DESERT LOCUST SITUATION AND RESPONSE IN PAKISTAN

Global Meeting of Food Security Cluster Partners
20 May, 2020
Desert Locust Outbreak in Pakistan and Impact

- Desert Locust outbreak in 2019 in Balochistan province (in areas bordering with Iran) in Pakistan turned serious by spreading close to main agriculture production areas.

- Towards end of 2019 and start of 2020, unusual wide spread of Desert Locust was observed in main agriculture production areas of 46 districts of four provinces (Balochistan, Punjab, Sindh and KP).

- Recent estimates show total prone area of **43.7 million hectares**.

- Most of these areas have also experienced natural shocks/disasters (drought/floods) recently and have high incidence of poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition.

**Impact**

- Initial crop damages of (wheat, oil seed crops, cotton, grazing field, fruits and vegetable) of over 115,000 hectares were reported.

- In Pakistan, 38 percent of the country area (60% in Balochistan, 25% in Sindh and 15% in Punjab) are breeding grounds for the Desert Locust.

- Entire country is under the threat of invasion if the Desert Locust is not contained in the breeding regions (Desert Areas of Thar, Cholistan etc.).
Desert Locust Vulnerable Districts

21 Total districts are under threat
13 Under severe threat
8 Under moderate threat

Locust vulnerable districts of Pakistan

Disputed Territory

Winter-Spring Breeding Zone-A

Summer-Monsoon Breeding Zone-B

Desert areas of Pakistan
Desert Locust Outbreak

Pakistan / India

6–12 May 2020

29 Apr - 5 May

- swarms
- adult groups
- hopper bands
- hopper groups
- adults
- absent

Map showing the expected arrival of swarms in May.
Desert Locust Forecast (May-July 2020)

Desert Locust Southwest Asia forecast
May–July 2020

Source: FAO/ODIS
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations
Actions by the Government

- The approved National Action Plan aimed at catering surveillance, prevention and control of the desert locust infestation across the affected provinces.
- National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has been given a lead role in coordination with Department of Plant Protection and Provincial Governments.
- Overall **17.5 million hectares** have been surveyed and **0.95 million hectares** treated till last week.
- **Total Area Surveyed (ha):** 17.490 million
  - Area Surveyed in 2019 (ha): 0.933 million
  - Area Surveyed in 2020 (ha): 16.557 million
- **Total Area Treated (ha):** 944,095
  - Area Treated in 2019 (ha): 626,395
  - Area Treated in 2020 (ha): 317,700
- Area Treated by Vehicle (ha): 918,095
- Area Treated by Aircraft (ha): 26,600
FAO is proactively engaged with Ministry of National Food Security and Research as well as Federal Department of Plant Protection, NDMA and Provincial Agriculture Departments.

FAO has provided resources (equipment, technical, human and funding) from its core resources.

- Global desert locust surveillance and guidance
- eLocust
- GPS
- Training and support

Regional Cooperation

- South West Asia Commission for Control of Desert Locust (SWAC)
- Pakistan, India, Afghanistan and Iran Technical

Locust control support to DPP

- Coordination and strategy support with government (DPP and NDMA)
- Procurement support
  - Vehicle mounted sprayers
  - GPS

FAO is engaged to mobilize development partners/ donors support for logistic and technical capacity building of concerned institutions for locust control

Locust damage recovery
• FAO and WFP planning a joint Damages and Needs Assessment in collaboration with the Government and Food Security & Agriculture Working Group (FS&A WG) partners.

• Information on Locust Situation and Surveillance is shared regularly with the FS&A WG members, and donors.

• Around 20% of the locust affected people (238,000) are planned to be targeted for livelihood and food assistance support under Global Humanitarian Response Plan of FS&A WG for 2020.
Objectives of the Assessment

• To assess the impact of the locust infestation on agriculture production, livestock, livelihoods and households’ food security, and determine the critical livelihood and food security needs of the affected communities.

The Damages and Needs Assessment will inform the stakeholders (Government, UN, NGOs, Donors) on:

• Agriculture losses, including immediate and longer-term impact of the locust outbreak on food security and livelihoods of the affected communities;

• Prioritized needs, existing gaps in assistance provided by the stakeholders, and support required for the affected population and the government departments;

Assessment Focus Areas and Tools

• The assessment will be conducted in all locust affected districts across four provinces in Pakistan.

• **Two tools:** Community Level and Key Informant (KI)

• Data collection using online survey tools/telephonic interview/field based (depending upon COVID situation and restrictions on movements)

• The assessment has slightly delayed due to COVID-19 situation in the country
Efforts are underway to ensure logistic and technical support to ensure timely control operations.

Currently, situation in Iran and Yemen is becoming increasingly worrisome, resultantly, there will be more band and swarm formation in Pakistan in May 2020.

Several waves of swarms likely to reach India-Pakistan border areas in May and June.

Any lapses in timely control measures would lead to food insecurity/humanitarian crisis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop Season</th>
<th>Estimated Level of Crop Losses</th>
<th>Estimated Quantum in PKR (billion)</th>
<th>Estimated Quantum in USD (billion)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rabi/Winter Season</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>352.9</td>
<td>2.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>705.8</td>
<td>4.41</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>1058.69</td>
<td>6.62</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kharif/Summer Season</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>464.27</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>928.54</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>1,392.80</td>
<td>8.71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Department of Plant Protection
Way Forward

- Enhancing coordination among institutions to join hands for effective surveillance and control operation of massive spread of desert locust prevailing within country and moving from regional countries.
- Expediting procurement of equipment like survey devices, vehicle mounted ULV sprayers, vehicles and pesticides.
- Adopt innovative approach in view of desert locust alarming situation would require a strong surveillance and control operation especially in the aftermath of Covid-19 spread and precarious security environment in the regional countries.
- Mobilizing financial resources from public sector and development partners to support government efforts to address massive desert locust threat on urgent basis.
- Consultation with the multilateral institutions for investing in upgradation of desert related institutions as it is expected that this issue would stay around for some time and Governments would require medium to long-term interventions.
- There is urgent need for humanitarian response to address food security and protect livelihoods in the affected communities.
Thank you!