



Food and Agriculture
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DESERT LOCUST SITUATION (Overview)

FAO Pakistan



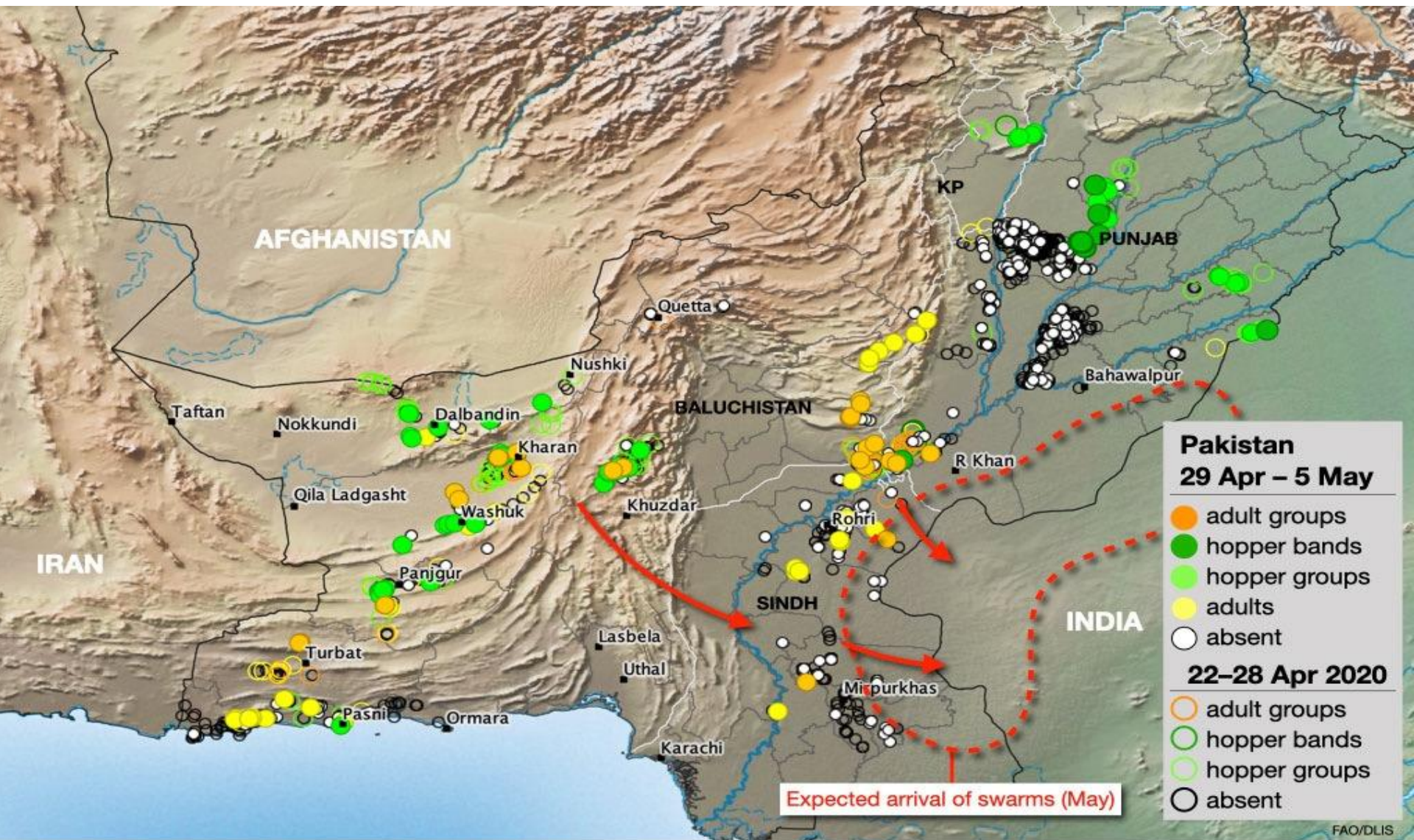
Desert Locust

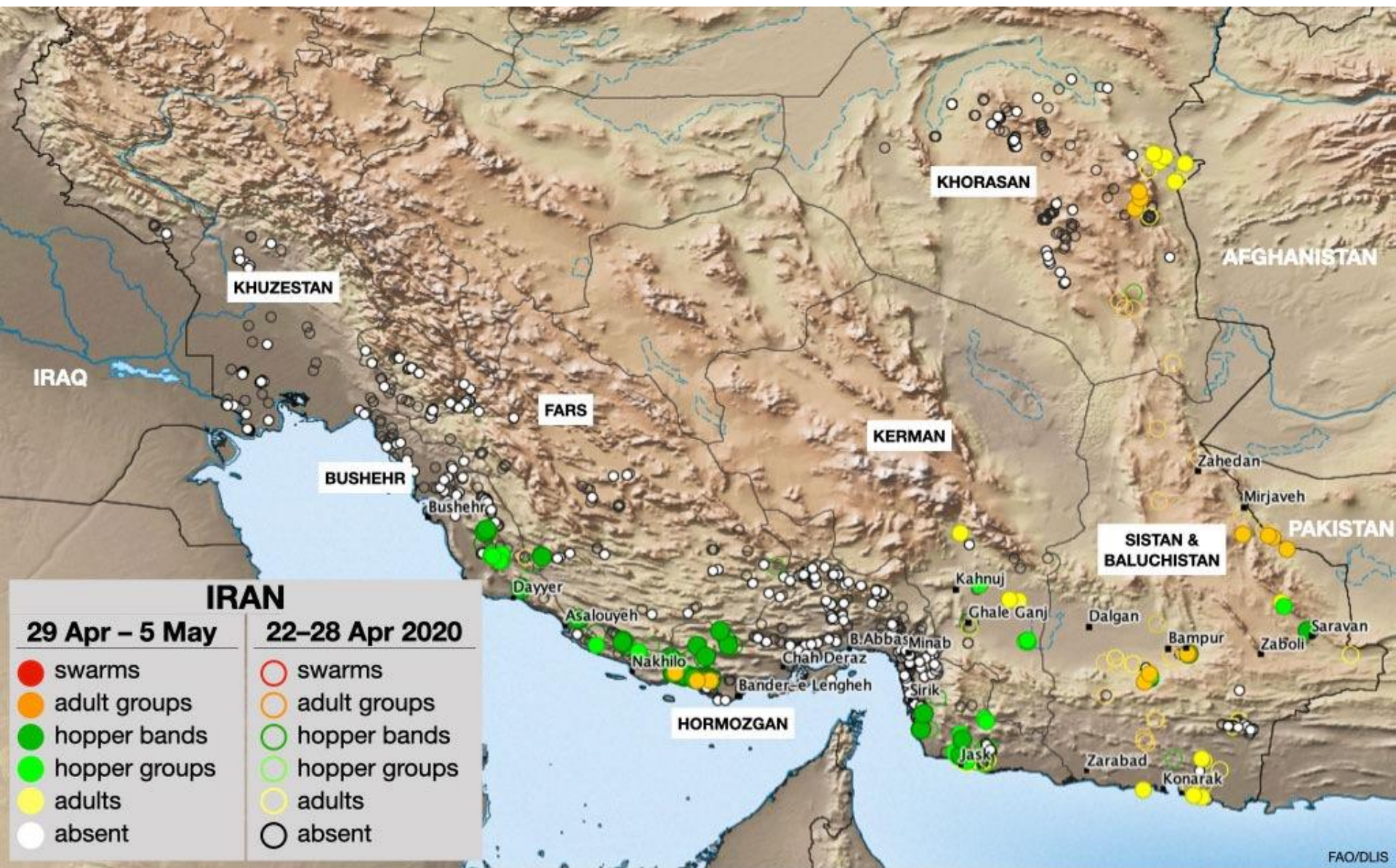
- Desert Locust a transboundary pest of unusual destructive power to damage agriculture and food security
- Desert Locust outbreak in 2019 turn serious in Pakistan by spreading close to main agriculture production areas
- Towards end 2019 and start of 2020 unusual wide spread of Desert Locust was observed in main agriculture production areas (Sindh/Central Punjab/KP)
- Under these conditions initial crop damages (wheat, oilseed and cotton) of over 115 thousand ha were reported



Actions and Impact

- Government declared national emergency on January 31, 2020 and approved a National Action Plan
- NDMA given a lead role in coordination with DPP and Provincial Governments
- FAO provided core resources (equipment, technical, human and funding), overseeing whole operation and mobilized other donors support (DIFID, Korea and China-SSC)
- To strengthen regional cooperation a Ministerial Meeting (Video Conference call) was organized by FAO on 11 March 2020 and setting up of TOC under SWAC.
- Chinese experts visited Pakistan to evaluate and explore possibilities for effective control and logistic support.
- Overall 1.5 million ha area has been surveyed and 398,845 ha area treated

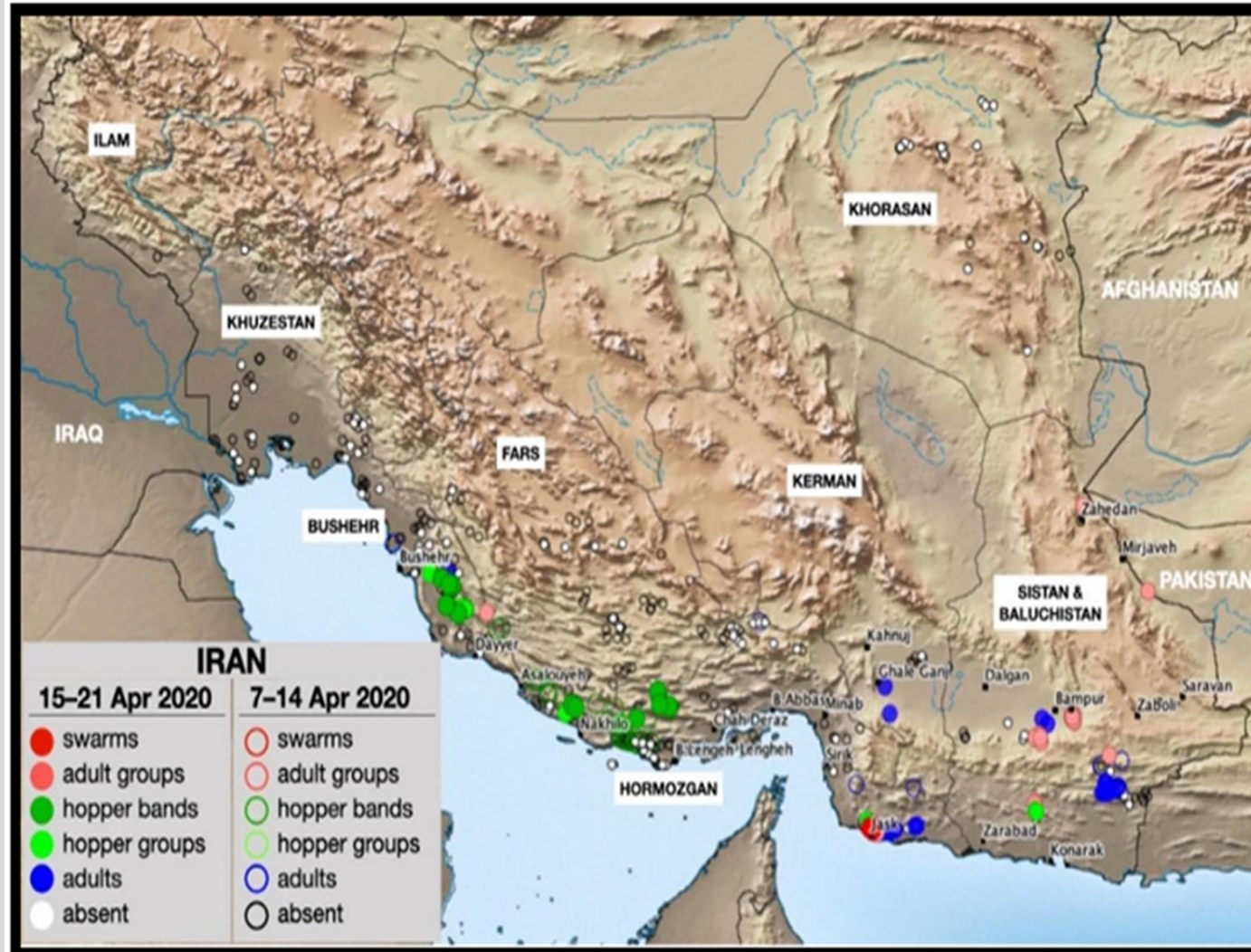






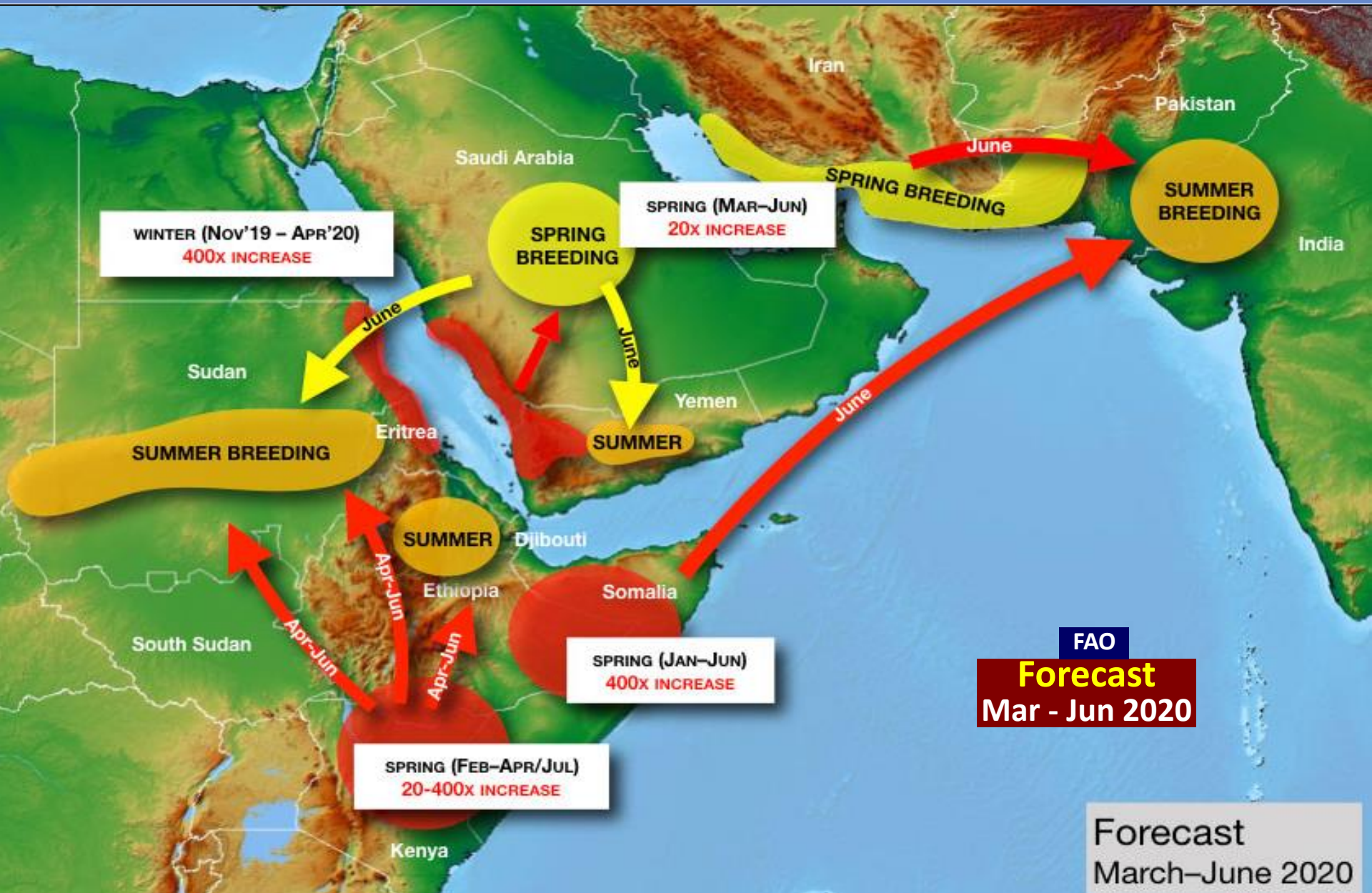
External threats to Pakistan

- Hatching occur in Iran on 900 KM along western Hormozgon
- More hatching expected in southern Khuzestan, Bushehr, Southern Fars
- High level of locust activity reported in countries around Red Sea
- India limited hatching





FAO Regional Locust Forecast up to Jun 2020



FAO
Forecast
Mar - Jun 2020

Forecast
March-June 2020



Locust Control Strategy with Timeline

Task	Specific Activity	Stage I (2020)						Stage II (2020)						
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Planning	Finalization of NAP with Provincial and Federal participation	█												
	Allocation of resources for NAP implementation		█											
	Mobilization and distribution of responsibilities among stakeholders		█											
Material purchase and availability	Pesticides	█												
	100 sprayers		█											
	Purchase / deployment of vehicles		█											
	Deployment of 3 Air Craft availability		█											
	Deployment of 4 Helicopters			█										
	Ensuring availability of 500 motorized spray machines		█											
	Supply of 50 additional spray machines from China			█										
	Purchase of 100 E-Locust devices		█											
Deployment of operational teams for locust control	Baluchistan Survey/ Control teams (60)		█											
	Sindh Survey team (28)		█											
	Sindh Survey and Control				█									
	Punjab Survey Team (52)		█											
	Punjab Survey and Control		█			█								
	KPK Survey / Control Team (33)		█			█								
Command and control of operation	Command, Control and Coordination by MNFS&R, Pakistan Army, NDMA, Provincial Chief Ministers under technical support of FAO	█												



Requirements of National Action Plan

Province	Prone Distts	No of Teams	Manpower (DPP+PG+LC)	Vehs	eLocust / GPS	Sprayers (FG+PG)	Pesticides (FG+PG)	Area (Sq Km)	Area to be Surveyed (Sq Km)
Bln	11	60	268 (32+148+60)	60	30 / 64	61 (27+34)	200,000 (150K+50K)	225,925	80,337
Sindh	7	28	112 (19+65+28)	28	- / 28	90 (20+70)	74,000 (60K+14K)	66,731	29,359
Punjab	12	52	208 (10+146+52)	60	- / 40	66 (26+40)	270,000 (70K+200K)	109,876	25,723
KP	9	33	132 (0+99+33)	34	- / 34	129 (14+115)	57,000 (37K+20K)	34,884	15,919
Total	39	173	588 (61+458+173)	182	30/166	446 (87+359)	551,000 (267K+284K)	437,416	160,936 (37 %)

Overall, area of **prone Districts** to be surveyed - **scientifically reduced to ~37 %** based on **habitat analysis by SUPARCO**



Current Situation

- 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 by mid May 2020
- Few swarms likely to reach Indo Pakistan border area in early May followed by several waves of swarms later in May and June

What Next

- Desert Locust evolving 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.
- Any lapses in timely control measures would lead to food insecurity/humanitarian crisis
- It has been estimated that if the Desert Locust situation become unmanageable than the estimated losses for kharif/Summer crops PKR 688.49 billion and Rabi/Winter crops PKR 705.8 billion (Source:DPP).



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Thanks!

<http://www.fao.org/pakistan>