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SUMMARY: India continued to be free from gregarious and solitary desert locust activity during the 1st fortnight of November 2017. As per eLocust3 data total 160 spots were achieved (shown in map with “N” means survey undertaken and no locust found) in distant, cross country and special border/ coastal area surveys in the Scheduled Desert Areas (SDA) of Rajasthan and Gujarat during the period under report.

WEATHER AND ECOLOGY: On interpretation of rainfall estimation map for 1st decade of November 2017, no rainfall was observed at scheduled desert area of Rajasthan and Gujarat. As per survey data, the vegetation is green in Suratgarh, Barmer, Jalore and Palanpur area, where as the rest areas are dry. As per green vegetation status map for the period from 01/11 to 10/11 (1st decade), the vegetation at southern part of Barmer and some part of Nagaur is 2-3 decade old and vegetation in rest areas of SDA are 5 to 6 decade old. As per observation of the surveyors, the soil moisture in most of area are dry and same is also confirmed with the rainfall estimation map, which shows that previously the whole area of SDA was covered with green/ drying vegetation, which was favourable for the locust breeding, but now due to dry soil moisture and no recent rainfall in the remote areas, there is less possibility of presence of desert locust population. Green vegetation status for 1st decade, locust situation of 1st fortnight of November and the survey data of both soil moisture and green vegetation status observed by surveyors during the surveys in 1st fortnight of November 2017 are also shown in the attached maps.
3. **[locust situation]**

1. Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria.* F)
   i) Swarm movement Nil
   ii) Breeding Nil
   iii) Hoppers Nil
   iv) Scattered/ Isolated Adult Nil

4. **forecasts**
   The reduction in availability of wide ranging dense green/ drying vegetation in remote areas and observance of nil solitary adult locust during this month, and cold temperature (starting of winter season), there is very less possibility of presence of locust population.

5. **preparing**
   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. **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.

7. **meeting**
   The 5th and last Indo-Pak locust officers’ monthly border meeting of 2017 will be held on 21st November 2017 at Munabao/ Khokhrapar border meeting hall (India side)

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(Dr. K. L. Gurjar)
Deputy Director (PP)
Green vegetation map for 1st to 10th November, 2017
Green vegetation status map for 1st to 15th November, 2017

Legends

- Low-density greening
- Medium-density green
- Low-density green
- Dense drying
- Medium-density drying
- Low-density drying
- Medium-density dry
- Low-density dry
Soil moisture map for 1st to 15th November, 2017
Locust situation map for 1st to 15th November, 2017

N means survey were undertaken to that area and no locust population was observed.