

Afghanistan

Currently with the World Bank support, early action plan on weather and climate is being developed and expected to be completed by 2021. It is expected to manage and update the current areas and extending to remote areas like district. At present there is no proper institutional arrangements in developing agromet advisories. In spite of its presence in agriculture and meteorology departments, the agromet advisories is not truly going to farmer but only to the central part of communication system having ICT facilities.

Scientists with the USGS Agro-Meteorology (Agromet) Project assisted the Afghan Government in collecting and analyzing agricultural and meteorological data in relation to crop production, irrigation, water supply, energy, and aviation.

Key aspects of the program involved in establishing a country-wide network of meteorological data-collecting stations and creating an extensive national database for the analysis of meteorological, hydrological, and agricultural information.

As part of the project, more than 100 agromet observation stations were installed throughout Afghanistan. These stations enable acquisition of current, valid agromet data that are essential for modeling and forecasting crop yields.

Accurate agromet data are also important for assessing Afghanistan's water supply and demand, estimating snow melt and water runoff, gauging the need for irrigation and hydropower, and validating satellite data.

Furthermore, continuous monitoring of key weather parameters can provide the earliest indications of potential crop failures and subsequent food shortages.

Agro-meteorological stations across Afghanistan are providing farmers vital information on climatic and soil conditions, enabling them to grow and irrigate their crops more effectively.

Five newly installed stations, supported by On-Farm Water Management Project (OFWMP) under the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock, are providing more reliable, timely information through an automated system.

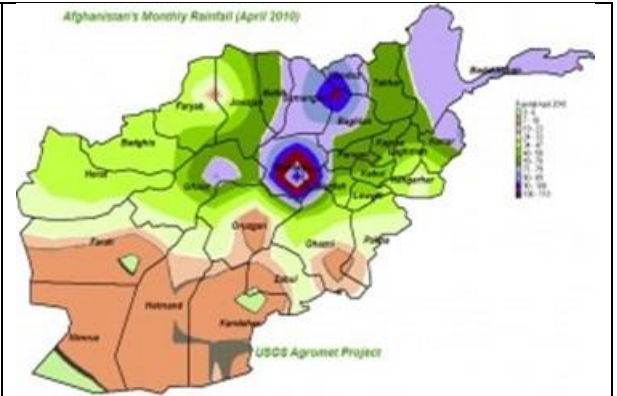
OFWMP, which works to improve agricultural productivity by enhancing the efficiency of water use, is supported by a \$25 million grant from the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund.

Agromet project participants also helped in establishing an operational crop yield forecasting system (primarily for wheat) as well as a national monitoring and early warning system for droughts and floods.

They helped to train nearly 200 people, including many individuals from the Afghan Meteorological Authority and various Afghan ministries, in agro and hydrometeorological techniques and tools.



With Afghan colleagues, USGS team members were also involved in publishing regular and timely agrometeorological reports, seasonal analyses, and special bulletins, and disseminating these documents among national and international agencies and NGOs



The automated stations are connected to satellites and automatically relay the recorded information through Internet to the administrator's website on an hourly basis.