

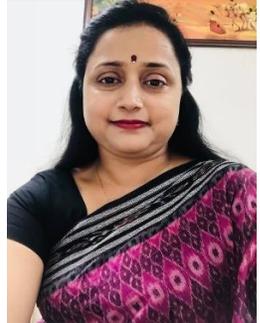


Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage
NH-IV, Faridabad (Haryana)-121001

READY RECKONER

LOCUST DIVISION (HQ)
DPPQ&S, FARIDABAD

Contact Details of Officers/ Officials in the Locust Unit (HQ)

Sl.No.	Name	Designation	ContactDetails	Photo
2.	Dr.ShalooAyri	DeputyDirector(E)	Tele:0129-2476354	
3.	ShriVinodMaitraya	APPO(E)	Tele:0129-2476355	
6	ShriP.K.Bhulania	WirelessOperator	Tele:0129-2476355	

**WORK ALLOCATED TO LOCUST UNIT (HQ),
DIRECTORATE OF PLANT PROTECTION, QUARANTINE AND STORAGE**

The following works have been allocated to Locust Unit (HQ) Section: -

- Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage is responsible for monitoring, survey and adoption of suitable control strategy in Scheduled Desert area (SDA) mainly in the States of Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- Locust Unit at Directorate's Headquarters, Faridabad in consultation with Locust Warning Organization, Jodhpur monitor the global ecological conditions and locust situation along the Red Sea coast and winter/ summer breeding areas of Southwest Asia region (Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan) which can cause possible threat to India. National Locust situation is also monitored and reviewed periodically.
- Incursion of exotic locust swarms into India is prevented through organized survey, early warning and control operation.
- Locust Control & research (LC&R) keeps itself abreast with the prevailing locust situation at National and International level through monthly Desert Locust Bulletins of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) issued by the Desert Locust Information Service (DLIS), AGP Division Rome, Italy.
- Monitoring and forewarning of the locust activity in 2 Lacs 5 thousand Sq. km Scheduled Desert Area of Rajasthan, Gujarat. One Locust Warning Organization, One FSIL & 10 Locust Circles are functioning.
- Indo-Pak Border meetings for exchange of current locust situation between the two countries for effective monitoring the situation and ensure preparedness to tackle the emerging locust threat, if any
- Advise state functionaries, BSF posts/Defence posts, Panchayat Raj Institutions to inform the nearest LWO office if any locust activity is observed in their areas for needful action.
- Avoid upsurge of locust population in SDA and entry of locust swarms into India through prompt control operations in bordering areas.

- Train the farmers, State functionaries, locust staff and other stake holders on latest locust monitoring and control technologies
- Issuance of Desert Locust Situation Bulletin at fortnightly intervals to inform all concerned stakeholders about prevailing locust situation in India.
- To conduct research at Field Station for Investigation on Locust (FSIL) at Bikaner on bio-efficacy of pesticides and bio-pesticides for locust control.
- At international level Coordination with SWAC (South West Asia Commotion) for real-time status of desert locust in the region.
- Survey data collected by the field functionaries like LWO circle offices, field HQ Jodhpur analysed by Central HQ Faridabad, if required used to forewarn the probability of locust outbreak and upsurges.
- Coordinate with State Governments for Locust control in cropped areas.
- To organize National Workshop/Training programme for LWO, LCOs, FSIL staff in the SDA State field functionaries, BSF/Defence
- Integrated Pest Management Activities by LWO has started organising Farmers Field Schools on Rabi Crops in Rajasthan & Gujarat States during inactive locust season from December to March.

Work Distribution amongst the Officers/ Staff under Locust Unit (HQ)

Dr. Shaloo Ayri, Deputy Director (E)

- Preparation and Correspondence on Vision document & Action plan.
- To facilitate smooth functioning of scheme (Locust Control & Research) in accordance with the Govt. of India Rules & Guidelines. Co-ordinate for various reports, examination of cases, monitoring and implementation of Govt. of India rules and guidelines, issued from time to time.
- Liaisoning with FAO & SWAC committee at global platform.
- Regular Consultations with Locust Warning Organization, Jodhpur to monitor the ecological conditions and locust situation along the Red Sea coast and winter/ summer breeding areas of Southwest Asia region (Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan) which can cause possible threat to India.
- Monitoring and periodical review of Locust situation in Scheduled Desert Area (SDA).
- Monitoring and forewarning of the locust activity in 2 Lacs 5 thousand sq. km. Scheduled Desert Area of Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- Monitoring and maintaining functioning one Locust Warning Organization, one FSIL & 10 Locust Circles.
- Prepare plan of action for survey and control of Desert locust.
- Ensure maintenance and safe custody of records by all the dealing hands.
- Ensure maintaining peace and discipline by all the staff members.
- To ensure Adoptive research on locust control at FSIL.
- Procurement of advanced equipment and advanced implementation of advanced management practices.
- Responsible for discharging duties in consultation with higher authorities and ensures overall control, supervision and discharge of work of the unit in an efficient and effective manner.

Sh. Vinod Maitraya, Assistant Plant Protection Officer (E)

Assisting to DD (E) in following area:

- Preparation of monthly Technical report, of LWO/LCO and Achievements of LC&R.
- Distribution of Locust Situation Bulletin (twice in month)
- Correspondences of TA bill/Tour programme/Medical Bill.
- Correspondence related to P&C like DO report, monthly/fortnightly technical, Gem report etc.
- Preparing reply to Parliament Questions.
- Assist in correspondence on Vision document & Action plan.
- Assist Senior Officers to organize the National Workshop of Desert Locust.
- Assist Sub-offices for organizing Locust awareness programmes.
- Assist Senior Officers in virtual meetings

- Assist Senior Officers with FAO/SWAC HQ related matter
- Assist Senior Officers on RTI matters.
- Assisting APPO on Building maintenance & other minor works.
- Assisting in DA&FW Correspondence.
- Responsible for updating related matter
- Responsible for matters with Hindi Related issues.

Shri Pramod kumar Bhulania, Wireless Operator

- Wireless related matters and maintenance of wireless set at all sub offices.
- Dak receiving & Dispatch.
- Any other work assigned by higher authority.

Controlling Officer(s) have authority to make such changes as considered necessary for disposal of pendency, leave and of staff. However, following internal link officer system will function: -

Sl. No.	Name of the official	1st Link	2nd Link
1	Dr. Shaloo Ayri, DD(E)	Shri Vinod Maitraya, APPO	Shri P K Bhulania, W/Operator.
2	Shri Vinod Maitraya, APPO	Shri PK Bhulania, W/Operator.	
3	Shri PK Bhulania, W/Operator.	-	-

GOALS & OBJECTIVES (SHORT-TERM/ MEDIUM TERM/LONG TERM)

PRIORITY ISSUES

(SHORT TERM):-

- Parliament matters
- Time bound DA&FW Correspondence.
- Timely submission of reports to Planning and Coordination Division (P&C).
- Processing of Court Cases/Contempt Petitions and Complaint etc.
- All matters related to meetings like issue of notice/agenda/ minutes etc.
- Issuing of advisory and forewarning to state government and stakeholders during DL up surge/invasion

(MEDIUM TERM):-

- Preparation of monthly Technical report of LWO/LCOs.
- Preparation and distribution of Locust Situation Bulletin (2 Bulletin in a month)
- Correspondences of TA bill/Tour programme/Medical Bill.
- Correspondence related to P&C like Gem report, technical report etc.
- Correspondence related to FFS/HRD programme for rabi crops
- Procurement of surveillance equipments.
- Website updation (DPPQS & DA&FW).
- Correspondence on Building maintenance & other minor works.
- Wireless related matters and maintenance of wireless sets at all sub offices.
- Correspondence on Equipment/Vehicle/other store procurement.

(LONG TERM):-

- To prepare and Correspondence on Vision document & Action plan.
- Pro adoptive research in respect of bio efficacy trials with new generation pesticides / bio-pesticides against locusts and grasshoppers in the Laboratory at Field Station for Investigation on Locusts, Bikaner (Rajasthan).
- Procurement of advanced equipment and advanced implementation of advanced management practices.
- Alternative methods of desert locust control/management.
- Training programme with stakeholders.

BRIEF NOTES ON ORGANISATION- LOCUST CONTROL AND RESEARCH

Introduction

Locust Control and Research:

In India, the scheme Locust Control and Research (LC&R) is responsible for control of Desert Locust and is being implemented through Organization known as “**Locust Warning Organization (LWO)**” established in 1939 and later amalgamated with the Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine and Storage in 1946. Locust Warning organization (LWO) is responsible to monitor by way of survey and surveillance and control the locust in Scheduled Desert Area (SDA) of Rajasthan and Gujarat.

Mandate: Locust Warning Organization to detect the local breeding in Scheduled Desert Areas and incursion of exotic locust swarms into India. LWO keeps itself abreast with the prevailing locust situation at National and International level through monthly Desert Locust Bulletins of FAO issued by the Desert Locust Information Service (DLIS), AGP Division Rome, Italy. Survey data are collected by the field functionaries through e locust from the fields which are transmitted to LWO/ locust circle offices (LCOs), field HQ Jodhpur, where these are compiled and analyzed to forewarn the probability of locust outbreak and upsurges. The locust situation is appraised to the State Governments of Rajasthan and Gujarat with the advice to gear up their field functionaries to keep a constant vigil on locust situation in their areas and intimate the same to nearest LWO offices for taking necessary action at their end.

Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage is responsible for adoption of suitable control strategy in Scheduled Desert Area only. However, the liability of locust control in cropped areas lies with the State Government. Lots of innovations have been made in the field of locust survey and surveillance for quick transmission of locust survey data, their analysis, decision making, mapping of survey areas through computerization, adoption of new software like eLocust3m, elocust3 and elocust3g.

Objectives:

- i) To monitor, forewarn and control the desert locust in the Scheduled Desert Area (SDA) in the States of Rajasthan & Gujarat being International obligation and commitment.
- ii) To conduct research in respect of bio efficacy trials bio-pesticides against locusts and grasshoppers in the Laboratory at Field Station for Investigation on Locusts, Bikaner (Rajasthan).
- iii) To maintain liaison and coordination with National and International Organizations.

- iv) Human Resource development through training and demonstration for staff of Locust Warning Organization (LWO), State officials, BSF personnel, Farmers and other Stakeholders.
- v) Maintain control potential to combat locust emergencies by organizing locust control campaigns.
- vi) However, the main objective of Locust Warning Organization (LWO) is protection of standing crops and other green vegetation from the ravages of Desert locust which is one of the most dangerous pests (trans-boundary pests) occurring in desert areas of Africa and West Asia.

Division/ Units/ Field Stations:

The Scheme Locust Control & Research is being executed through Locust Warning Organization through its Locust Division at Headquarters Faridabad, Field Headquarters at Jodhpur and Locust Circle Offices (LCOs) at Barmer, Bikaner, Churu, Jaisalmer, Jalore, Nagaur, Phalodi in Rajasthan and Bhuj, Palanpur in Gujarat. Besides there is one research laboratory named Field Station for Investigation on Locusts (FSIL) at Bikaner (Rajasthan).

Functions:

- a) Keep constant vigil through survey and surveillance, to prevent crop losses due to locust development / invasion, over 2 lakh sq. kms. Scheduled Desert Area in the States of Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- b) Avert desert locust activities / upsurges in SDA and make necessary efforts to prevent entry of exotic locust swarms into India through prompt control operations.
- c) Participation in the Indo-Pak Border meetings (June to November) for exchange of locust situation information (Virtual/Physical) between two Countries for effectively monitoring the situation ensuring preparedness to tackle the emerging locust threat, if any.
- d) Train Farmers, State functionaries and locust staff on latest locust control technologies.
- e) Advise state functionaries, BSF personnel, Panchayat Raj Institutions to inform the nearest LWO office if any locust activity is observed / reported in their areas for further needful action.
- f) Issuance of Desert Locust Situation Bulletin at fortnightly intervals to inform all the concerned stakeholders about the prevailing locust situation in India.
- g) To maintain desert locust culture for conducting research on bio-efficacy of pesticides and bio-pesticides against desert locust at Field Station for Investigation on Locusts (FSIL) Bikaner
- h) LWO provides services to the farmers by making them aware about the locust activities, their biology and extent of damage caused to the crops and other vegetation.

- i) Organise training regarding identification, behaviour and control techniques of desert locust to the farmers, officers and officials of the State Agriculture departments and other stakeholders.
- j) Integrated Pest Management Activities by LWO has started organising Farmers Field Schools on Rabi Crops Cumin, Castor, and Gram & Mustard in Rajasthan & Gujarat States during slack locust season from December to March.
- k) To conduct monitoring pest and disease situation by all LCO's while undertaking desert locust survey
- l) Organize the International Meeting of FAO Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in South-west Asia (SWAC) and Desert Locust Control Committee (DLCC).

Powers, functions and duties of the Authority

- (1) The role of the Authority will mainly consist of overall coordination and direction of the implementation of the scheme as per the target given on the mandate and objectives.
- (2) The Authority shall be charged with the power and shall be under a duty to do any or all things necessary, sufficient and expedient for the implementation of the scheme.

PERIODIC REPORTS/RETURNS

Sl. No.	Subject	To whom	Frequency
1.	Monthly Technical Report	DA&FW through P&C	Monthly/Quarterly
2.	Locust Situation Bulletin	FAO,SWAC countries, All LCO's , DC/Administration of SDA, Director Agriculture, Vice Chancellor of Univ. of SDA & Director CAZRI.	Fortnightly
3.	RTI report	P&C/Online	Quarterly
4.	Progress on official language	Hindi Section	Quarterly
5.	Pending court cases	P&C/Online	Monthly
6.	CPGRAMS	P&C	Monthly

Important Contact Details of Organisations

**Locust Control and Research
Dte. of PPQS, NH-IV, Faridabad.**

Name of Station	Name & Designation	Telephone /Fax No.
HQ, Faridabad	Dr. Shaloo Ayri Deputy Director(E)	Tel. No. 0129-2476354, Email: locust@nic.in shaloo.ayri@gov.in
LWO, Jodhpur	Dr Virendra Kumar, AD(PP)	Tele: 0291-2439749 Email: lwo-jod-rj@nic.in
FSIL, Bikaner	Dr. N.K.Bhargawa, PPO (E)	Tele: 0151-2542582 Email: lwo-bik-rj@nic.in
LCO, Barmer	Dr Virendra Kumar, AD(PP)	Tele: 02982-220045 Email: lwcrj08@nic.in
LCO, Suratgarh	Sh. B.L. Meena, PPO (E)	Tele: 01509-222315 Email: lco.sog-dppqs@gov.in
LCO, Bhuj	Dr. Shashi R S PPO (E)	Tele: 02832-227260 Email: appolocust.bhuj-agri@gov.in
LCO, Jaisalmer	Sh. Ashwani K. Dave, PPO (PP)	Tele: 02992-252161 Email: lwcrj04@nic.in
LCO, Bikaner	Sh. B.L. Meena, PPO (E)	Tele: 0151-2202022 Email: lwcrj09@nic.in
LCO, Palanpur	Sh. Maharaj Singh PPO (E)	Tele: 02982-220045 Email: lwcgj09@nic.in
LCO, Jalore	Sh. H.B. Sethi , PPO (E)	02973-223478 Email: lco.jalore-agri@nic.in
LCO, Phalodi	Sh. Ashwani K. Dave, PPO (PP)	Tele: 02925-222236 Email: lcodppqs-jod-rj@gov.in
LCO, Nagaur	Sh. R.G. Meena, PPO (PP)	Tele: 01582-245831 Email: lcongr-rj@gov.in
LCO, Churu	Dr. S.K. Chaudhary, PPO (E)	Tele: 01562-251937 Email: Lco-chu-rj@gov.in

Achievements of LC&R

- Locust attack was reported in India during 2019-20 and 2020-21 which is an example of one such large-scale locust upsurge, when locusts migrated to India after a gap of 26 years. During 2019-20, locust incursion was reported in three States of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Punjab which was successfully controlled in a total of 4,03,488 hectare area. While in 2020-21, there was locust incursion in ten States viz., Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar khand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. However, due to the collaborative and coordinated efforts of the Central Government, State Governments and the Farmers, Locust incursions were effectively controlled. During 2020-21, control operations against Locusts were carried out in an area of 2, 87,986 hectares by Locust Circle Offices.
- To deal with the problem of locust swarms, the Government of India strategized its preparedness, strengthened its capacity and enhanced its survey and control capabilities.
- Awareness campaigns were organized in districts, blocks and villages; advisories and standard operating procedures were circulated and training programs/mock drills were conducted.
- Control rooms were established at ten Locust circle offices and districts.
- WhatsApp groups were created in all affected States for coordination and real time exchange of information.
- Regular meetings and video conferences were organized with States for better coordination. It was Covid-19 lockdown period; awareness literature & videos were shared through virtual medium to orient both functionaries and farmers.
- To further strengthen ground control capabilities, 70 new equipment were procured from the United Kingdom (UK) to enhance the number of ground control teams to 104. In addition to this, 55 Bolero Camphor 4WD vehicles were procured to strengthen the control potential.
- More than 200 Central Government personnel technical staff was deputed in the control operations.
- In this upsurge DPPQS raised its management strategies from ground control to aerial wherein Drones, a Bell Helicopter and customized Mi17 Helicopter of Indian Air Force were deployed for Locust Control. This is the beginning of new era in the history of locust control in India/world.
- A new dimension was added by using of drones in locust control for the first time in the world. Protocols were finalized in coordination with Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Defence.
- After this success the Government of India issued a supply order of 5 CDA atomizer kits to UK Based Company M/s Micron for strengthening aerial spray capabilities. Two kits have been delivered and its technical installation in IAF helicopters Mi 17 is under process.
- The Department is coordinating with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Indian Embassies in Kenya and Ethiopia for concurrent feedback and regularly participating in

meetings conducted by FAO Commission for controlling the desert locust in South West Asia for exchange of information on actual status, movement and control of locust in the region. Under the stewardship of DLIS, FAO; 28 SWAC meetings were organized during 2020-21 involving officials from India, Iran, Pakistan & Afghanistan.

- Regular surveys are being conducted by Locust Circle Offices and vigil is still being kept to detect and negate any possible emergence.
- The Division has achieved the target survey (Distant, Cross country & Border Survey) of desert locust (150 Lakh hectares per year) and Border meetings with Pakistan in active season (3 each side)
- National Training Workshop was conducted during 28th, 29th, January, 2021 & 25th, 26th Novemebr, 2021 where 60 locust officers of Locust Warning Organization (LWO) were trained for any future threats.
- One day Training Programme was conducted on 23rd March, 2022 to trained MTS & DCM for repair & maintenance of PP equipments where 15 MTS & DCM. of LWO were trained for any future threats.
- Two days training programme was organized on use of elocust3mpro, an android based application by using smart phones on 12th, 13th July, 2023 at LWO, Jodhpur. A total of 32 no. of participants participated in training programme.
- More than normal pre monsoon rain left behind favourable ecological conditions for locust breeding. After the cyclone “Biporjoy” approached at Indo-Pak border. First information of hopper emergence was received from village Sutharmandi, Mohangarh, Jaisalmer district on 09.08.2023. Desert Locust Control was carried out in **836** ha area from 10.08.2023 to 17.08.2023.
- Mr. Mariano Behran, Agricultural Attache & Mr. Kamlesh Mishra, Agricultural specialist Embassy of Argentine visited Hqr. and discussed technical cooperation in Locust control & Management between India & Argentina under Bilateral cooperation aspect. Both countries may exchange more information by making physical visits in future to understand, learn and gain practically from each other`s system, challenges, experiences etc.
- India participated in SWAC 33RD Meeting and DLIO Workshop dated 18-22 of Dec, 2023 at Rome, Italy
- National Training Workshop was conducted during 11th-12th March, 2024 where 30 locust officers of Locust Warning Organization (LWO) were trained for any future threats.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF LOUST DIVISION

Sl. No.	Parameter	2020-21 (Locust upsurge)	2021-22 (Locust recession)	2022-23 (Locust Situation Calm)	2023-24 (till 31st March 2024)
01	Survey/surveillance (in lakh ha)	864.92*	159.46	160.417	167.08
02	Fortnightly Locust Bulletin	24	24	24	24
03	Indo-Pak border Meeting Note: Desert Locust control was carried out in 836 ha. from 10.08.23 to 17.08.23.	28 (SWAC) Meeting	07 virtual (SWAC) Meeting	6 (Virtual) +1(Physical)	6 (Virtual)

* Excess survey due to locust upsurge
