

Webinar: “Sahakar Suraksha: The Locust Issue for Agri-Cooperatives”

NCDC organised a webinar, **“Sahakar Suraksha: The Locust Issue for Agri-Cooperatives” on 5 June 2020** to create awareness on the burning issue of locust attack, one of the worst in the last 60 years.

2. The webinar was streamed live on Facebook live page <https://web.facebook.com/ncdcindia> and on [YouTube live page of NCDC India-“Sahakar Cooptube”](#). The webinar was attended by senior government officials of various departments, CEOs and MD of various enterprises, cooperative leaders, farmers associated with the cooperatives and recorded over 2000 views with view-count continuously increasing. The webinar was coordinated by Shri K.K. Choudhary, Executive Director, NCDC.

3. To begin with, Shri Sundeep Kumar Nayak, Managing Director, NCDC, stressed the need to create awareness of the grim locust swarm situation among farmers and the role of cooperatives, also citing that around 94 percent of Indian farmers are associated with one or another cooperatives. He thanked all the experts and policy makers for joining the webinar and participants who have joined to spread awareness on how to tackle the locust infestation.

4. Shri S.V.S. Ranga Rao, Registrar Cooperative Societies, Uttar Pradesh stated that the State Govt. has started a awareness campaign to educate the farmers of the damage caused by locust swarms at procurement centres, PACs and cooperative banks with the active involvement of the employees of different cooperatives.

5. Shri Ajit Kesari, Principal Secretary Farmers Welfare, Government of Madhya Pradesh stated that the locust swarms entered the state on 17 May and teams of the government of India alongwith officials from the affected districts are taking all steps including drum beating, spraying with water and chemicals every night and so far around 7 thousands litres of chemical has been used to control the locust attack. The cooperatives play an active and important role in controlling the spread of locust swarms.

6. Dr. Dinesh Sharma, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh in his address shared the multifarious steps being taken by the state government to control the spread of locust swarms among the farmers. Teams are deployed carrying equipment such as vehicle mounted sprayer, tractor mounted sprayer, fire fighter, drones and others to prevent the spread of locust and acknowledged that beating thalis (plates), dhols and nagaras have helped in driving away locusts from damaging vegetation and crops.

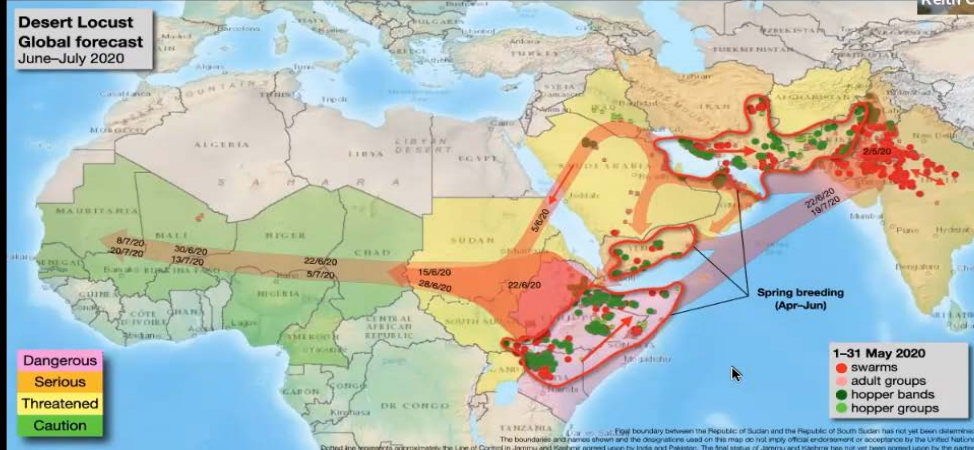
7. Dr. S. K. Malhotra, Agriculture Commissioner, Govt. of India in his keynote address informed that over 94,800 hectare area in five districts have been affected with the attack of locust swarms. The advisory for spraying the chemical on the crops has been released and several steps to control them have been undertaken. He also emphasized on the role of cooperative institutions in controlling the spread of locust swarms by participating in different training programs and seminars organized by the government and spreading the message amongst the farmers. He informed the participants that locust number can increase by 20 times in the next three months and hence continuous efforts need to be taken to avoid serious damage.

8. Mr. Keith Cressman, locust forecasting expert, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Rome indicated that Africa, Yemen and Pakistan are the most affected due to the spread of locust swarms, but due to recent cyclones like Amphan, the swarms have been pushed further east to the Indian states of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh etc. Elaborating the breeding pattern of the locusts, he said that a global early warning system has been developed by FAO in coordination with 30 countries wherein real time data is

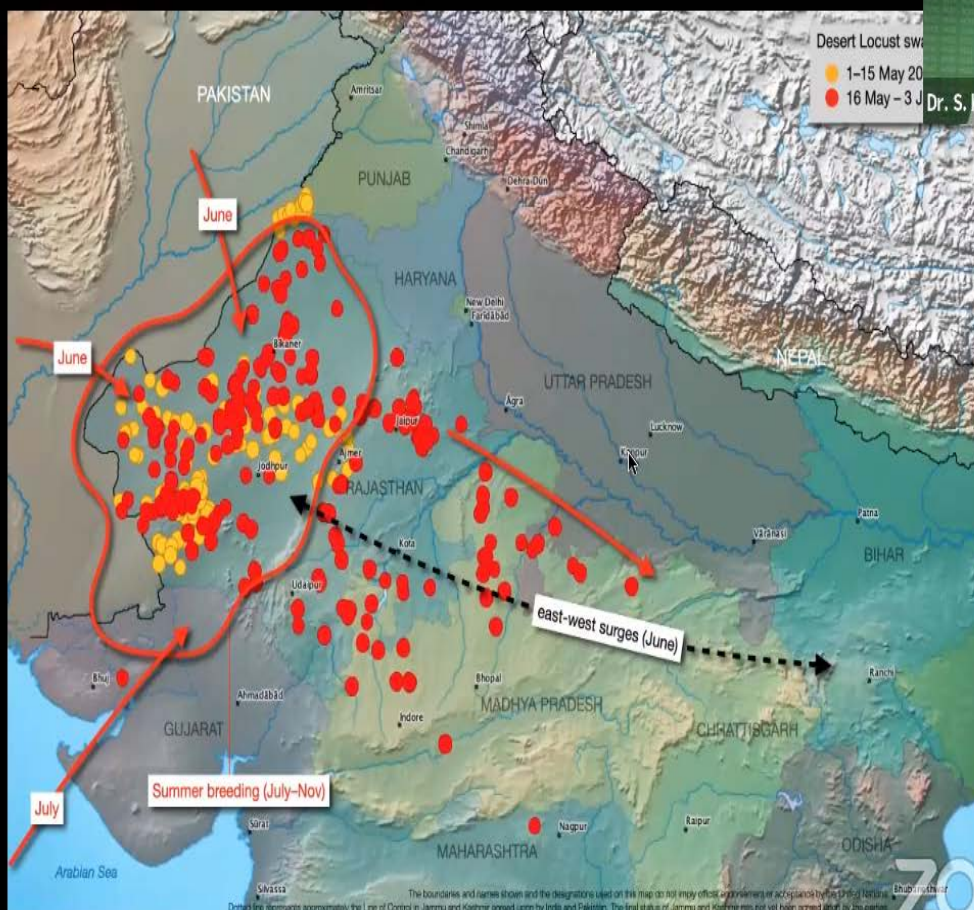
9. Keynote speaker Dr S K Malhotra and Mr. Keith Cressman answered questions raised by participants on the occasion.





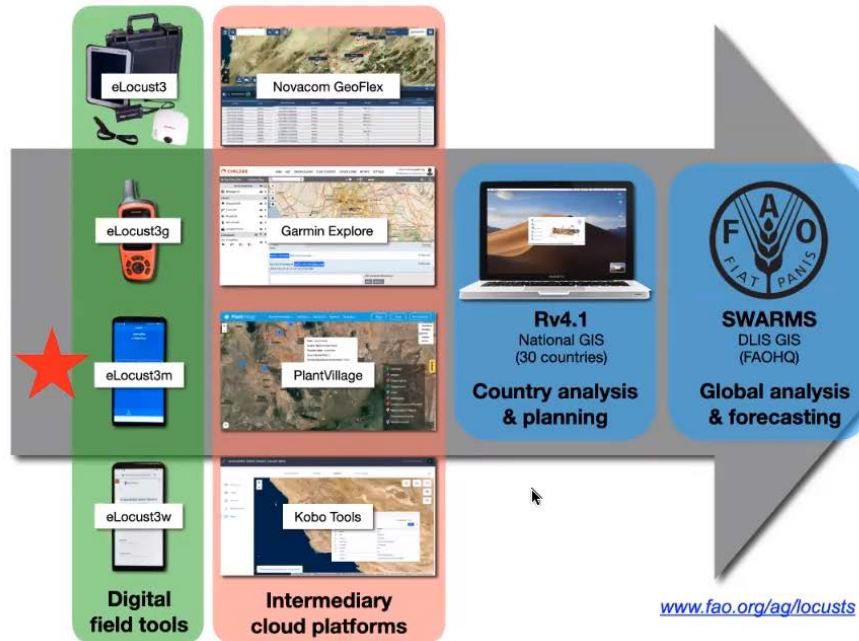


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DESERT LOCUST global early warning system



Locust Hub

www.fao.org/ag/locusts

Zoom

The screenshot shows the 'Locust Watch Desert Locust' page from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The page is dated 4 June 2020 and features a 'Desert Locust situation update' section. It includes a 'situation THREAT' map and a 'Desert Locust Data Explorer' section. The page also has a sidebar with 'Information' and 'Latest additions'.

Locust Watch

www.fao.org/ag/locusts



Locust Hub



Zoom

Farmer options

Good results

- Dig trenches around crops to bury hoppers
- Inform local authorities (bio/pesticides)

Mixed results

- Natural repellants (garlic+chili)
- Botanicals (Linseed oil + essential oils)
- Antifeedants (Neem)

Poor results

- IPM (deterrent plants, mixed crops, etc.)
- Ducks
- Traps
- Noise, music, dancing



zoom







Sandeep Singh

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