Vol. 70 सं./No. 05 अवधि/Period 01-15 March, 2018

1. SUMMARY: India continued to be free from solitary and gregarious desert locust activity during the 1st fortnight of March 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.

2. WEATHER AND ECOLOGY: On interpretation of rainfall estimation maps for 1st decade of March 2018, light rainfall was observed in the coastal area of Bhuj (Gujarat state), Suratgarh, Churu, Bikaner and Nagaur district (Rajasthan). Green vegetation status map for 3rd decade of Feb. and 1st decade of March 2018 is not available on the website. As per survey data (results) the vegetation is green at Suratgarh and Barmer district. The rest area of SDA is drying/ dry. As per observation of the surveyors, the soil moisture is dry.

   locust situation of 1st fortnight of March including rainfall status for 1st decade and the survey data of green vegetation status observed by surveyors during the surveys conducted in 1st fortnight of March 2018 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. **FORECAST**: Increasing in availability of green vegetation in large area starts from Jaisalmer and continue to Churu near the Indo-Pak border as well as interior to border and changing in the day temperature there may be possibility of small scale locust population in the remote areas.

5. **PREPAREDNESS/ MEETINGS**: India has equipped itself with sufficient trained man-power, operational vehicles, well maintained P.P. equipment, pesticides and 32 working eLocust3 units (total 11 activated units) for locust surveys/ population monitoring and control operation in case if there is locust outbreak/ upsurge.

6. **CONTACTS**: During field survey, surveyors contacted to the villagers including farmers, nomads, NGOs and state functionaries and made aware of the locust activities prevailing at present and were advised to inform the nearest LCO or any other government agencies if any locust development in their areas is seen.

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Locust survey data results for 2nd fortnight along with rainfall estimation for 3rd decade of February 2018

(N= the place where Surveys were undertaken)
Green status map for 2nd fortnight of February 2018 observed by the surveyor during the survey

Legends

- Medium-density dry
- Dense dry
- Low-density drying
- Medium-density drying
- Dense drying
- Low-density green
- Medium-density green
- Dense green