

***Minutes of the of meeting of Core Group II
for steering activities South Asia Forum on
Agricultural Meteorology***

Under the Theme

***Administration/Constitution/ By Laws/
Finance etc. for SAFOAM***



Date: 20th February 2021

Time: 1600 Hrs IST to 1900 Hrs IST

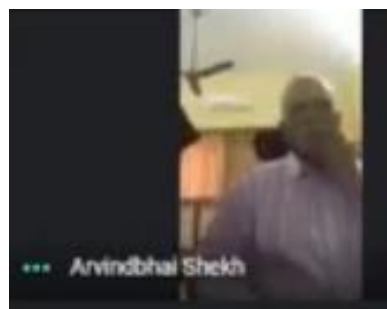
Venue: Virtual Platform (The Google meet)



The meeting was started by welcoming all the members of the Core Group II (list of the members is available in Annexure I) for steering activities of South Asia Forum on Agricultural Meteorology (SAFOAM) under the theme “**Administration/Constitution/ By Laws/ Finance etc. for SAFOAM**”. At the outset all the members introduced themselves.

Dr. Chattopadhyay said that the present theme is very important as all SAFOAM activities in future will be steered out based on this subject. He added that it is expected the meeting would be highly productive and useful under the leadership of Prof.A.M. Sheikh and all the honourable Advisors i.e., Dr. L.S. Rathore, Prof. M C Varshneya &Dr. V.U.M. Rao and all other esteem members of this group. Before, handing over to Prof.A.M. Sheikh for moderation of the meeting, Dr. Chattopadhyay presented a brief introduction of Prof. A.M. Sheikh, Former Vice-Chancellor, Anand Agricultural University, Gujarat, India.

At the outset, **Prof. Sheikh** welcomed all Advisors and esteem members of Core Group II for attending the meeting. Prof..Seikh initially briefed about the salients on-going and proposed activities of the SAFOAM from the second week of February, 2021. He mentioned the different core groups formed with specific themes. Afterwards, Prof. Sheikh gave a brief presentation on the



background and objectives on the formation of SAFOAM and also the points for discussion on preparation of different components of constitution like nomenclature and objectives of the forum, membership, fees, fellowship, administration etc. He said that he has prepared and communicated the the draft concept paper/proposal on “Constitution of theSouth Asian Forum on Agricultural Meteorology (SAFOAM)” mentioning all the components elaborately to all the members of this group for making the discussion more conveniently. He requested all the Advisors initially to give their comments on the draft proposal of constitution



Prof. M C Varshneya, Former Vice-Chancellor, Anand Agricultural University, Gujarat, India said that he has gone through the draft proposal on constitution of SAFOAM and also congratulated Prof. Sheikh for preparing the same so meticulously covering all the required points in this aspect. He said that the name of the forum is very much apt as it includes the countries in South Asia region. However, he felt that if other countries in South East Asia want to join in the forum based on merits of function of SAFOAM, then what would be the policy of the forum. He commented on the different types of membership mentioned in the

proposal. According to him, scientific organisations related to agriculture/ agrometeorology may be considered as institutional members and the farmers' association in the form of NGOs may also be included as institutional members as they are the direct beneficiaries of the services of agrometeorology. As far as the membership fees are concerned, he suggested a lump sum of rupees ten thousand for individual member and Rupees one lakh for institutional member. Membership fees for other national and international organisation like WMO, World Bank and state Government, may be discussed elaborately.

Prof. Sheikh said that though we can make out some framework on the membership and fees for membership under different categories, in depth discussion would be made in the General Body meeting and Executive Body meeting to take the final decision in this regard.



Dr. V.U.M. Rao, *Former* Project Coordinator (Agrometeorology) I/C, AICRP on Agrometeorology (AICRPAM), ICAR - Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), Santoshnagar, Hyderabad, INDIA congratulated all the members of the Group and

especially to Prof. Sheikh for preparing the proposal of Constitution so nicely. According to him, the name of the forum should be South Asia Forum on Agricultural Meteorology. He said that in depth discussion on a number of issues like the location of Head Quarter, formation of chapters in each country, transfer of money, country member should be made in today's meeting and also in GB and small committees may be formed to look after all the above-mentioned issues judiciously. According to him NGOs may be allowed to become member of the forum. He also added that initiation of such initiatives itself is a great job. He said that he would not take much time at this stage of the meeting and like to discuss more when all the issues would be discussed individually.

Prof. Sheikh again mentioned that some of the points raised by **Dr. Rao** would be discussed at length in General Body meeting and Executive Committee meeting as well.

Dr. Chattopadhyay said that SAFOAM has started with nine countries including Myanmar. It may be good idea to establish the SAFOAM with the nine countries initially and make it operational with credential. Afterwards, we may accept the offer to include other countries in South East Asia (Thailand, Vietnam and others) with change in nomenclature of the forum.

Dr. Chattopadhyay continued that proper justification may be worked out to fix the membership fee in different categories of membership.

Prof. Sheikh said that this is an important issue and would be discussed in the General Body meeting. He also reiterated that any periodical changes in the decision of constitution and related matter might be made with the approval of the General Body meeting. **Prof. Sheikh** also asked whether forum or society or association would be appropriate here. **Dr. Chattopadhyay** mentioned that already Hydromet Forum in South Asia has been formed under the active initiatives of World Bank and two meetings of the forum, one in Geneva and another in Kathmandu, were organised. Preliminary discussion with World Bank on the formation and nomenclature of SAFOAM have been discussed. It seemed that World Bank has agreed to this proposal in principle. **Dr. Rao & Prof. Varshneya** both agreed with FORUM as society and association have different connotations.

With due consent of the Advisors and members of the group, **Prof. Sheikh** started systematic point by point discussion on the draft constitution prepared by him.

1. Initially he read out the first para of the constitution

“The constitution of the South Asian Forum on Agriculture Meteorology (SAFOAM) comprises the Statutes and the Rules and Regulations.

The Statutes contained in section A, lay down the basic constitutional framework under which the Forum shall operate. The business of the Forum in matters of detail other than those covered by the Statutes shall be governed by the Rules and Regulations, continued in section B, enacted in conformity with Article 9 of the Statutes”

The same was agreed by **Prof. Varshneya & Dr. Rao, Dr. L.S. Rathore**, Former Director General of Meteorology, India Meteorological Department mentioned that the word “International” should come in the preamble part as this is an international forum.

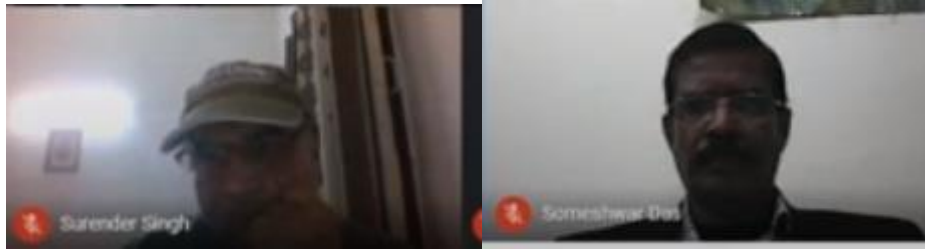
2. Unanimously agreed that name of the forum would be South Asia Forum on Agricultural Meteorology (**Article 1.1**).

3. It has been agreed that at present the location of registered office/ headquarters, as mentioned in the proposal, may be kept vacant. After all the organisation of all the core group meetings, General Body meeting, Executive Committee meeting, the same may be decided (**Article 1.2**).

4. **Article 1.3 & 1.4** were agreed. (attached the draft proposal on Constitution)

5. Article 1.5: Societies Registration Act 1860 has been mentioned in the proposal. **Prof (Dr.) Surender Singh**, Professor & Head, Dept Agricultural Meteorology, CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar, India said that the year of Society Registration Act in India might be changed to 2012. **Dr. Someshwar Das**, Professor, Department of Atmospheric Science, Central University of Rajasthan, Bandar Sindri, Kishangarh, District - Ajmer, Rajasthan commented that the Society Registration Act depends upon on the location where actually registration is made but for India it

is same. However, it was decided that the subject may be looked into based on the correctness of the issue.



5. Article 1.6 is regarding the affiliation of the forum with any other professional society with similar scientific aims and objectives. It has been agreed.

6. Article 1.7 is regarding change/amendment of Constitution: **Prof. Sheikh** said that if any changes are made in the constitution, it should be approved at General Body meeting/ Executive Body meeting and the same should be communicated to the Charity Commissioner/ Registrar. He added that if this is not done, the forum may be deregistered. **Prof. Varshneya** said that not only constitution, but also annual report financial report should be submitted every year. **Prof. Sheikh** said that it's our moral responsibility to inform and get the necessary corrections done in the constitution.

7. Under Article 2.2, it was suggested to include World Bank, ADB for making useful collaboration for strengthening of SAFOAM.

8. Under Article 2.3 (i), research need to be replaced by the Research and Development.

9.As there was little scope for SAFOAM to contribute to IPCC, this statement mentioned in **Article 2.3 (iv)** may be deleted.

Dr. S.D. Attri, Additional Director General of Meteorology (SG), AASD, India Meteorological Department, said that the name of the forum should be on Agricultural Meteorology, already mentioned, as it is broad based which it may create more scope as WMO, industry and other organisations at present are promoting different applications in agricultural meteorology like meteorology in livestock etc. **Dr Rao** mentioned that option may be kept open, we may discuss afterwards and decision may be taken subsequently.

10. In depth discussion was made on the criteria of Founding Member. It has been decided that all the 106 persons who have given the consent to be the Founding Members, would be considered as Founding Members. However, for registration purpose around 11 persons, already been identified as Founding Members, would be chosen for signing the proposal and these persons would be considered actually founded the forum. Besides, the 11 persons would be chosen in such a way that at least one member for each country should represent under SAFOAM. Besides, arrangement would be made to get the signatures of all the 11 persons mentioned above.



11. It has been agreed upon that there would be no category for annual member as it involves annual accounting and other recurring responsibilities and formalities. Under life member, following decisions have been taken.

a.He/ she should be from Agriculture and Science branch.

b.A token money as membership would be taken. This money would not be considered as earning revenue. For earning revenue, different mechanisms need to be set up.

12. It has been decided that Foreign membership may not be required as the forum itself is international . If any foreign person outside the South Asia desire to join as member, he or she may be allowed to join as life member. However, ultimate decision in this regard may be taken up in General Body/ Executive Committee meeting.

13.Discussion was made on institutional, industry and corporate members. It has been decided that all three categories should be combined in one category for getting added advantage in handling the issue. However, more discussion could be made in GB.

14. Farmers Association in the form of NGO might be included as category member.

15. No membership fee concession would be given to Founding Members.

16. The last known address (Physical electronic) of a Member shall be considered as a valid mailing address for correspondence by the Association.

17. The statement made under **ARTICLE 4 –GENERAL BODY** as “The General Body can amend any Statute of this Constitution provided more than **three-fourth** of the total ballots received in favour of it” would be replaced by “The General Body can amend any Statute of this Constitution provided more than **two-third** of the total ballots received in favour of it”

18. Subsequently wherever (**Article 4.5, Article 4.6**) such number has been mentioned in the proposal, this would be replaced by **two third**.

19.**Article 5.1** should be written as “The Forum will have an Executive Council (here in after called the Council). The Council to be formed as stated hereafter in this article **will have fair**

representative from member country and function and arrange for the conduct of the business of the Forum according to the Statutes and Regulations in force.

20. Article 5.2. The sentence “One member from each South Asian country” should be replaced by “At least one member from each South Asian country”.

21. Article 5.2.2. “The sentence “Secretary and the Treasurer shall be from the Headquarter of the Forum” should be replaced by “Secretary and the Treasurer shall be preferably from the Headquarter of the Forum”

22. Article 8.1. Second para. There is no need to write the number (fifteen). It has also been proposed that for big country like India, Bangladesh more than one chapter may be constituted.

23. Article 8.2 (g): There should not be any transfer of money from one chapter to another chapter and also to Head Quarter as “The Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA)” is involved in transfer of currency from one country to other country and this is cumbersome process and it should be avoided. Each chapter should be given financial liberty to spend money for good cause and under intimation to the Headquarter.

24. Article 10.1. Mention also electronic communication.

25. Under Regulation 3.2.4. Thirty members should be replaced by 2/3 majority.

26. Under Regulation 3.2.6. 25% should be replaced by 2/3 majority.

27. Under Regulation 3.2.9. Fifteen members should be replaced by 2/3 majority

28. Under Regulation 3.3.3. 30% should be replaced by 2/3 majority.

29. Under REGULATION 7: DUTIES AND POWERS OF TREASURER: Treasurer should be responsible for arranging and doing the audit. Here it should be mentioned that individual chapter will do their audit as per the law of land and they should send audit report to the Headquarter where consolidation of all the audits reports will be made.

30. Under REGULATION 10: FUNDS. Rupees 20,000 should be deleted as this is not required.

At the end of the meeting **Dr. Rathore** appreciated **Prof. Sheikh** for doing commendable job in preparing the draft proposal of constitution and he is also thankful to **Prof. Sheikh** and his team in Group II. He also said that he is thankful to **Dr. Someshwar Das** for sharing good inputs in respect of the preparation of the proposal.

Prof. Sheikh expressed his happiness the way the meeting could be conducted and also said that he is really thankful to **Dr. Rao, Prof. Varshneya** and all other members for their inputs and advises during the course of the meeting. He also requested that all the members of this group may communicate their further views so that he would incorporate the same.



On request **Mr. Rameshwar Rimal** from Nepal has expressed his views on today's meeting.

Dr. Rao said that first meeting on today's theme with smaller group members seems to be alright but it needs more discussion with bigger group members i.e., General Body as major part of the proposal are written on Indian context and also Indian experts have joined in the meeting. He agreed that the inputs may be obtained from the founding members SAFOAM from other countries in South Asia.

Prof. Varshneya appreciated once again to **Prof. Sheikh** and his full team for preparing the proposal highlighting all the rules and regulation etc. He suggested that based on today's discussion, **Prof. Sheikh** may prepare the next version of the draft proposal of the constitution of SAFOAM and then the same may be circulated to all the members of the forum for their expert comments. He added that the members to whom the draft proposal would be sent, they should either give comments or to communicate no comments. Based on the comments to be received from the members **Prof. Sheikh** may again prepare the next version of the draft proposal which may be placed in the General Body meeting for discussion and final version of the proposal. He continued that until and unless the constitution of SAFOAM is finalised, it may not be possible to take up further work under SAFOAM. Final constitution may be placed to the different Government agencies and concerned for onward actions.

Based on the above mentioned discussion, following recommendations were made at the end of the meeting.

- 1. Prof. Seikh was requested to prepare the next version of the draft proposal of the Constitution of the SAFOAM.*
- 2. It has been agreed that the next version of the draft proposal of the Constitution of the SAFOAM would be communicated to the Founding Members of the member countries of South Asia for their comments/ suggestions on the proposal.*
- 3. Based on the comments/suggestions from the Founding Members of the member countries of South Asia, Prof. Seikh would be requested to modify the proposal.*
- 4. Prof. Seikh would be requested to present the Modified proposal in the General Body Meeting for finalisation of the same.*

Dr. Chattopadhyay once again thanked all the members for their active participation, sharing their ideas and also patient hearing for an extended time period and also wishing to meet all virtually shortly and periodically.

Meeting was ended at 19.00 hrs with vote of thanks.

Annexure I
List of Members

Core Group II

for steering SAFOAM activities

Theme II: Administration/Constitution/ By Laws/ Finance etc.for SAFOAM

Leader

*** Dr.A.M. Sheikh**

Former Vice-Chancellor
Anand Agricultural University, Gujarat

Advisors

***1.Dr. L.S. Rathore**

Former Director General of Meteorology
International Consultant, The World Bank
Consultant, United nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Member, Advisory Board, National Disaster Management Authority (GOI)
Member, Research Council CSIR-NISTADS
Member, Appeal Committee, National Agricultural Education
Accreditation Board, ICAR
Vice President, Vigyan Bharti
President, Society for Rural Improvement

***2. Prof. Dr. M C Varshneya**

Founder Vice-Chancellor
Anand Agricultural University, Anand and
Kamdhenu University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat
Chairman Western Zone of NICRA Project, ICAR, New Delhi
Chairman, Institute of Rural Development and Education, Pune
Member, RAC, NBSS & LUP, (ICAR) Nagpur

Governor's Nominee, on Maharashtra Agricultural Universities Recruitment Board (MAURB), (MCAER), Pune

Former President, Association of Agro-Meteorologists (AAM)

Former President of Indian Agricultural Universities Association IAUA)

***3.Dr. V.U.M. Rao**

Former Project Coordinator (Agrometeorology) I/c
AICRP on Agrometeorology (AICRPAM)
ICAR - Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA)
Santoshnagar, Hyderabad, INDIA

Members

***1.Mr.Rameshwar Rimal**

Technical Officer (Agrometeorology)
National Agricultural Environment Research Centre (NAERC)
Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC)
P.O Box 5459, Kathmandu, Nepal

2.Ms. Dechen Tshering

Disaster Risk Management Specialist (co-Task Team Leader) of the Disaster Risk & Climate Change Unit, South Asia region, Bhutan

***3.Md. Mizanur Rahman**

Senior National Consultant
Agro-Meteorological Information Systems Development Project
Component-C of Bangladesh Weather and Climate Services Regional Project,
Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE)
Khamarbari, Farmgate, Dhaka, , Bangladesh

4.Ms. Sabai Lwin

Assistant Director, Agro-meteorological Division, DMH, Yangon, Myanmar

5.Dr. B.V.R. Punyawardena

Principal Scientist/ Director, Natural Resources Management Center (NRMC), Department of
Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, *Sri Lanka*

6.Dr.Md. Shameem Hassan Bhuiyan

Senior Consultant

Bangladesh Weather and Climate Services Regional Project

World Bank&Chief Advisor

Save Earth Climate Services Ltd.Bangladesh

7.Dr. Muhammad Hanif

Chief Meteorologist of Pakistan Meteorological Department

8.Ms. May KhinChaw

Director of Met Division, DMH;Myanmar

9.Shri B. Mukhopadhyay

Former Additional Director General of Meteorology (Reseach)

India

10.Dr. D Raji Reddy

Executive Chairman, National Council for Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Public
Leadership (NCCSD), Patel Block, Rajdeep Electronic's Compound, Near Stadium Six Road,
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad

***11.Dr. S.D. Attri**

Additional Director General of Meteorology (SG), AASD

Head (Urban Meteorology & Climate), Head (Information System & Knowledge Resource
Development Division) & Executive Editor, Mausam

Head (Legal) and Vigilance Officer

Member, Expert Team, Commission for Agril. Meteorology, World Meteorological Organisation,
UN, National Vice-President, Indian Association of Air Pollution Control (DC)

India Meteorological Department, Ministry of Earth Sciences

Government of India,

***12.Prof (Dr) Surender Singh**

Professor & Head

Dept Agricultural Meteorology

CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar, India

***13.Dr. Someshwar Das**

Professor, Department of Atmospheric Science

Central University of Rajasthan

Bandar Sindri, Kishangarh, District - Ajmer,

Rajasthan

14.Dr. Sanjib Bandyopadhyay

Deputy Director General of Meteorology,

Regional Meteorological Centre,Kolkata, West Bengal

15.Dr. Narayan Singh Solanki

PROFESSOR, AICRP on Agrometeorology, Dept. Of Agronomy, Rajasthan College of
Agriculture, MPUAT, Udaipur

***16.Dr. Rucha Dave**

Rucha Dave is presenting

a) President - 1
b) Vice-Presidents - 2
c) Secretary- 1
d) Joint Secretary- 1
e) Treasurer -1
f) Council Members - 5
g) Immediate Past President - 1
h) Zonal representatives(As described in article 5.2.2) - 5
i) Nominated Member (As described in article 5.2.3) - 2

OR

* One member from each South Asian countries

Participants: Laxman Singh Rathore, Anvindhaj Shekh, MADAN GOPAL C. Varshneya, nabansu chattopadhyay

Participants: Rucha Dave, MADAN GOPAL C. Varshneya, Anvindhaj Shekh, nabansu chattopadhyay, U M Rao Vadiraju, Suresnder Singh, Rameshwar Rimal, Md. Mizanur Rahman, Someshwar Das