1. SUMMARY: India continued to be free from gregarious and solitary desert locust activity during the 2nd fortnight of April 2017. As per eLocust3 data total 132 spots achieved out of targeted 132 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 3rd decade of April 2017, light to moderate rainfall was observed in the areas of Suratgarh, Churu, Jodhpur, Nagaur, Bikaner, Eastern part of Jaisalmer and Barmer district of Rajasthan. The maps showing locust situation and estimated rainfall are enclosed. (Greenness and MODIS map for April 2017 are not available on the website)

3. LOCUST SITUATION:

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

4. FORECAST: Due to high temperature and dry vegetation, there is less possibility of presence of locust activity in scheduled desert area of Rajasthan and Gujarat. The locust activity may increase, if more rain receives in scheduled desert area during next month.
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/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. B. S. Phogat)

Add. Plant Protection Adviser
Rainfall estimation map for 3rd decade of April 2017
Locust situation for 1st fortnight of April 2017. (N= the place where surveys were undertaken)