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 crisis.

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.

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.

**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.

**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.

**Situation**

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

**Forecast**

As per FAO forecasts, the remaining swarms along the Indo-Pakistan border will migrate to southwest Pakistan and southern Iran, slowly maturing and breeding. Recent rains in southeast Iran are conducive to significant breeding, causing major concerns.

**Agriculture Losses**

Locust outbreaks in Pakistan have resulted in significant agricultural losses in Balochistan, Punjab, and Sindh provinces. These locations are close to main agricultural production areas, and the situation is expected to worsen.

**Govt. Measures**

**JOINT SURVEY**

Conducted a joint 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.

**Total Area Treated 2019-20**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Total Area Surveyed</th>
<th>Total Area Treated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar, 19</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr, 19</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May, 19</td>
<td>4,135</td>
<td>4,135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June, 19</td>
<td>10,505</td>
<td>10,505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July, 19</td>
<td>8,030</td>
<td>8,030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug, 19</td>
<td>16,560</td>
<td>16,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept, 19</td>
<td>31,185</td>
<td>31,185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct, 19</td>
<td>29,700</td>
<td>29,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov, 19</td>
<td>59,874</td>
<td>59,874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec, 19</td>
<td>79,056</td>
<td>79,056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan, 20</td>
<td>62,195</td>
<td>62,195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb, 20</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Area Treated by vehicles**

20,300 hectares

**Area Treated by Aircraft**

305,920 hectares

**Surveyed Treated**

7,400 ha

2,690 ha

**485,640 ha**

194,180 ha

**697,820 ha**

305,920 ha

**Source:** Brief on Desert Locust Spread in Pakistan, Feb 2020, FAO


**Disclaimer:** The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

**Prepared By:** Information Management Unit, FAO (Feb, 2020)