

## **Recommendations of the Different Core Group Meetings for steering activities of South Asia Forum on Agricultural Meteorology (SAFOAM)**

### **Core Group I Meeting on “Present Status and existing strategies for meeting the need, gaps, requirements etc. for operational Agromet Advisory Services in South Asian Countries”**

1. SAFOAM should be a knowledge platform to help the countries in SAR.
2. SAFOAM should work at policy level with Ministry especially Agricultural Ministry for opening as well as strengthening of operational Agromet Advisory Services in South Asia.
3. There is need to understand the present status, what are the gaps, farmer’s need etc., in different countries in South Asia. Based on this information from each country, experts from India and other countries should prepare capsule courses for the representative farmers in South Asia Region.
4. Bring together experts from the Agricultural Universities and prepare module/curriculum in Bachelors’ level on climate change, weather and climate knowledge correct interpretation of different agromet products including satellite products in the preparation of agromet advisories etc
5. Experts from this forum should share the information to various representatives of SAR on organisation of roving seminars and also even would visit to these countries and help them to organise the roving seminars. Involvement of woman farmers in roving seminars should be encouraged.
6. SAFOAM could make guidelines for preparation of demand-based advisories and also for climate risk areas
7. Under this forum, we should see the whole issue of the ocean, what kind of information are being provided and what the gaps and how we can improve the information and fill the gaps.
8. Linkages with IWMI, RIMES, WMO, WB, UNDP with SAFOAM may be established
9. Technical advisory team may be formed under SAFOAM from the experts in South Asia and they can help in different core areas including disaster risk reduction in agriculture etc.
10. Rich experience in operational Agromet Advisory Services in India should be replicated in other countries in South Asian Region (SAR).
11. Modern communication technology like ICT technologies, WhatsApp, SMS mobile apps should be exploited fully to communicate the information to the farmers, Ministry of Agriculture and other organisations and other users in each country in South Asia. Mobile technology should be used extensively for information communication including feedback from the farmers.
12. Agromet research is not strong in SAR and thus more initiatives/improvements are required in SAR.

**Core Group II Meeting on “Administration/Constitution/ By Laws/ Finance etc. for SAFOAM”.**

1. Prof. Seikh, Leader of Core Group II 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.

**Core Group III Meeting on “Utilisation of satellite derived products in Agromet Advisory Services for South Asian Countries.”**

It has been agreed that efforts need to be made to utilise the satellite information in agriculture in South Asia with proper planning looking at the different levels of availability of skilful satellite information/products and capability of use of same in agriculture etc. Following recommendations were made in this regard.

1. Implementation of the activities should be done at different levels.
2. In the first level, identification of the common & skilful satellite products/indicators, which have proper value and usages in agriculture should be made in South Asia.
3. Display of all the products/indicators in South Asia should be made on digital platform.
4. Mechanism should be developed to get access the satellite products/indicators by all the countries in South Asia obliging the data policy among different member countries.
5. Promotion of exchange programme on Research and Development especially on irrigation advisory, forewarning of pest and disease, crop yield forecast, weather-based insurance etc.
6. Explore to prepare fodder map, types of fodder map for green fodder assessment utilising the satellite information. Usability of satellite information in dairy, pasture, forestry sectors also may be ventured.

7. Preparation questionnaires for obtaining information from the countries in SAR in respect of present status of remote sensing data, access of remote sensing data, capability of use the data, training requirements, success stories etc

### **Core Group IV Meeting on “Web Portal for South Asia Forum on Agricultural Meteorology”**

1. There is need to develop good website design and updating of the website with current and important and relevant issues.
2. It is essential to develop the support mechanism which would ultimately make the website sustainable
3. There should be two phases in the development of website. These are (i) design and development of website, (ii) Sustainability of the website to make the website long lasting and makes complete website.
4. to display the new products & information, like composite NDVI, VCI maps which are not found any of the website in the world.
5. Website should give the access to all the open-source data and already the information available in public domain by different countries
6. Grid concept might be taken while preparing the composite map for any product as this would eliminate the dispute in country boundary.
7. Boundary of SAFOAM might be extended more on the southern side which would cover the south Indian ocean so that it would be possible to display meteorological information, satellite imagery, cloud imagery, SOI etc. over the adjacent ocean.
8. linkages should be established with agromet advisory system in the region and globally and Governmental organisations and international organisations.
9. Efforts should be made to generate of some fund to appoint dedicated team to design and development of the website, generation of products, regular updating and maintenance of the website.
10. Activities under SAFOAM should be done alongside with the Governmental machinery. as, involvement of Government, particularly Ministry of Agriculture & National Meteorological & Hydrological Services would further strengthen the forum.
11. Preparation of proposal for SAFOAM website considering all aspects of architectural design of the website and aspects related to sustenance, finance, administration design, development & sustainability. And concurrently donor agencies (UNDP, USAID, WMO, WORLD Bank etc) may be approached for supporting and sustaining the efforts/activities in this regard.
12. Organisation of webinars by inviting the experts all of the world to make SAFOAM more popular.
13. SAFOAM will not involve itself as a kind operational mechanism replacing/competing with the member countries activities rather capacitate and complement the fellow agrometeorologist which are serving the different countries to facilitate by providing the agrometeorology's products. If not produced there are some products which can be assimilated to enhance in a form accessible to the user group which could be official in agromet service people, engaged in research & development, intermediaries and even farmers also

### **Core Group V Meeting on “New Dimension of Agromet Advisory Services in hill region in South Asian Countries”.**

1. Special attention needs to be taken up to handle the diversity in weather, large variation of temperature along the slope within a short distance, frequent extreme weather events, landslides diversity in cropping pattern, etc in preparation of crop and location specific advisories in hills.
2. . There is need for dense observational network as inadequate observation network still persists in some of the member countries in South Asia Region (SAR). Full utilisation of remote sensing data/information/ products may be explored especially for the unrepresentative area in respect of weather observation for preparation of agromet advisories.
3. Development of customized agromet products for hills should be made.
4. Development of forewarning models of pest & diseases & crop-weather relationship & promotion of multidisciplinary research in agrometeorology in hills should be made.
5. Identification of location specific weather hazards/aberrations/extreme events and prepare contingency crop should be done.
6. Introduction of community radio in dissemination of information in local languages in clusters of villages and capacitate large number of people at community level should be made.
7. Promotion of micro climate-based advisory based on micro climatic studies should be made.
8. Organisation of capacity building programme at different levels with appropriate modules so that better communication skill among meteorologists and agriculturist should be developed.
9. . Annual/biannual South Asian Agricultural Meteorology Workshop should be arranged.
10. Coproduction particularly in respect of collaboration between meteorologist and agriculturist at policy level, scientific and implementation level is recommended.

### **Core Group VI Meeting on “Build capacity in ICT program management and also build such cadre and mentor them for ensuring continuity of Agromet success and innovation sustenance”.**

1. Under SAFOAM, activities which have not been touched/ done by any agencies, will be taken up.
2. There was a need to Identify the low hanging fruits and ride on kind of transformative process which can be done or happen with the existing data available freely in public domain utilising available knowledge pool
3. Efforts should be made to introduce of e-community radio in dissemination of information in local languages in clusters of villages and capacitate large number of people at community level as it needs minimal cost.
4. ICT should be used in producing, dissemination & capacity building programme in the member countries in South Asia
5. Penetration of better products and contents in the information usable to the farming community are the need of the hour.
6. Sharing of knowledge especially the best practices in operational agrometeorology with the member countries and
7. national policy might be framed on Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode for greater participation of private sectors in this system.

8. capacitate the service provider in the process data for farmer and other users and linking to agricultural market system.
9. Concept of Farmers awareness programme and Climate Farmer Field (CFFS) School might be included as climate resilient programme in SAFOAM
10. This forum would not compete with any of the agency; on the contrary would, supplement the national initiatives, augment and add value which are available in our disposal.
11. This forum would supplement the activities to be taken up by the member countries with the available knowledge pools
12. Artificial intelligence, ML and other state of art technology should be used in agromet advisory system.