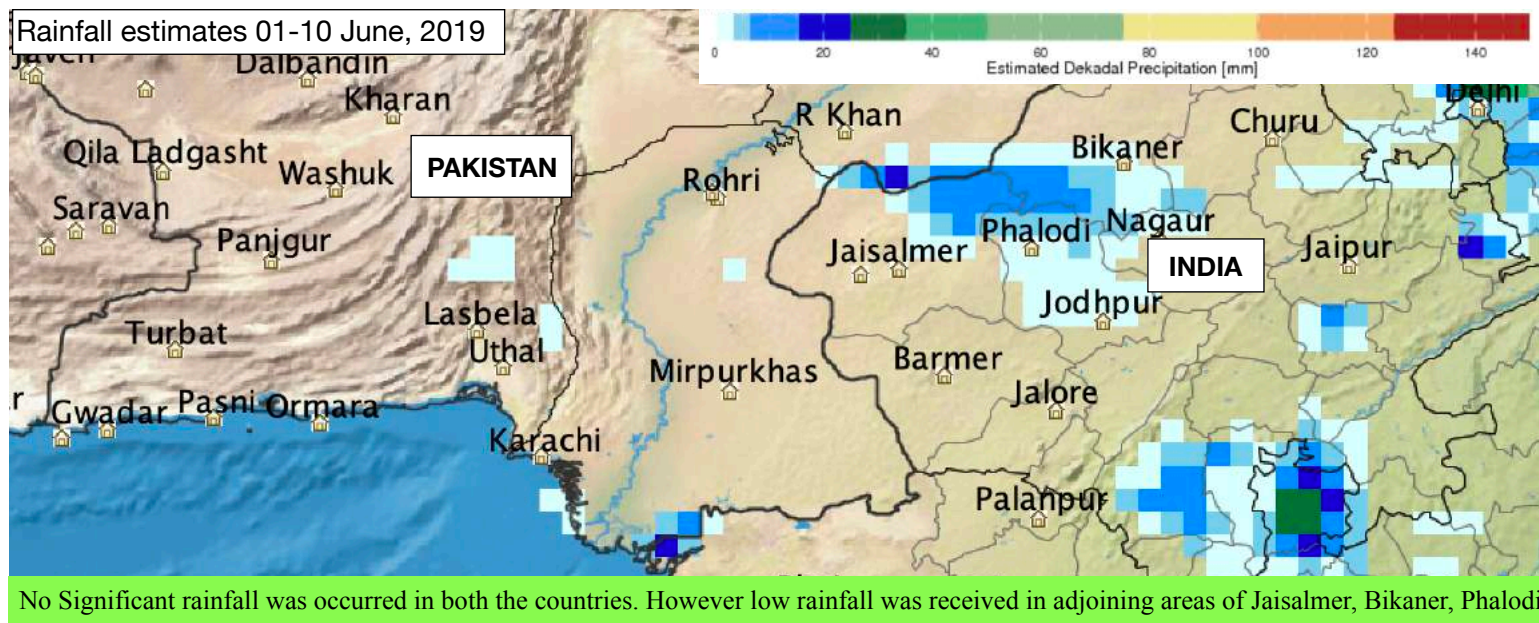
**LOCUST SITUATION INDIA :** Desert locust distant, cross country and special border surveys in the Scheduled Desert Areas (SDA) were conducted by Locust Circle Offices as well as additional survey teams and covered 545 localities. Control operations were undertaken at 62 localities against transient / gregarious mature adults observed in low to medium intensity and I to III instar transient / gregarious hoppers groups/scattered in low to high intensity in Jaisalmer district and total 3267 ha area (May 1560 ha and upto 15<sup>th</sup> June 1707 ha) has been treated.

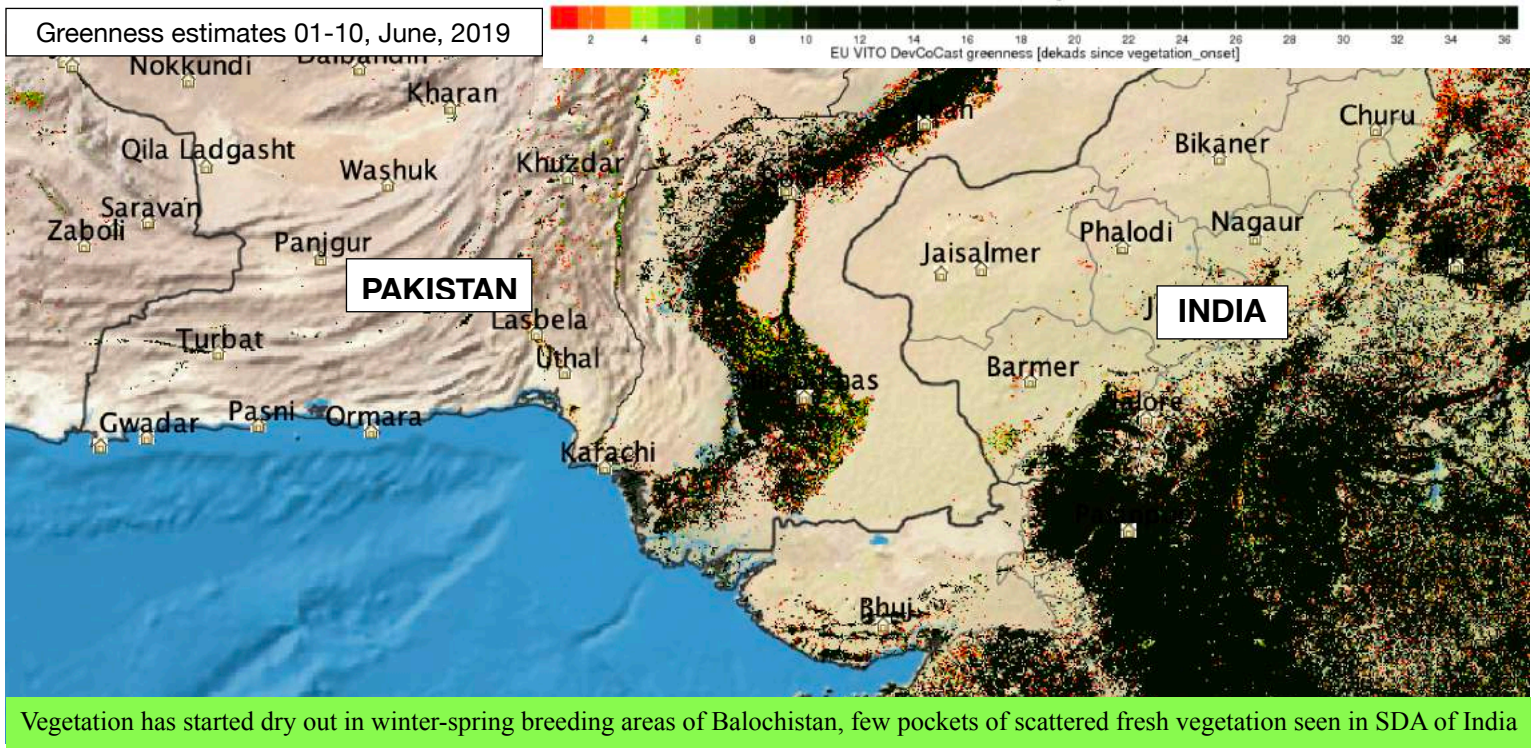
**LOCUST SITUATION PAKISTAN :** The Desert Locust situation remained calm in Balochistan upto 15-03-2019. During the second half of March, 2019 a small mature gregarious swarm migrated from I. R. Iran and settled on the coast of Pasni (251531N-632812E). Later on, immature and mature groups of solitary/ gregarious adults as well as groups of gregarious hoppers of first to fourth instar were observed in coastal area of Gwadar (250834N-621934E), Pasni (251521N-632817E), Ormara (252027N-643607E), Uthal (254822N-663729E), Turbat (260013N-630311E) and interior areas of Balochistan i.e. Dalbandin (285338N- 642526E) and Kharan (283254N-652631E). The mature adults were also copulating and laying eggs. Ground teams have treated an area of 8125 hectares since March, 2019.

As the winter-spring breeding season is going to an end, vegetation and soil moisture have started to become dry in Balochistan therefore some groups of gregarious locust have started to move towards the summer-monsoon breeding areas of Pakistan and India. The 1<sup>st</sup> to IV<sup>th</sup> instar gregarious hoppers were reported from ThariMirwah (270119N-684303E) south of Khairpur (272529N-684530E) in Sindh province on 06-06-2019. Ground team immediately started the control operation in infested area and has treated about 2,200 hectares. Mature isolated solitary/ gregarious adults with a density of 12-18 adults/ hectares were also seen at 15 localities south of Rahimyar Khan (282512N-701800E) during the reporting period. Copulating was also seen at Kanderla Toba (275531N-704829E) in Rahimyar Khan on 08-06-2019. Total area treated is 10,325 ha in Pakistan side (March 345 ha, April 540 ha, May 4135 ha and up to 17<sup>th</sup> June 5,305 ha)



**ECOLOGY AND WEATHER:** As per the rainfall estimation map for the first decade of June 2019, no Significant rainfall occurred in any potential breeding areas of India and Pakistan. Surface vegetation was found green in Sukkur, mostly green in Rahimyar Khan except few localities where it was dry and totally green in Chachro desert of Mirpur Khas. Soil moisture was totally dry in Sukkur, Mirpur Khas, where as it was mostly dry at Rahimyar Khan except at few places where it was found wet. On India side, vegetation was reported green/greening at some places of Jaisalmer, Bikaner, Phalodi, Barmer, Jalore, Palanpur and Bhuj as per observation of survey teams.





#### 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 reporting period. As per recommendation number 7 of 31<sup>st</sup> Session of SWAC session held in New Delhi that the Executive Secretary of SWAC should join one border meeting in 2019 and 2020 alternatively to share his expertise. The Plant Protection Advisers of both the countries may be requested to participate in that meeting.
- Both the countries request the Executive Secretary to join the next Joint Indo-Pak locust officers border meeting to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2019.
- Both the countries shared that they have developed very good network with various departments, stakeholder including villagers, Border Security Agencies, Agriculture offices, revenue department by personal contact, awareness campaign, WhatsApp groups and establishing control rooms at various locust offices. Moreover, both sides agreed to have regular contacts between locust officers of India and Pakistan to exchange the real time information on locust activities.

**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 in smooth conducting of the meeting. Delegation of Pakistan thanked Indian side for cordial welcome and hospitality extended during the course of border meeting.

**FORECAST :** The vegetation has started to dry out in winter-spring breeding areas of Sistan/Balochistan in I.R. Iran and Balochistan in Pakistan, therefore, more locust groups may migrate towards summer-monsoon breeding areas of Indo-Pak border, as soon the monsoon sets-in. Hence a constant vigilance is required by undertaking intensive locust surveys by both the countries in their respective Scheduled Desert Areas (SDA).

**VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING :** The 2<sup>nd</sup> border meeting of the year 2019 is proposed to be held at Khokhropar/Munabao border point on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 at 09.00 hours(PST) / 9.30 hours (IST) (Pakistan side)

#### INDIA

#### Participants

#### PAKISTAN

1. Dr. J.P.Singh, Joint Director (Ento.), LC & R, DPPQ & S, Faridabad
2. Dr. K.L.Gurjar, Deputy Director (PP), DPPQ & S, Faridabad
3. Mr. Om Prakash, Plant Protection Officer (E), LWO, Jodhpur
4. Mr. Chandra Shekhar Sharma, APPO, LWO, Jodhpur

1. Dr. Muhammad Tariq Khan, Director (Technical), DPP, Karachi
2. Mr. Ghulam Qadir Lund, Entomologist, Mirpur Khas
3. Mr. M. Shahbaz, Assistant Entomologist (Locust), HQs, Karachi
4. Mr. Jawed Iqbal Khan, Locust Assistant, HQs, Karachi



First Indo-Pak locust officers border meeting of 2019 was held at Munabao post (India side) on 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 at 9.30 (IST) / 9.00 (PST)