LOCUST SITUATION: During the 1st fortnight of October, 2019, 1st to Vth instar hoppers, immature adults, breeding swarm/adult group and scattered mature adults were observed in the Jaisalmer, Barmer, Bikaner, Jodhpur and Suratgarh districts of Rajasthan. Out of 1098 nos. of survey spots, control operations were undertaken at 1034 localities covering 44900 ha area.

Swarm movement: Small/medium pink/yellow swarms were observed
Breeding: Transient/Gregarious copulating adults were seen
Hoppers: 1 to V instar hoppers reported
Scattered / Isolated adult: Scattered mature low no. adults were observed
FORECAST: Control operations are underway in the Jaisalmer, Barmer, Bikaner, Jodhpur and Suratgarh districts against the 1st to Vth instar hoppers & immature adults as well as mature breeding transient / gregarious swarms / adults group, hence it is likely that more hopper groups may be reported near the areas where breeding was seen.

PREPAREDNESS: India is prepared with sufficient trained man-power, vehicles, P.P. equipments, pesticides activated eLocust3 units for locust surveys/population monitoring and control operation.

LOCUST CONTROL OPERATION: During the 1st fortnight of October, 2019, a sum of 44900 ha area was treated against 1st to Vth instar hoppers, immature adults and small/medium breeding swarm /adult groups. Total 2,36,684 ha areas has been treated upto the 15th October, 2019.

WEATHER AND ECOLOGY: Rainfall estimates (01-10 October, 2019) shows light to moderate rainfall in the SDA. Greenness estimates 1st decade of October indicate 2-3 decade old vegetation in SDA and Survey teams also observed green vegetation. Soil moisture observed mostly wet in Jaisalmer, Barmer and dry at Bikaner and Phalodi areas.

Survey teams observed green vegetation in the areas where control operations were undertaken.

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