1. **SUMMARY:** India continued to be free from gregarious desert locust activity during the 2nd fortnight of August 2017. However, solitary isolated mature/ immature adults with density of 5 to 20 locusts/ha was observed in five localities. The maximum population of 20 locusts/ha was observed at INDRA (27°42'50"N - 70°44'07"E) locality of Jaisalmer district. As per eLocust3 data total 168 spots were surveyed (shown in map with “N” means survey undertaken- no locust found and “L” means solitary locust adult observed) in distant, cross country and special border 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 August 2017, moderate rainfall was observed at Palanpur, Jalore, Nagaur, Churu, Suratgarh, Bikaner, Southern part of Jaisalmer, Northern part of Barmer and Western part of Jodhpur district of Rajasthan. Light rainfall was observed at Phalodi, Southern part of Jaisalmer, Northern part of Barmer and eastern part of Jodhpur. Moderate to heavy rainfall was observed at Bhuj. As per survey results (data), vegetation is dense green in almost all the part of SDA. The area covered with green vegetation and wet soil is more favourable for the locust breeding in the remote areas and due to this reason the area for locust survey is chosen accordingly. The maps showing rainfall estimation for 3rd decade of August 2017 with locust situation, the data of soil moisture and green vegetation status observed by surveyors during the surveys in 2nd fortnight of August 2017 are also shown in the enclosed maps.

3. **LOCUST SITUATION:**

   1. Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria* F)

      i) Swarm movement Nil
      ii) Breeding Nil
      iii) Hoppers Nil
      iv) Scattered/ Isolated Adults 05 – 20 Locusts/ha.
4. पूर्वानुमान / FORECAST:  Due to wide spread of rainfall in SDA since July onwards with a short and regular interval, availability of dense green vegetation in remote areas and observance of solitary isolated mature/ immature adult locusts during special border survey, small scale breeding is likely to be occurred in coming fortnight/ 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/outbreak/upsurge. Keeping in view of favourable ecological condition special border survey was conducted and will be continue for next few months.

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.

7. बैठक/ MEETING:  The 2nd Indo-pak desert locust border meeting of locust officers was held on 22nd August, 2017 at Khokhropar / Munabao border point (Pakistan side) and the 3rd border meeting of Indo-pak will be held at Khokhropar / Munabao border point (India side) on 19th September, 2017.

(Dr. B. S. Phogat)
Add. Plant Protection Adviser
Map showing Locust situation for 16 to 31 August, 2017

The Place in map mark with “L” & “U” shows the presence of Locust population and mark with “N” shows the surveys were undertaken and no locust found.
Map showing rainfall estimation for 21-31 August, 2017

Moderate rainfall observed at almost all the areas of Scheduled desert except Phalodi, eastern part of Jodhpur, Barmer and Jaisalmer adjoining to Jodhpur, where light rainfall was observed. Heavy to moderate rainfall was observed at Bhuj areas of Gujarat.
Soil moisture during 2nd fortnight of August 2017 recorded by surveyor during surveys undertaken. The soil of southern part of SDA is wet whereas it is dry at northern part of SDA i.e., Jaisalmer, Bikaner and Suratgarh.
Green vegetation observed by the surveyors during locust surveys in the 2nd fortnight of August 2017.