

Agrometeorological Activities in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's agrometeorological network, established in 1973 with support from the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, has played a key role in shaping the country's agricultural practices. Initially set up through research institutions like the **Coconut Research, Rubber Research, and Paddy Research** institutes, the network now includes a wide array of stations providing valuable data for academic, research, and agricultural purposes. Though the **Agromet Division** within the **Meteorological Department** was founded in 1976, it wasn't until 2009 that agrometeorological advisory services were formally introduced in collaboration with the **Agriculture Department**. With the support of the **Green Climate Fund (GCF)** and **RIMES**, the country has made progress in preparing seasonal agroecological advisories, especially in vulnerable dryland areas. Despite these advances, challenges remain, such as the difficulty farmers face in understanding these advisories. Pilot projects, like those in northern Sri Lanka, have successfully integrated agrometeorological services with local irrigation and insurance sectors, emphasizing the need for consistent and regular information. The **World Food Programme** is working towards bridging the gap by developing an **agrometeorological portal** to provide national bulletins, though local advisories are still lacking in accessibility. Efforts to improve the delivery of timely and accurate information to farmers are ongoing, with the aim of ensuring that agromet services effectively support agricultural resilience and decision-making across Sri Lanka.