

**PROCEEDING OF THE FOURTH DESERT LOCUST BORDER MEETING BETWEEN THE LOCUST OFFICERS OF PAKISTAN AND INDIA HELD AT KHOKHROPAR / MUNABAO BORDER POINT AT 0900 HOURS (PST) 0930 HOURS (IST) ON 24<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2017**

The fourth Indo-Pak desert locust border meeting of the year 2017 between the Locust Officers of Pakistan and India held on 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 at Khokhropar / Munabao border point (Pakistan side) at 0900 hours (PST) / 0930 hours (IST). The following officers participated in the meeting:

**PAKISTAN**

1. Mr. Muhammad Tariq Khan, Deputy Director (Locust) HQs, Karachi
2. Mr. Muhammad Hussain Dars, Assistant Entomologist (Locust), Mirpur Khas
3. Mr. M. Shahbaz, Assistant Entomologist (Locust), HQs, Karachi
4. Mr. Jawed Iqbal Khan, Locust Assistant / Desert Locust information Officer, Karachi.

**INDIA**

1. Dr. K. L. Gurjar, Deputy Director (PP), HQs, Faridabad
2. Mr. S. C. Sharma, Plant Protection Officer (WS) FSIL, Bikaner
3. Mr. K.V. Choudary, Assistant Plant Protection Officer, LCO, Barmer
4. Dr. Pankaj Salunke, Assistant Plant Protection Officer (E), LCO, Suratgarh
5. Mr. Pramod Gour, Scientific Assistant / Desert Locust Information Officer, LCO, Bhuj

**DESERT LOCUST SITUATION (18<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 to 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2017)**

The routine fortnightly locust surveys were carried out in the summer-monsoon breeding areas of Nara and Tharparkar deserts in Sindh, Cholistan desert in Punjab and in seasonal-overlapping area of Uthal in Balochistan during the reporting period. A total number of 300 localities were surveyed. No gregarious locust activity was found anywhere in Pakistan. However, isolated mature solitarious adults were seen at six localities southeast of Rahimyar Khan (2825N/7018E) in Cholistan Desert ranging from 6-12 adults/ hectare. A maximum population of 12 adults/ hectare was observed at Orangewala (275036N-711127E) in Rahimyar Khan area on 24-09-2017. No locust was found in other surveyed areas during the reporting period.

In India distant, cross country and special border/ coastal locust surveys in the Scheduled Desert Areas were conducted by the survey teams of 11 circle offices in their respective jurisdictions. Total 188 spots during 18 to 30 Sept and 216 spots during 01 to 22 Oct. 2017 were surveyed and no locust population was observed during the period under report and it is shown in attached map

**ECOLOGY AND WEATHER**

As per the rainfall estimation map for the second decade of September 2017 and the first decade of October 2017, no rainfall occurred in locust potential breeding areas in Pakistan during the reporting period. As per locust survey reports, vegetation was found mostly green in all the surveyed areas during the second fortnight of September, 2017 but it was observed mostly drying/ dry in the first fortnight of October, 2017. Soil moisture remained dry in all localities where the survey was carried out except few localities of Rahimyar Khan where it was found wet.

In India there was no rainfall in the scheduled desert area from 3<sup>rd</sup> decade of September 2017 to till now. Vegetation is green/ greening and it is drying in Jaisalmer area. The vegetation of 3-5 decade old was observed in almost every part of schedule desert area in India. Soil moisture is dry in the scheduled desert area.

The vegetation status and soil moisture of both the countries are shown in the attached maps.

**FORECAST**

The soil moisture is dry in the desert of both the countries and therefore the vegetation will also be drying/ dry in next coming decades, however keeping in view of the present situation of availability of green vegetation in the field and presence of solitary adults in Pakistan, the small scale locust population may appear in the remote areas. Hence a constant vigilance is required by undertaking intensive locust survey by both the countries in their respective jurisdiction.

## MISCELLANEOUS

Fortnightly desert locust situation bulletins, recent FAO bulletin, RAMSES map showing locust situation, green vegetation and rainfall estimation for the reporting period of both the countries were exchanged and discussed during the meeting. Detail deliberation was made on the use of drone in future for the purpose of locust surveillance and control in the field. A discussion was made that locust officers of both the countries should be participated in the national trainings of any country. It was also discussed that both the countries may prepare desert locust activity calendars for locust prone areas for the awareness and guidance of their field staff.

## VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The 5<sup>th</sup> border meeting of the year 2017 will be held at Khokhropar / Munabao border point on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2017 at 0900 hours (PST) / 0930 hours (IST) on India side.


## ACKNOWLEDGMENT


The Locust Officers of both the countries expressed their deep and sincere thanks to the Pakistan Rangers and Border Security Force of India for extending their full cooperation and support for making necessary arrangements for the meeting at Khokhropar Meeting Hall (Pakistan). Delegates from both the countries thanked each other for their cooperation for smooth conducting of the meeting. Indian delegation thanked Pakistan side for cordial welcome and hospitality extended during the course of the second border meeting of the year 2017.


Place: Khokhropar Meeting Hall, Pakistan  
Date: 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2017


## PARTICIPANTS

### PAKISTAN


  
(Muhammad Tariq Khan)  
Deputy Director (Locust) HQs  
Karachi


  
(Muhammad Hussain Dars)  
Assistant Entomologist (Locust)  
Mirpur Khas


  
(M. Shahbaz)  
Assistant Entomologist (Locust) HQs  
Karachi


  
(Jawed Iqbal Khan)  
Locust Assistant /  
Desert Locust Information Officer  
Karachi


### INDIA

  
(Dr. K. L. Gurjar)  
Deputy Director (PP) HQs  
Faridabad

  
(S. C. Sharma)  
Plant Protection Officer (WS)  
FSIL, Bikaner

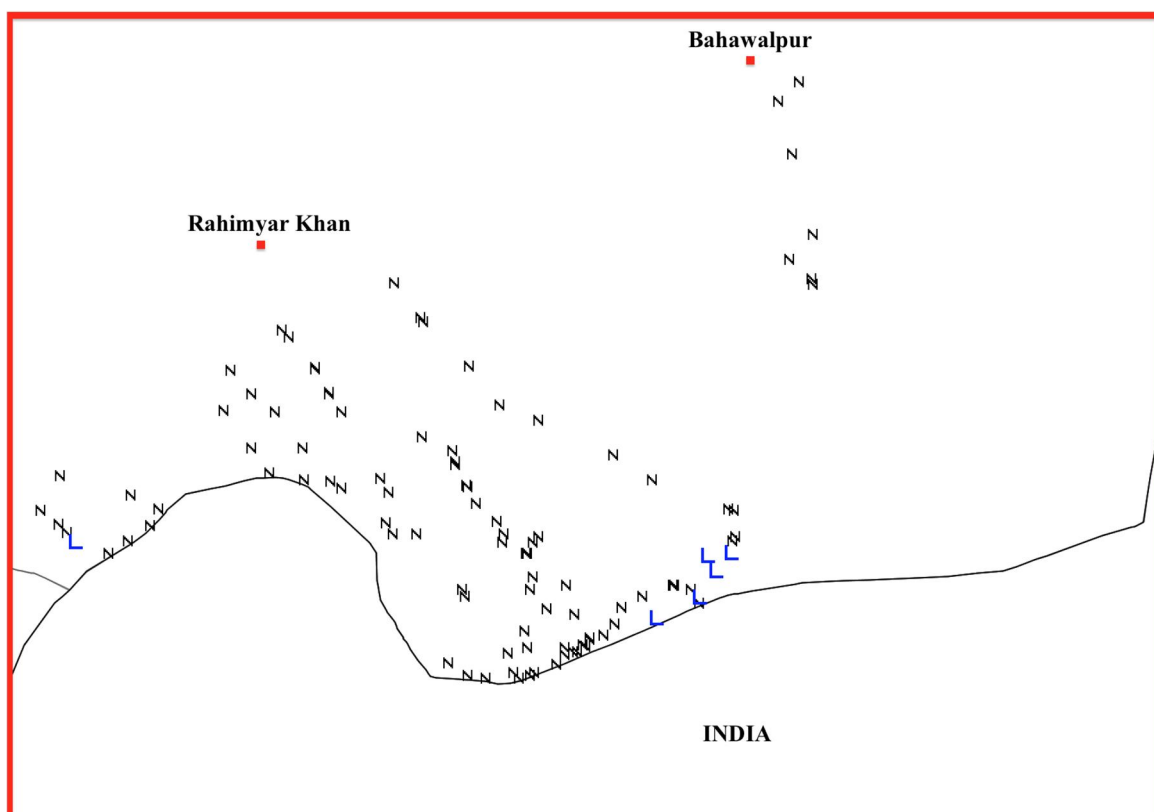
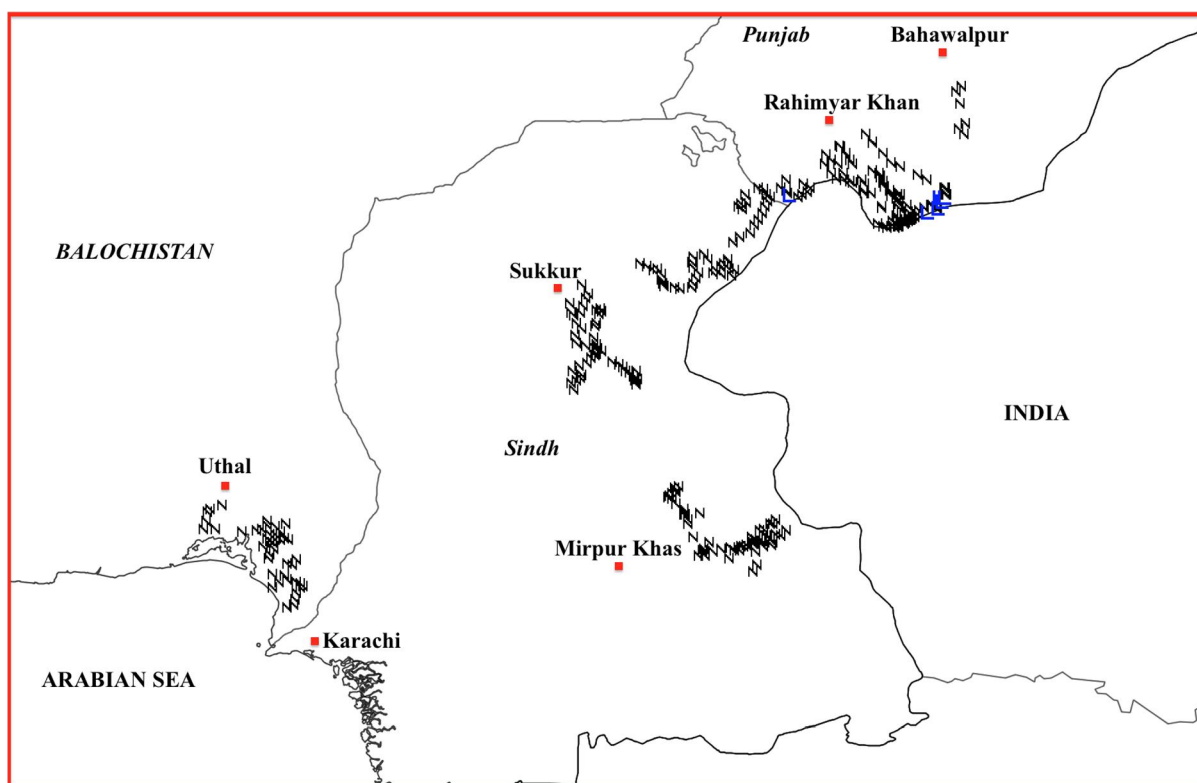
  
(K.V. Choudary)  
Assistant Plant Protection Officer  
LCO, Barmer

  
(Dr. Pankaj Salunke)  
Assistant Plant Protection Officer (E)  
LCO-Suratgarh

  
(Pramod Gour)  
Scientific Assistant /DLIO  
LCO-Bhuj

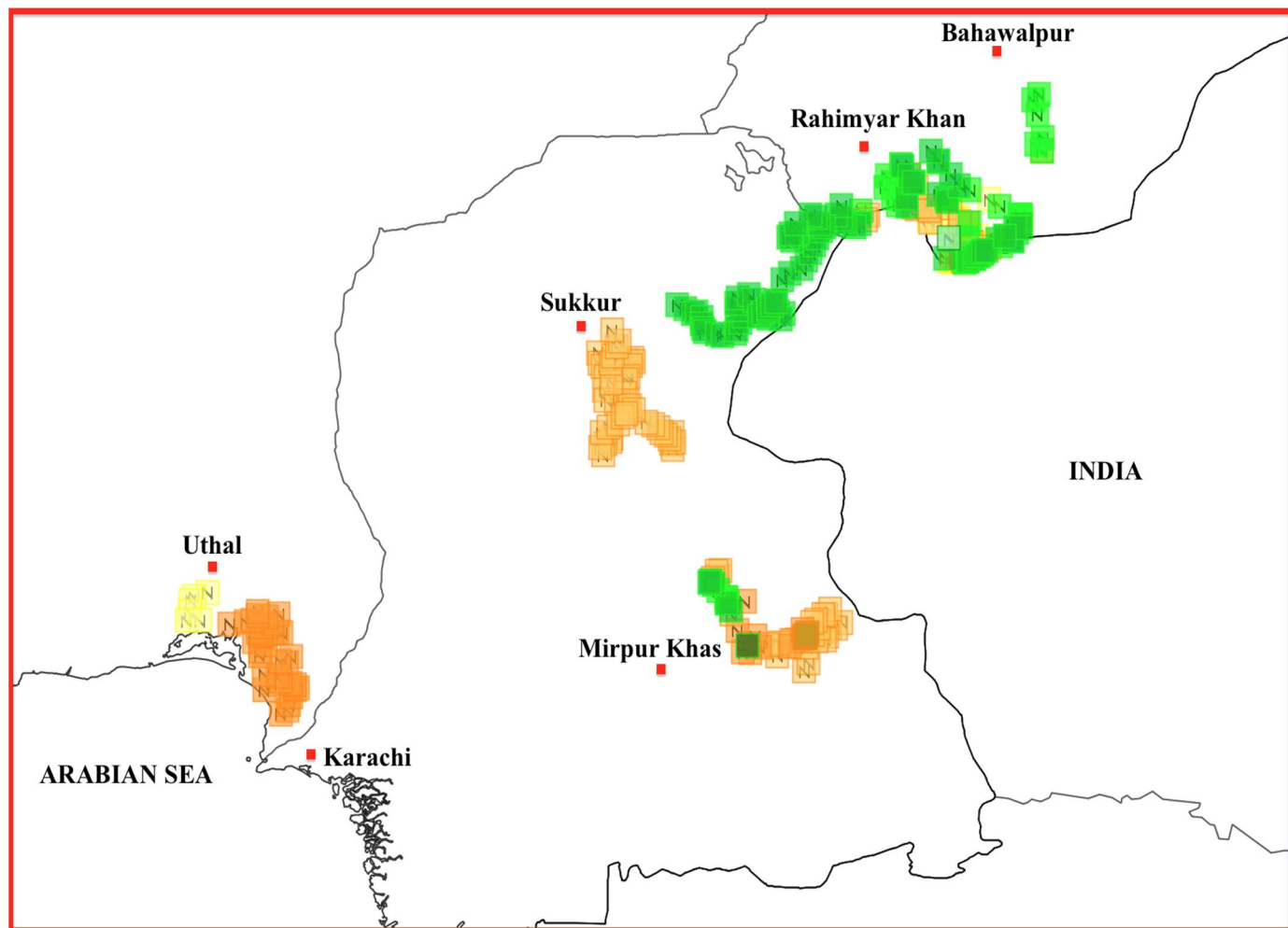
### Maps of Pakistan:-

Map showing the desert locust situation in summer-monsoon breeding areas from 18 September 2017 to 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2017






**Isolated mature solitary locust adults were seen at six localities in Rahimyar Khan**

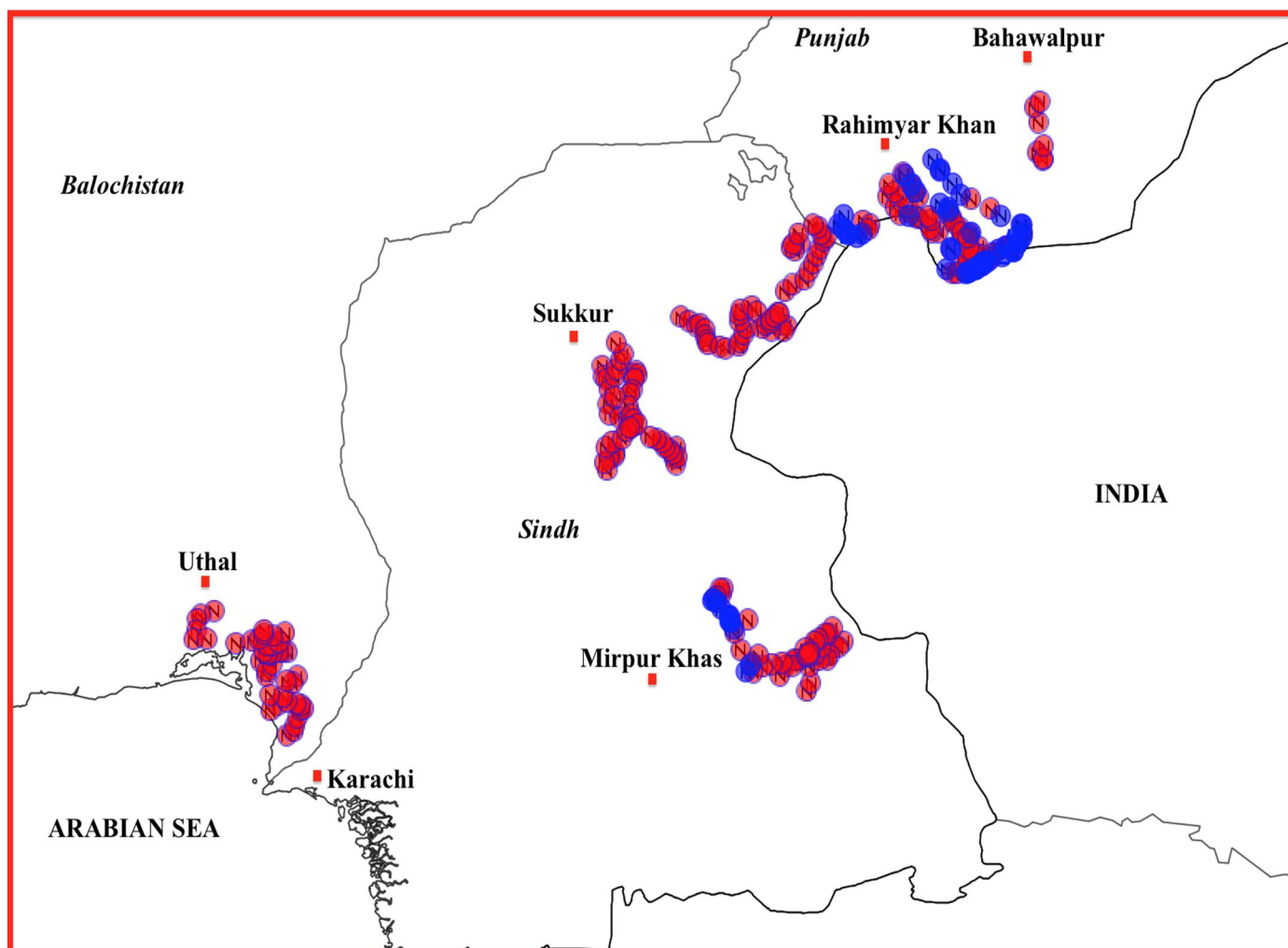
**Map showing the vegetation condition in the surveyed areas  
from 18 September 2017 to 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2017**



- Drying/ dry vegetation Uthal area
- Green/ drying/ dry vegetation in Sukkur, Mirpur Khas, Rahimyar Khan and Bahawalpur areas

-  = Green vegetation
-  = Drying vegetation
-  = Dry vegetation

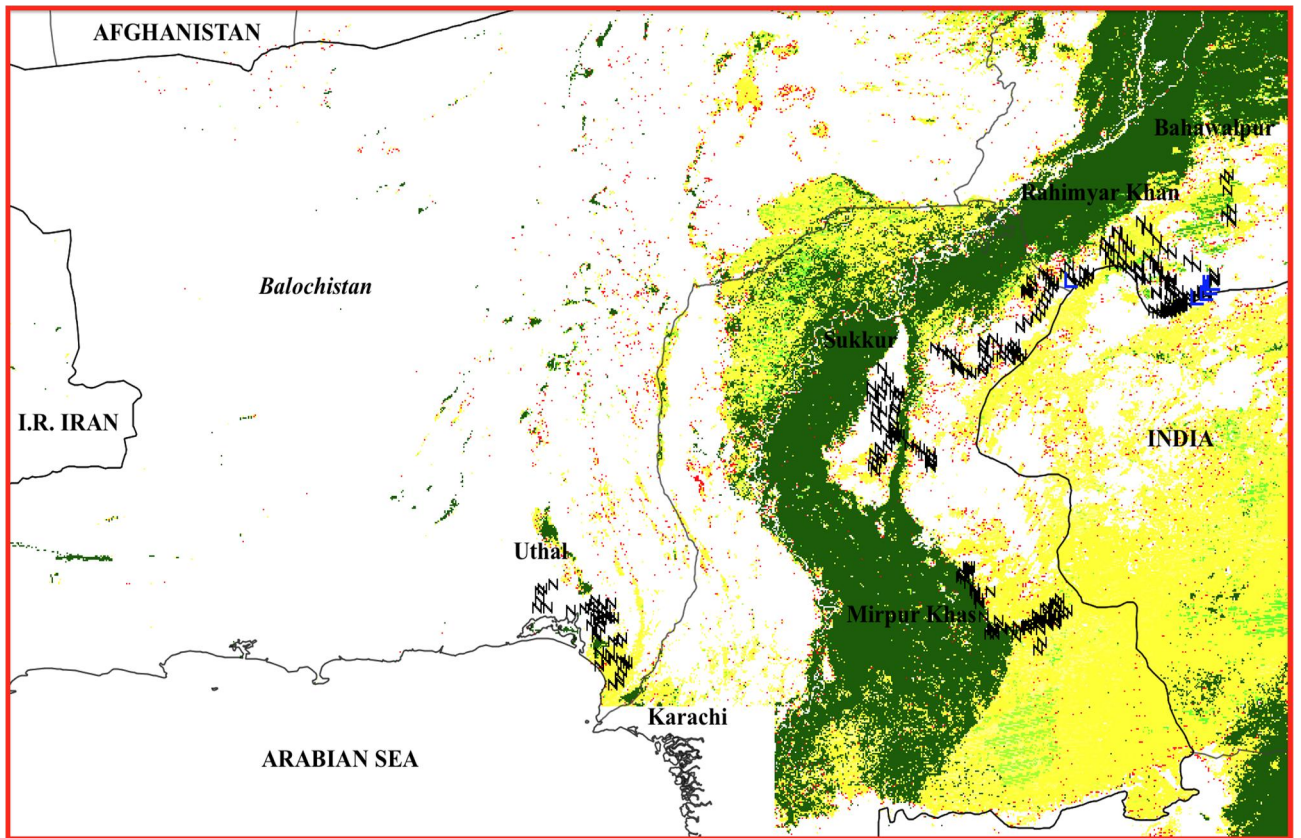
**Map showing the soli moisture condition in the surveyed areas  
from 18 September 2017 to 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2017**



- Dry soil moisture in Bahawalpur, Sukkur and Uthal area
- Mostly dry soil moisture in Rahimyar Khan and Mirpur Khas but and at some place it was wet

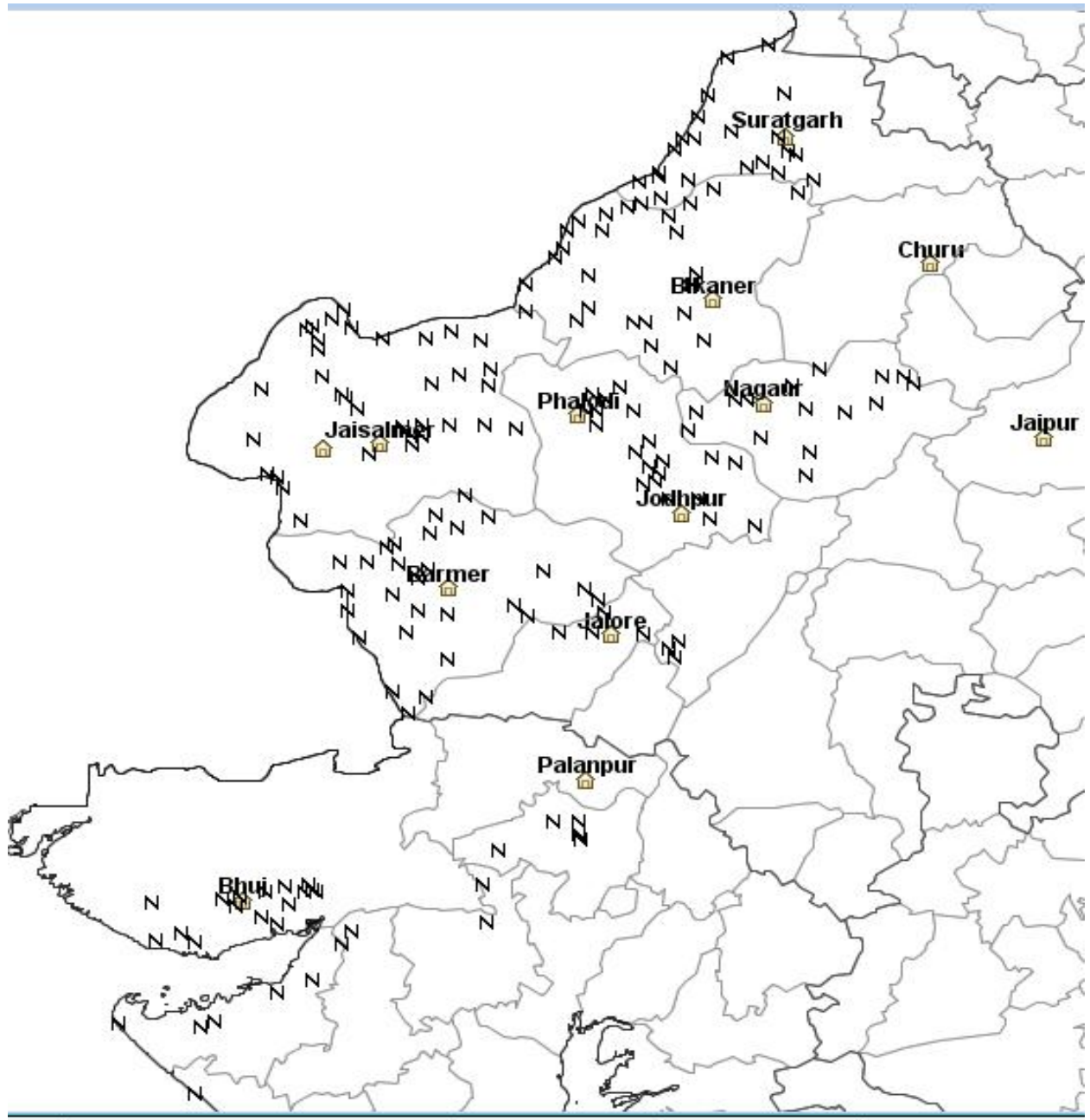
● = Dry soil moisture  
● = Wet soil moisture

**Greenness estimation map for the first decade of October 2017 showing the green vegetation in summer-monsoon breeding areas**

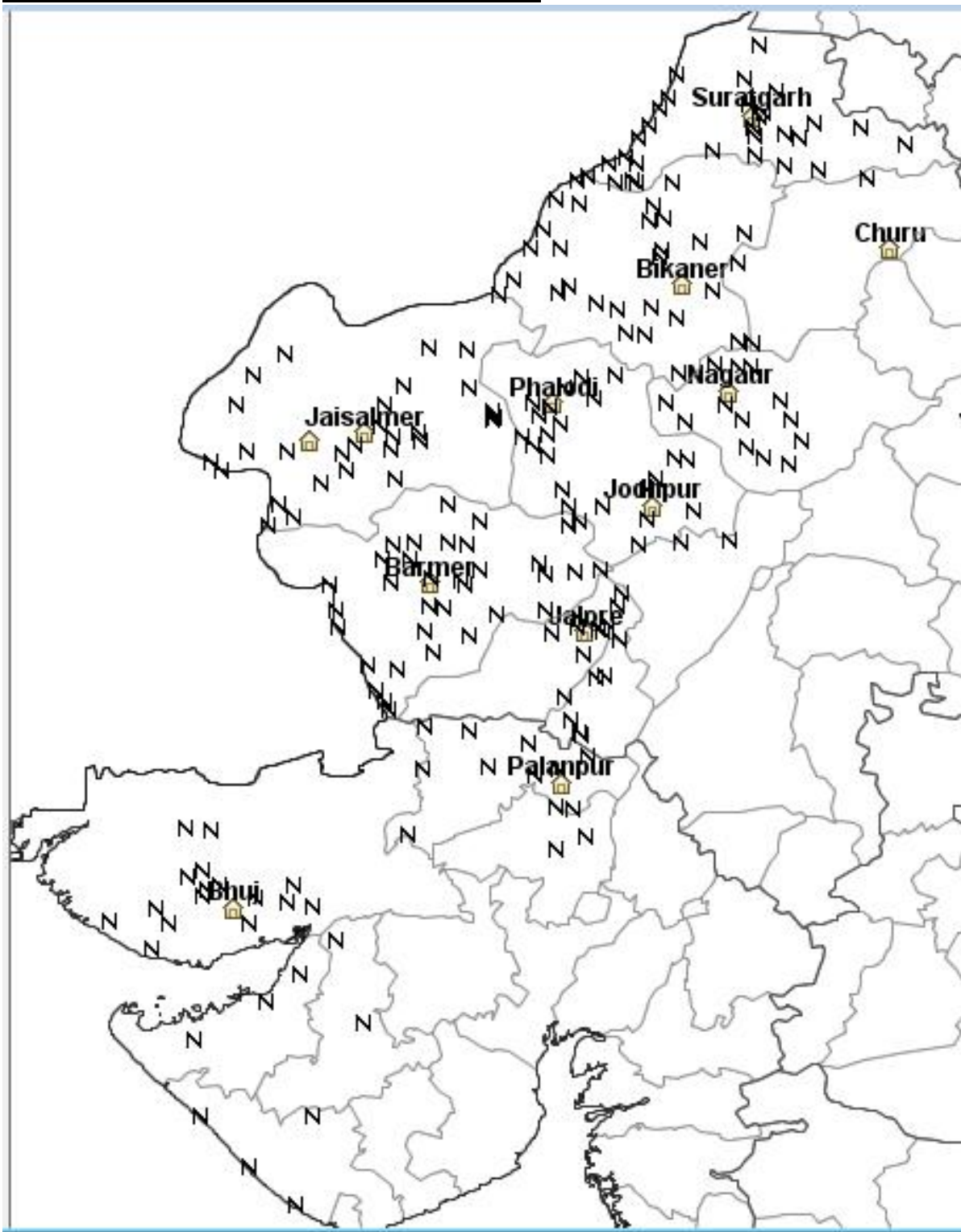


# Maps of India:-

## Map showing Locust situation for 18-30 September:-



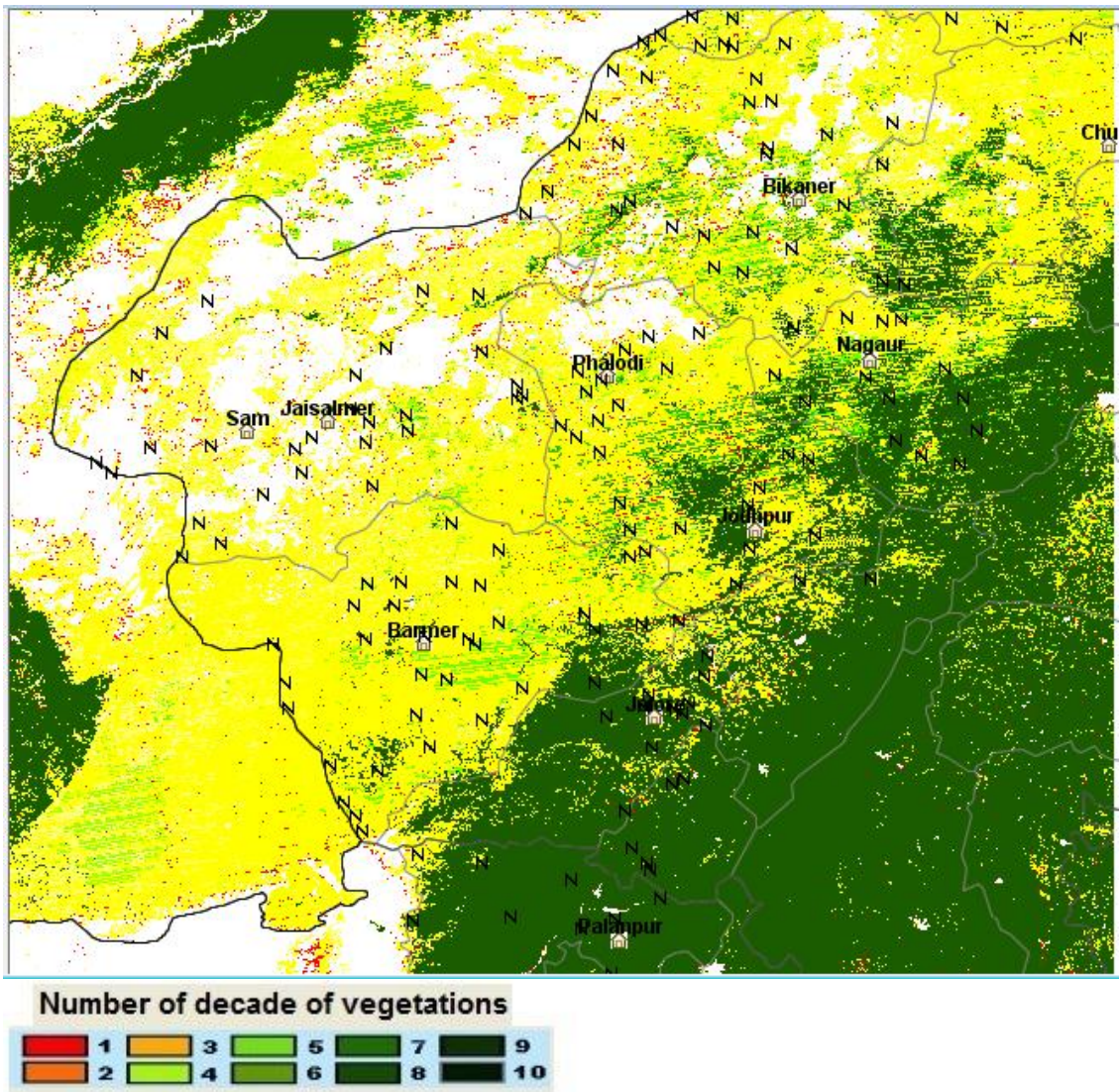
Map showing Locust situation for 01-15 October :-





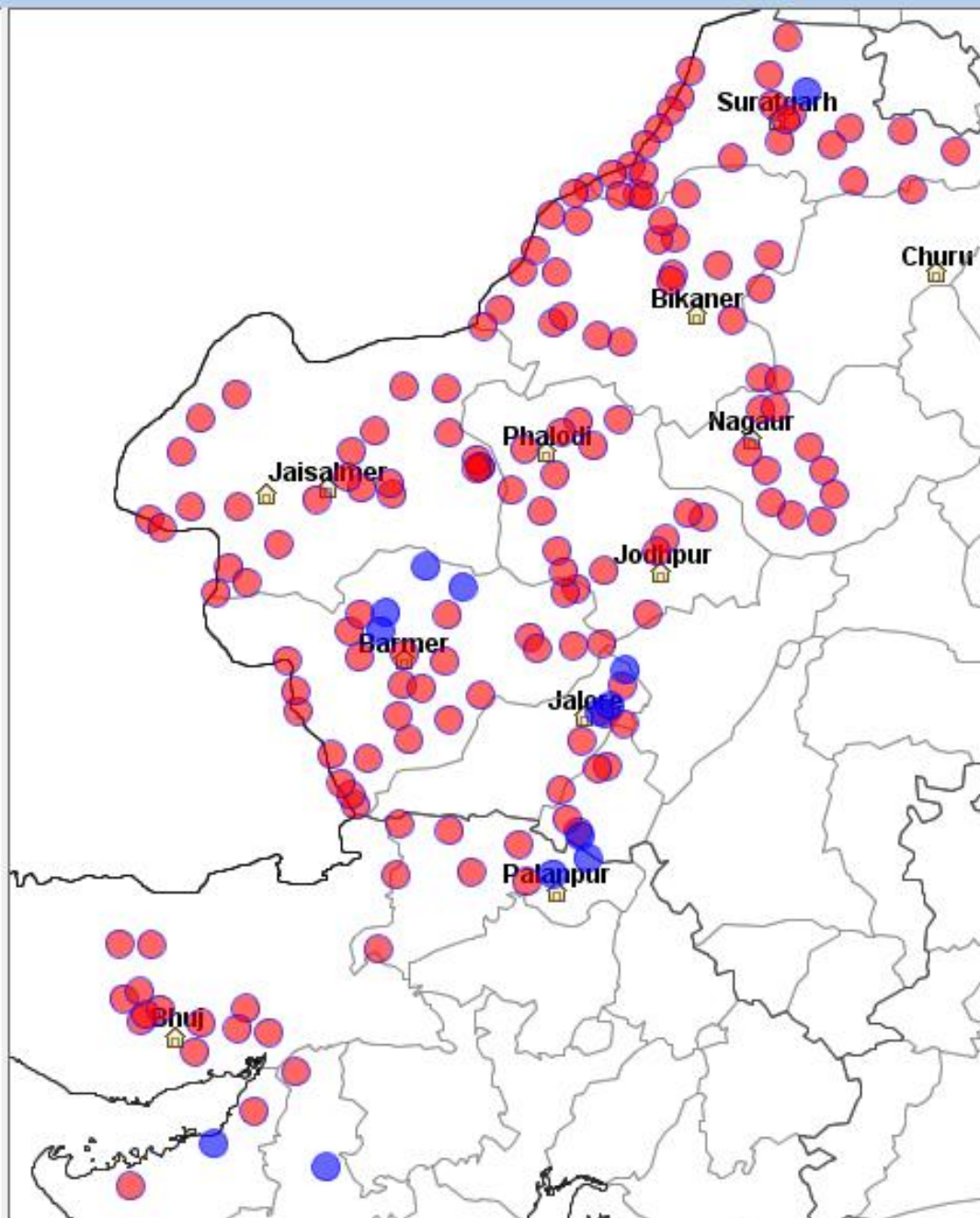
## Green vegetation map during 01-10 October 2017

Map is showing the green vegetation of the field. The different color shows the life of the vegetation



**Soil moisture during 1-15 October 2017 recorded by surveyor during surveys undertaken.**

The soil in most area of SDA is dry due to no rainfall during September and October 2017



- Dry
- Wet

Legends

**Green vegetation observed by the surveyors during conducting locust surveys in the 1<sup>st</sup> fortnight of October 2017.**

Almost all the area of SDA is green. The area of Jaisalmer, Phalodi and Nagaur is drying.

