



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

LOCUST National Emergency in Pakistan

a Looming Threat to Agriculture and Food Security

Situation

The Government in a recent move has declared national emergency against Desert Locust on January 31, 2020. This decision was taken in a meeting held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Pakistan. For effective and timely control of Desert Locust Government also approved a national action plan to effectively handle this crises.

Forecast

As per FAO forecasts "the remaining swarms along the Indo-Pakistan border will migrate to southwest Pakistan and southern Iran and slowly mature and breed". In view of recent rains in southeast Iran would result in conducive ecological conditions for several months of breeding that is expected to cause a significant increase in locust by spring.

It means the situation will be serious in areas of Balochistan and need effective survey and control arrangements.

In the most recent forecast, current locust situation has been underscored as extremely alarming and represents an unprecedented threat to food security and livelihoods in horn of Africa. In addition, important locust situations continue to develop along both sides of the Red Sea, in Oman and in southern Iran.

Agriculture Losses

Locust outbreak in Pakistan has turned serious and agriculture losses are reported in Balochistan, Punjab and Sindh provinces, as these locations are close to main agriculture production areas of the country. Now the intensity of Locust has sustained in desert area's of Sindh, Balochistan and Punjab, this will require a major control campaign.

Govt. Measures

JOINT SURVEY

Conducted a joint Locust survey with Iran during April 2019.

SPRAY

Sprayed 302,285 hectares and has successfully controlled Locust in some areas of Pakistan.

AERIAL SURVEILLANCE

Conducted aerial surveillance in Locust-affected areas in Sindh and Punjab provinces.

AWARENESS

The Federal Minister met local communities, growers and officials of the provincial departments.

MEETINGS

Conducted meetings with provincial authorities to counter the situation by all means.

FAO Measures

COORDINATION

Notified focal point on Pest against Crops (PaC) and enhanced interaction with concerned institutions

GPS EQUIPMENT

Provided GPS equipment for effective surveys through eLocust3 system

ADVISORY NOTE

For preparation and implementation of Desert Locust Control Campaigns

SOPs

FAO headquarter Rome provided SOPs for ground and aerial survey and control for desert Locust

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

FAO Pakistan has provided financial support (PKR 7.4 million) to handle "Prevailing Desert Locust Emergent Situation"

TRAININGS/SEMINARS

Training courses on "Desert Locust Biology", survey and control at Quetta, Bahawalpur and Sukkur, two seminars for farmers community in Punjab and Balochistan

985,230
hactares

Total Area Surveyed

305,920
hactares

Total Area Treated

285,620
hactares

Area Treated by vehicles

20,300
hactares

Area Treated by Aircraft

