1. **SUMMARY:** India continued to be free from gregarious and solitary desert locust activity during the 1st fortnight of February 2017. Total 88 spots achieved out of 88 targeted spots (shown in map with “N” means survey undertaken and no locust found) were covered in cross country surveys in the Scheduled Desert Areas (SDA) of Rajasthan and Gujarat during the period under report.

2. **WEATHER AND ECOLOGY:** As per rainfall estimation map for 1st decade of February 2017, no rainfall was observed in Scheduled desert area of Rajasthan. Vegetation with medium density, green patches found in Phalodi, Pokeran, Nagaur, Bikaner, Jodhpur, southern part of Barmer, Churu and adjoining areas of Indira Gandhi canal in Jaisalmer & Bikaner. The map showing rainfall estimation along with locust situation, greenness and MODIS are enclosed.

3. **LOCUST SITUATION:**

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

4. **FORECAST:** Due to recent rainfall and increasing temperature, there is a greenness in scheduled desert area. There may be a possibility of small scale locust activity near the Indo-Pak border, but least chance of any further increase in locust activity due to end of summer breeding period.
5. **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/ upsurge.

6. **CONTACTS**: During field surveys, 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. B. S. Phogat)

Add. Plant Protection Adviser
Map showing Rainfall estimation during 1st decade of February 2017 & Locust situation for 1st fortnight of February 2017.
MODIS imagery for showing greenness during 1st decade of February 2017
Greenness map for the period from 17.1.2017 to 01.02.2017