

Final Report
Agrometeorological Services: Theory and Practice
Regional Meteorological Training Center (RMTTC)
5-10 November 2005, Tehran, Iran

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(IRIMO)**

The regional center for meteorological training held a training program in Iran on "Agrometeorological Services: Theory and Practice". The Atmospheric Science and Meteorological Research Center (ASMERC) hosted the training program in Tehran in the period 5-10 November 2005. This training attracted 10 high level participants from agrometeorological stations.

In the opening ceremony, Dr. (Mrs.) Tajbakhsh, training and research executive director of IRIMO, welcomed all participants and wished them a good training program. She talked about the objectives and their significance in terms of agrometeorological services' contribution to planning and sustainable agriculture. She also welcomed Dr. C. J. Stigter, INSAM president, as a lecturer in this training course and wished him a pleasant stay in Iran.

A series of lectures, round table discussions (question sessions) and a master class were conducted. During the training, the technical advisor, Prof. Stigter, taught the following basic lectures (see also News and Highlights of 29/11):

1. Zoning and mapping as agrometeorological services in developing countries.
2. Farming systems, agrometeorology and agrometeorological services.
3. The place of agrometeorological services in the livelihood of farmers.
4. Agrometeorological services for user communities, some lessons learned.
5. Using traditional methods and indigenous technologies for coping with climate variability.
6. Research and reality.
7. Agrometeorological services making a difference for poor farmers. I. Why it does not happen? II. How it can be done.

Some of the recommendations:

1. Since there is insufficient familiarity with agrometeorological services at community levels, it is necessary to prepare them for this aspect.
2. There should be a close relationship between agrometeorologists and communities related to farmers' problems.
3. Dialogues with farmers, of each farming system distinguished in the region, are the very beginning of preparing for agrometeorological services.
4. Bottom up we have to pay attention to local innovations and understand the agrometeorological components scientifically, often by quantification, to make the most effective designs.
5. Simple quantification of the environment can also very much assist in designing microclimate improvements that make it possible to use other climate factors better and improve yields by manageable protection measures.
6. Experiences show that for the development of agrometeorological services most chances for success appear to be in the small scale/long term problem/disaster category.

