

Webinar on the “Remembrances of Dr. Mannava V.K. Sivakumar, Former Advisor of International Society for Agricultural Meteorology



Dr. Mannava V.K. Sivakumar was born on 30th August 1950 in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, India. He graduated in Agricultural Science from Agriculture College, Bapatla in 1966-70. He completed his Master's degree from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi (1970-72) and his Ph.D. from Iowa State University in 1977. After completing his education, he worked at the International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) from 1978 to 1996. Dr. Sivakumar worked at the ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India, from 1977 to 1983 and at the ICRISAT Sahelian Centre (ISC) in Niamey, Niger, in West Africa from 1984 to 1996. His highest position at ICRISAT was Principal Agricultural Climatologist at the ISC in Niamey, Niger. He occupied the positions of team leader of the Resource Management Program, and Director of the Soils and Agroclimatology Division at ICRISAT. He went on to become Head of the Agricultural Meteorological Division of the World Meteorological Organization, Geneva, Switzerland (1998-2010) and later Director, Climate Prediction and Adaptation Branch from 2010-2012. He retired from WMO in 2012 and worked as a consultant for various organizations.

Though the untimely demise of Dr. Sivakumar created huge gaps in the initiative of development of agricultural meteorology in the world, the entire agromet community and global users of agromet information are inspired by his vision of helping the farmers under the scenario of food security, climatic variability, and climate change. With his outlook and vision as an advisor of the International Society for Agricultural Meteorology (INSAM), number of countries in the world has started working to fulfil his desire for the development as well as popularisation of the subject of agricultural meteorology. All the executive members of INSAM feel that organisation of webinar on important areas, where Dr. Sivakumar took active initiative i.e., Education, Training & Research & Services climate action in agriculture etc, may be organised to further remember the contributions of Dr. Sivakumar as well as inform the agromet community about new dimensions of these thrust areas of agrometeorology. Eight eminent agrometeorologists, as mentioned below, across the world are invited to speak on this occasion. Programme details are mentioned underneath.



Mr. Robert Stefanski
WMO, Switzerland



Dr Jim Salinger
New Zealand



Dr Laxman Singh Rathore
India



Dr. Elena Mateescu
Romania



Dr. Raymond L. Desjardins
Canada



Dr. Orivaldo Brunini
Brazil



Dr Samsul Huda
Australia.



Dr. Y.S. Ramakrishna
India

Programme

Date: 3rd May, 2025: Time: 2.00 P.M (14.00 IST)

2.00 – 2.05 P.M	Welcome address by Dr. Nabansu Chattopadhyay, President, International Society for Agricultural Meteorology.
2.05-2.10 P.M	Address by Shri Mr. Vishwanath Manava, Son of Dr.M.V.K.Sivakumar.
2.10-2.15 P.M	Address by Dr.KPR Vittal,Former Director of Central Arid Zone Research Institute & National Institute of Abiotic Stress Management and Brother-in-Law of Dr.M.V.K.Sivakumar.
2.15. – 2.35 P.M	Presentation on “Historical overview of WMO activities in Agrometeorology” by Mr. Robert Stefanski, Chief, Agricultural Meteorology Division, Co-lead, Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP), World Meteorological Organization, Geneva, Switzerland .
2.35-2.55 P.M	Presentation on “Climate variability and change: past, present and future” by Dr Jim Salinger, Former President, and Vice President of the WMO Commission of the Commission for Agricultural Meteorology
2.55-3.15 P.M	Presentation on “Contribution of Dr.M.V.K.Sivakumar for capacity building in agrometeorology” by Dr Laxman Singh Rathore Former Director General of Meteorology, and Advisor, International Society for Agricultural Meteorology (INSAM)
3.15-3.35 P.M	Presentation on “Regional initiatives to enhance agrometeorological activities and services within WMO” by Dr Elena MATEESCU, Director-General of the Romanian Meteorological Service, Permanent Representative of Romania with World Meteorological Organization (WMO),- Vice-Chair, Standing Committee on Services for Agriculture (SC-AGR), World Meteorological Organization, Geneva, Switzerland.
3.35-3.55 P.M	Presentation on “Crop modelling and its role in minimising climate-related risks and maximising opportunities” by Dr Samsul Huda. Adjunct Associate Professor in the School of Science, Western Sydney University, Australia and Executive Member, International Society for Agricultural Meteorology (INSAM)
3.55 - 4.15 P.M	Presentation on “The Contribution of Agriculture to the State of Climate-A Brief Update” by Dr. Raymond L. Desjardins, Emeritus scientist , Science and Technology Branch of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Ottawa, Canada, and Former team leader of a CAgM expert team, World Meteorological Organization, Geneva, Switzerland
4.15-4.35 P.M	Presentation on “The importance of Dr. Sivakumar's legacy for Agrometeorology in Brazil and Latin America” by Dr. Orivaldo Brunini, Director, Agricultural Research Support Foundation, Brazil. Former Professor of Agrometeorology, Faculdade Luiz Meneghel and Former Senior Researcher on Agrometeorology Agronomic Institute-IAC, Brazil
4.35-4.55 IST	Presentation on “Shivkumar- A pioneer on Management of Weather and Climate risks in Agriculture “ by Dr.Y.S.Ramakrishna, Ex- Director, CRIDA (ICAR), Member, Advisory Committee, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).
4.55-5.00 P.M	Closing of the programme