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Summary: India continued to be free from solitary and gregarious desert locust activity during the 1st fortnight of January 2018. As per available record 84 spots were surveyed (shown in map with “N” means survey undertaken and no locust found) in cross country surveys in the Scheduled Desert Areas (SDA) of Rajasthan and Gujarat during the period under report.

Weather and Ecology: As per rainfall estimation map and survey data of 1st decade of January 2018, no rainfall was observed at scheduled desert areas of Rajasthan and Gujarat, the vegetation is green in Barmer, Jodhpur, Suratgarh and Jalore area, where as in rest areas of schedule desert is dry. As per green vegetation status map for the period from 01/01 to 10/01 (1st decade), the vegetation at Suratgarh, Bikaner, Jodhpur (Near Phalodi), Jaisalmer (adjoining to Canal) and Churu areas is 1-3 decade old and vegetation in rest areas of SDA is dry. As per observation of the surveyors, the soil moisture is dry. Green vegetation status for 1st decade of January, locust situation of 1st fortnight of January and the survey data of green vegetation status observed by surveyors during the surveys in 1st fortnight of January 2018 are shown in the attached maps.

Locust Situation:

1. Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria. F*)
   
i) Swarm movement Nil
   
ii) Breeding Nil
   
iii) Hoppers Nil
   
iv) Scattered/ Isolated Adult Nil
4. पूर्वानुमान / FORECAST: The reduction in availability of green vegetation in remote areas, observance of nil solitary adult locust during the month and the end of breeding period (winter season) there is very less possibility of presence of locust population.

5. तैयारी /PREPAREDNESS: India is equipped with sufficient working eLocust3 units for locust surveys/population monitoring, trained man-power, operational vehicles, well maintained plant protection equipments and pesticides for control operation in case of any locust incursion/outbreak/upsurge.

6. संबंध/CONTACTS: During field survey, the teams interacted with the villagers, farmers, nomads, NGOs and state government functionaries to make them aware about locust prevailing activities and advised to inform the nearest LCO or any other government agencies, if any locust development in their areas is observed.

(Dr. K. L. Gurjar)
Deputy Director (PP)
Map showing Locust survey spots during 1st fortnight of January 2018

N means survey were undertaken in that area and no locust activity was observed.
Map showing green vegetation status during 1st decade of January 2018
Green vegetation observed by the surveyor during 1st fortnight of January 2018