

DAMU- DISTRICT AGROMETEOROLOGICAL UNIT

In modern agriculture, ecology and economy are on equal terms; through environmental issues they are even interdependent. Shortage of resources, destruction of ecological systems and other environmental issues are becoming ever more serious. The large scale and uncontrolled use of chemical fertilisers and plant protection products is not only a burden to the environment but to quite a considerable extent to the farmer's budget, too.

Agricultural production is for a large part still dependent on weather and climate despite the impressive advances in agricultural technology over the last half a century. More than ever, agrometeorological services have become essential because of the challenges provided to many forms of agricultural production by increasing climate variability and associated extreme events as well as climate change, all of which affecting the socio-economic conditions, especially of developing countries.

Regardless of the type of decision, an ever improving understanding of the effects of weather and climate on soils, plants, animals, trees and related production in farming systems, is necessary for decision makers (farmers and managers), to make timely and efficient use of meteorological and climatological information and of agrometeorological services for agriculture. To these ends choices have to be made of the right mixture and blending of traditional adaptation strategies, contemporary knowledge in science and technology and appropriate policy environments. Without policy support systems for agrometeorological services, yields with the available production means will remain below optimal.

Agrometeorological services in developing countries have to shoulder greater responsibilities due to greater population pressure and changing modes of agricultural practices. More and more demands pertaining to agrometeorological information and services are expected from the farming communities in the future on technologies, farming systems patterns, water management, weather based pest and disease control etc., preferably with local innovations as starting points. Thus the future challenges include the necessity to emphasize a bottom up approach so that forecasts, specific advisories and contingency planning reach even the small farmers for applications in their planning and day-to-day agricultural operations.

Under Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS), IMD jointly with ICAR proposes to expand the network to cover 660 districts by establishing District Agro-Met Units (DAMUs) in additional 530 districts including 115 aspirational districts in the premise of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) of ICAR, under approved centrally sponsored scheme of MoES. DAMU will frame the sub-district/ block level Agromet Advisory Bulletins (AABs) and disseminate to farmers using multi-channel communication mechanism in the country to reach out to 95.4 million farming households. During 2018-19 DAMU has been established at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Buldhana (DR.PDKV,Akola).The prime object of DISTRICT AGROMETEOROLOGICAL UNIT-(DAMU) a joint initiative by IMD-ICAR-SAU is to minimize the impact of adverse weather on crops and to make use of crop-weather relationships to boost agricultural production.

In this regard IMD provided weather data i.e. realized weather data and weather forecasting and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Buldhana has been generated specific advisories for agricultural

management for the respective blocks belongs from the district under the area of its jurisdiction and disseminate the same to the farming community. The specific advisories based on realized past weather data & weather forecasting has been prepared by recommendations of members (Subject Matter Specialist from each discipline) from Expert panel Committee at KVK, Buldhana. This Agro- Advisory Bulletins (AABs) prepared and disseminated twice in a week (Tuesday & Friday) through one regional language i.e. Marathi and another is English. The large no. of farmers are covered under dissemination of Agro- Advisories under DAMU throughout the Buldhana district by means of Social Media.

IMD issued weather forecast for District and blocks



Expert Panel Committee discussion on preparation of AABs



Farmers Feedback on AABs significance



Dissemination of AABs through Social media to end users (farmers)



Preparation of AABs & uploading at Agro-DSS/ Agrimet. Division Portal







