

Education



**MOU between Ministry of Agriculture
& Agricultural University**

SAFOAM would encourage the curriculum development on agriculture meteorology under Department of Meteorology of the Universities and Agriculture Universities in South Asia and proper strategies of education for the new entrants from the member countries would be given importance. Basic subjects on agrometeorology would be included along with the subjects of country specific under the educational programme. It would be good to bring together experts from the Agricultural Universities and prepare module/curriculum in Bachelors' level on climate change, weather and climate knowledge.

Before preparing the education programme for any country, it is essential to know the input materials readily available and what is the present level of education and also what types of farmers along with the need of the country and who would be the participants and ultimately what types of output are expected including from the farmers of that country. Education programme would be prepared based on the need of the country from pre to post degree levels. Webinar-based education programme would be arranged as number of experts are available under SAFOAM programme. It would be prudent to arrange 30-40 lectures including basic subjects of agrometeorology along with country specific subjects through the training programme.

Besides, the subject of agrometeorology would be included in the Environmental Science as only Botany is included at present. As climate change, water use, adaptation, agrometeorology would lead to the as only better management of agriculture and in turn increased and sustainable food production in South Asia, more stress would be provided in education programme. It would be good idea to include the subjects like selection of seed and post harvest technology in the education programme. Under the present circumstances, series of webinar for school to higher level by the expert would be arranged. to create interest for the subject of agrometeorology and its importance in the present & future especially under climate change scenario. It is also planned to prepare needful and attractive capsule courses for the agricultural scientists for special aptitude for agrometeorology.

SAFOAM would reviews the requirements for training, education and extension in in agrometeorology in developments in higher education programmes, in training for agrometeorological technicians, and at other vocational levels where agrometeorology is involved. This has been done only sporadically and not very explicitly at the level of end-users (for example farmers in field classes). It also encourages the development of teaching materials for use in workshops and seminars and by visiting lecturers. While the scientific principles are the same in all countries in South Asia, however, the potential applications and the conditions under which they are used vary greatly among countries in different climates and at different stages of development. This also applies

to education, training and extension to put these applications into effect. Training programmes at all levels must therefore be adapted to national and regional needs (WMO, 2000). In terms of recent operational efforts, this includes developing extension agrometeorology around the establishment of agrometeorological services.

Meteorology/agrometeorology subjects would be included from the school level. There is need to include the course on weather, climate & agriculture even from the school level so that importance of the subject would be understood by the prospective farmers in different sectors of agriculture i.e., fishery, livestock, poultry and this would help us immensely in future.

As far as education capsule course at school level is concerned, education committee under the forum might look into these aspects. In addition to that agrometeorology course would cover the selection of seed to post harvest and storage of crops. Some of the recommendation on educational programme are as follows.

- 1. SAFOAM would take initiative with the respective Government agencies and Agricultural Universities in South Asia to promote & support, to open up Agromet Course in agricultural universities in the member countries of South Asia.*
- 2. Prepare the curriculum in the science of Agricultural Meteorology and related disciplines.*
- 3. There is need to spend considerable time planning the modules and make several of them available through online resources.*
- 4. . Short course on agromet bulletin preparation, dissemination, agromet research for enhancing agrometeorology in South Asia.*
- 5. SAFOAM would provide human resources as lectures or professors so that such initiative would be taken up to offer degree in meteorology or agrometeorology in universities in South Asian Countries.*
- 6. Support to arrange Post-graduate and PhD studentships*