

Rural Education & Economic Development Society (REEDS) Pakistan

Introduction: The anti-locust operations have been carried out in 5,430 square kilometers (approximately 543,036 hectares) area in order to eradicate the pests and to save agriculture land, fruit and vegetables farms as well from its negative impacts. More than 1,135 joint teams were taking part in the anti-locusts operation in 53 districts of the country. According to details released by the National Locust Control Center (NLCC) joint teams of the Ministry of National Food Security, provincial departments of agriculture and Pakistan Army were conducting a comprehensive survey and control operation against locusts in different districts of the country. In addition to aerial spraying with the help of airplanes and helicopters, non-conventional methods are also being used for effective control of locust during control operations.

Signing of MOUs

REEDS has successfully signed Memorandum of Understanding with District Management of Vehari, Rahim Yar Khan and Ghotki for the control and management of locust under 'Project in Support of Preventive Desert Locust Control & Management in Sindh & Punjab'' supported by kerk inActie (KIA)



MOU is being signed by Dr. Muzafar, Focal Person REEDS and Rana Muhammad Arif Deputy Director Agriculture Extension Department Vehari after signing by Deputy Commissioner District Vehari



Dr. M. Yousaf Ali Project Manager REEDS is Participating in Progress sharing meeting chaired by DC Ghotki

Progress sharing meetings Chaired by Deputy Commissioner

Dr. Muhammad Yousaf Ali, Project Manager is regularly participating the said meetings chaired by the Deputy Commissioners for sharing their progress which appreciated by the worthy Deputy Commissioners' especially the contribution of the KIA (kerk in actie) for strengthening the District Government by providing spray machines, pesticides etc. and support for surveillance surveys.

FM-106-Radio Awareness Programs

Two radio awareness programs organized. The main objectives of these programs were to guide the farmers about locust management, and live response to the question from the farmers and other stakeholders. The key speakers/experts of the programs were Dr. Muhammad Yousaf Ali (REEDS) Deputy Director Agri. Extension Rahim Yar Khan and Cotton Inspector Vehari



REEDS Participation in FM-106 Program

Inauguration of Locust Information Cells

Locusts informations are fully functional in all the three districts (Vehari, Rahim Yar Khan & Ghotki) under supervision of District Administration as well as in REEDS office too to collect the data about current situation of locusts swarms.



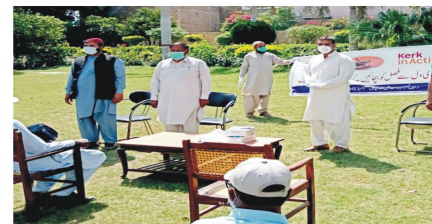
Dr. M. Yousaf Ali Briefing the audience about purpose of Locust Information Cell after Administration by ADC-II Ghotki



Dr. M. Yousaf Ali Project Manager REEDS is participating in progress sharing meetings chaired DC R.Y.Khan

Capacity Building sessions of Agriculture Extension and REEDS Staff

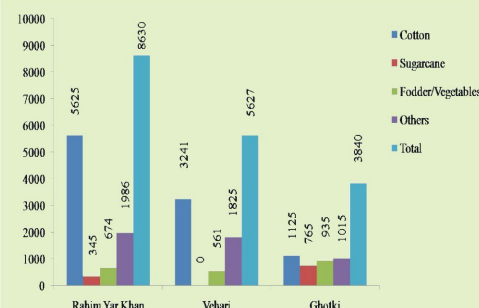
Three one day training sessions were organized for the capacity building of the Agriculture Extension and REEDS staff in all the three districts facilitated by Dr. Muhammad Yousaf Ali, Project Manager, Deputy Directors Agriculture Extension and Cotton Inspectors under the supervision of the focal persons nominated by district Govt. For Locust Control and Management Project.



Dr. Muhammad Yousaf Ali along with DD, AED, RYK and Asstt. Dir. AED Khanpur, conducting capacity building session

Crop Loss due to Locusts Attack (Ha)

Locusts has damaged different crops during recurrent attacks in different areas of Punjab, Sindh & Baluchistan including our target districts. The detailed crop losses due to locusts is shown in graph for District Rahim Yar Khan, Vehari & Ghotki. Total of 8630 ha, 5627 ha & 3840 ha crops were damaged in Rahim Yar Khan, Vehari & Ghotki districts respectively.



Crop Loss due to Locusts Attack in target districts



A spray man ready for his services

Mock Exercise in Vehari for locus control

After handing over of engine operated power spray machines and pesticide District Administration of Vehari along with Deputy Director AED, team of Agriculture Officers and REEDS staff conducted mock exercise for control of locust attack. During the monthly meeting with Mr. Khalid Mehmood Durrani, Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue the working of REEDS was appreciated. The mock exercise was further acknowledged for being the reason of minimum damage due to locust attack.



REEDS Vehari with support of AED conducting Mock Exercise

Case Study Locusts

Mr. Muhammad Zulfiqar resident of 272/1L Tehsil Liaquat Pur District Rahim Yar Khan is a Better Cotton registered farmer like him REEDS team always in contact with all registered farmers for their capacity building to produce better cotton and how they can protect their crop from locust attack now a days. During Face to Face meeting field staff has shared an informatory brochure for locust's awareness having details of Locust Information Cell and contact number of locust's focal person in case of emergency.

It was a sunny day I was resting at my home when heard people "tidi tidi" I rushed out of my house people were looking at the sky observing the movement of locusts flying over the heads and even inside the houses that means it is attacking the crop. I was half dead when I thought of my crop which was vulnerable to pest as Locusts has started settling in my village. What to do, What to do I was thinking when I hit the name of Field Facilitator of REEDS who just few days back gave me the number of control room. I dialed the number, luckily the bell rang and it was picked by In-charge Locust Control Room Dr. Muhammad Yousaf Ali whom I started sharing the situation of locusts attack and settlement of Locusts on my Cotton Crop which was just 2-3 weeks old.

I informed about locusts attack and was guided to rush toward the fields with all family members and start beating empty drums of Ghee and also initiate the sound producing machine provided by the REEDS. I along with my father, wife and son come to field and I was so lucky that locusts have just started settling. "It was an army of locusts which landed at our lands and could destroy the crops in a while and deprive us of our crops and our livelihood" Mr. Muhammad Zulfiqar said. My father and my son started moving in the fields beating drums and producing noise to repel the Locusts while I collected sticks and cow dung cake to lit fire for producing smoke. We were running in the crop and locusts were flying all around us. It was effort of more than an hour when there was no locusts in our surrounding. I was guided to remain in the field whole night and look for locusts settled in bushes etc. near my crop and spray lambda on settle locusts.

"We were trying to run the locust away through self help but despite all efforts are unable to save our crops completely due to massive attack when REEDS team reached us along with Deputy Director Agriculture, local farmers and volunteers sprayed the crops and bushes where locust was settled.

Thanks REEDS for providing spray machines and pesticides for application along with human resource" Mr. Muhammad Zulfiqar said. I have sown about 8 acres of cotton and sowing cost along with seed was more than Rs. 28000/- which may be wasted if locusts eat my crop. This ways I saved my crop because if I have to go for re sowing I would not yield as much as normal sowing. I am grateful to REEDS for their timely support and guidance as well as providing awareness and knowledge to manage the locust attack.



Happy man, Mr. Muhammad Zulfiqar who is oblige to REEDS & KIA for helping him save his crop from locust.

Surveillance & Combat Operation

Different surveillance surveys and combat operations were conducted in all the three districts under the leadership of Director Agriculture, Deputy Directors Agriculture Extension Assistant Directors and an immense team of field assistants. Deputy Commissioners of all the districts personally supervised the operation and as a result 676316 hectares where surveyed Its great farmers themselves took many initiatives and also supported the teams to control the locust.



REEDS regularly updates the "eLocusts" mobile application after surveys and operations



Different Photos from the Gallery of REEDS during Locust surveillance & comeback operation with support of AED & District Administration.

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