

The Commission for Agricultural Meteorology has established in its last session in Ljubljana (October 2002) three Open Programme Area Groups (OPAGs), each with an ICT (Implementation and Coordination Team) and two or three ETs (Expert Teams). They replace the former system with Working Groups and Rapporteurs. They have been confirmed and their preliminary membership discussed at the First CAgM Management Group Meeting in Washington (June, 2003). These Groups (ICTs and ETs) are open for participation of all agrometeorologists through CAgM Member countries (National Weather Services).

OPAG 1 is on "Agrometeorological Services for Agricultural Production"

With an ICT for Agrometeorological Services

And ETs for

- Weather, Climate and Farmers
- Strengthening Information and Dissemination Networks, Including Monitoring and Early-Warning Systems
- Management of Natural and Environmental Resources for Sustainable Agricultural Development.

OPAG 2 is on "Support Systems for Agrometeorological Services"

With an ICT on the same

And ETs for

- Techniques (including Technologies as GIS and Remote Sensing) for Agroclimatic Characterization and Sustainable Land Management

- Database Management, Validation and Application of Models and Research Methods at the Ecoregional Level

OPAG 3 is on "Climate Change/Variability and Natural Disasters in Agriculture"

With an ICT on the same

And ETs for

- Influence of Climate Change/Variability on Medium-to Long-Range Predictions for Agriculture
- Reduction of the Impact of Natural Disasters and Mitigation of Extreme Events in Agriculture, Rangelands, Forestry and Fisheries
- Contributions of Agriculture to the State of Climate

Details on the Terms of Reference of these OPAGs, ICTs and ETs may be found on the web site of the Agricultural Meteorological Programme under the Commission for Agricultural Meteorology, where also all official documents may be perused. Soon this information will be updated with preliminary membership.

In the Washington Meeting, Kees Stigter, as a member of the Management Group responsible for "Support Systems in Policy Making for Agrometeorological Services" presented a diagnostic and conceptual framework to bring the work of these OPAGs, ICTs and ETs in perspective for action support. This policy paper has been reproduced under the INSAM website topic "Needs for Agrometeorological Solutions to Farming Problems".

If you would be interested in participating in any of these teams, please contact either Dr. Sivakumar in Geneva (Sivakumar_M@gateway.wmo.ch) or the Agricultural Meteorology Programme (agm@gateway.wmo.ch) or the member of CAgM in your country. His/her name may always be obtained from your National Weather Services.