



Workshop on Monsoon 2022: Impact of Monsoon Variability on Agriculture

South Asian Forum for Agricultural Meteorology (SAFOAM) and South Asian Meteorological Association (SAMA) are pleased to announce jointly Workshop on Monsoon 2022: Impact of Monsoon Variability on Agriculture. The workshop will be organised on 3rd December 2022 on virtual mode.

Background & Objectives

Despite the technological and scientific progress, the agricultural production and quality are highly weather and climate dependent in South Asia. Also, agriculture has a challenge to cope with climate change and variability in this region. Besides, South Asia is highly prone to extreme weather events and weather aberrations, which result in major impacts on crops and live stocks. The agriculture is the prime economic sector and it depends on timely, accurate and useful weather and climate information-based services. However, farmers of the region have limited access to modern weather information services. Several climate service programmes are being conceptualized to address these issues through different initiatives. Weather based farm advisory services in South Asia is emerging and varies in its quality and coverage throughout the region.

South Asian Forum for Agricultural Meteorology (SAFOAM) and South Asian Meteorological Association (SAMA) involving all the countries in South Asia along with the international cooperation are exploring to accomplish a mechanism to facilitate sharing of knowledge, products, information, tools etc. and integrate available information from regional and national institutions in the region and develop specific strategies to tackle and face consequences of climate & climate triggered challenges.

For the agricultural communities in South Asia, summer monsoon is considered one of the most important seasons as it coincides with major crops cultivation. For all the staple crops for the region, any damage or impact during the season would have a direct impact on the household food security. Farmers in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and neighbouring countries depend on the warm, moisture-laden monsoon winds to water their crops and refill rivers and wells. Too little rain means harvests may fail, affecting food prices worldwide.

However, rainfall patterns in the past two decades have seen substantial changes in the date of arrival, frequency as well as distribution. However, the major concern is the break in rain once farmers have sown the kharif crops. As a result, farmers often face crop loss. Studies suggest that variability is increasing in certain areas in South Asian region. It is leading to more floods and more droughts. There is a change in the distribution of rainfall and we are finding the frequency of high rainfall events increasing due to climate change. Rainfed crops are likely to be worst hit due to limited options of coping with variability of rainfall and temperature resulting in a shift in sowing time and shorter growing season, which may necessitate effective adjustment in sowing and harvesting dates. Increasing intra-seasonal variability of rainfall has become a major concern. Studies also say that when farmers can access better advisories, changing sowing dates is one of the most beneficial climate change adaptation measures for them.

Considering all the facts and figures mentioned above, there is need to understand how the monsoon 2022 behaved and present skill of weather forecast of rainfall, temperature at different temporal and spatial scales and ultimately the on-going operational agromet advisory services being applied to manage the better crop production in each country in South Asia. In view of that it is proposed to organise workshop virtually on 3rd December, 2022 inviting the members of SAFOAM, SAMA and other distinguished experts in the field of meteorology/agrometeorology.

Programme Details

3rd December, 2022

Opening of Workshop

10.00 a.m.-10.05 a.m.	Welcome Address by Dr. Someshwar Das, Secretary, South Asian Meteorological Association (SAMA)
10.05 a.m. -10.10 a.m.	Address by Dr. L. S. Rathore, President, South Asian Forum on Agriculture Meteorology (SAFOAM)
10.10 a.m. - 10.15 a.m.	Address by Dr. Ajit Tyagi, President, South Asian Meteorological Association (SAMA)
10.15 a.m.-10.45 a.m.	Lead Lecture on Performance of the SASCOF forecasts vis-a-vis observed monsoon of 2022 by Dr. O P Sreejith, Head, Long Range Forecast Division, India Meteorological Department, Pune, India

Session: Operational Agromet Advisory Services during Monsoon 2022 in South Asia

Moderator: Dr.L.S. Rathore

10.45 a.m. – 10.55 a.m.	India: Dr. S.K. Bal, Project Coordinator, Central Institute for Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad, India
10.55 a.m. – 11.05 a.m.	Bangladesh: Dr. Mazharul Aziz, Deputy Director (Coordination), Field Services Wing, Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Bangladesh
11.05 a.m. – 11.15 a.m.	Bhutan: Mr. Tshering Wangchen, Dy. Chief Agriculture Officer, Agriculture Research and Extension Division, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Bhutan
11.15 a.m. – 11.25 a.m.	Nepal: Dr. Indira Kadel, Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, Nepal
11.25 a.m. – 11.35 a.m.	Afghanistan: Mr. Waheedullah Yousfi, Agro met expert and coordinator, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Afghanistan
11.35 a.m. - 11.45 a.m.	Sri Lanka: Mrs. Anusha Warnasooriya, Director (Climate Change & Research, Department of Meteorology, Sri Lanka
11.45 a.m. – 10155 a.m.	Myanmar: Ms. Han Swe, Assistant Director, Agro-meteorological Division, DMH, Myanmar
11.55 a.m. -12.05 p.m.	Maldives: Mr. Abdul Muhsin Ramiz, Director Meteorology, Maldives Meteorological Service, Maldives
12.05 a.m. – 12.15 p.m.	Pakistan: Dr. Muhammad Hanif, Former Chief-Meteorologist (R&D), Pak-Met Deptt, Islamabad, Pakistan
12.15 p.m..- 12.25 p.m.	Discussion

Concluding Session

12.25 p.m. -12.30 p.m.	Concluding Remarks by Dr. M.L. Shrestha Vice President, SAMA
12.30 p.m. -12.35 p.m.	Concluding Remarks by Dr. Md Abdul Mueyed, Vice President, SAFOAM Senior Consultant, International Maize & Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT-Bangladesh)
12.35 p.m. -12.40 p.m.	Vote of Thanks by Dr.Sameera Qayoom, Associate Professor, SKUAST Kashmir

