1. SUMMARY: India continued to be free from gregarious and solitary desert locust activity during the 2\textsuperscript{nd} fortnight of March 2017. As per eLocust3 data receives from Novacom through email, total 71 spots were achieved from the targeted 88 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 2\textsuperscript{nd} decade of March 2017, light to moderate rainfall was observed at Phalodi, Jodhpur, Nagaur and some part of Jaisalmer adjoining to Phalodi of Rajasthan. As per MODIS imagery map for the period 06.03.2017 to 21.03.2017, low density vegetation was found green in patches near the Indira Gandhi canal of Suratgarh, Bikaner and Jaisalmer districts. Greenness map for 2\textsuperscript{nd} decade of March 2016 also shows the new vegetation at the same places. The maps showing locust situation, greenness and MODIS greenery image 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 Adult Nil
4. **FORECAST:** Due to recent rainfall in scheduled desert area, there may be a possibility of presence of small scaled locust activity at Barmer, Jaisalmer and Bikaner districts in areas near the Indira Gandhi Canal. There is no chance of further development of locust due to hot weather.

5. **PREPAREDNESS:** India has equipped itself with sufficient trained man-power, operational vehicles, well maintained plant protection equipments, pesticides and eLocust3 units for locust surveys/population monitoring and control operation in case there is a locust upsurge/outbreak.

6. **CONTACTS:** During field survey, villagers including farmers, nomads, NGOs and state functionaries were contacted 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.

(Dr. B. S. Phogat)

Add. Plant Protection Adviser
Rainfall estimation map for 2\textsuperscript{nd} decade of March & Locust situation for 2\textsuperscript{nd} fortnight of March 2017. (N= the place where surveys were undertaken)
MODIS imagery for 06 to 21 March 2017.

Greenness Map for 2nd decade of March 2017