

**Improving Agrometeorological
Bulletins –
Brainstorming on Issues and
Prioritization
Conclusions and
Recommendations of the Workshop**

Improving Agrometeorological Bulletins: Brainstorming on Issues and Prioritization

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Participants in the workshop were engaged in a brainstorming session on the main problems faced in improving agrometeorological bulletins in different Regions. Participants were divided into four groups to get the divergent views from each of the groups and then through common discussion a consensus view was reached.

Main problems in improving agrometeorological bulletins

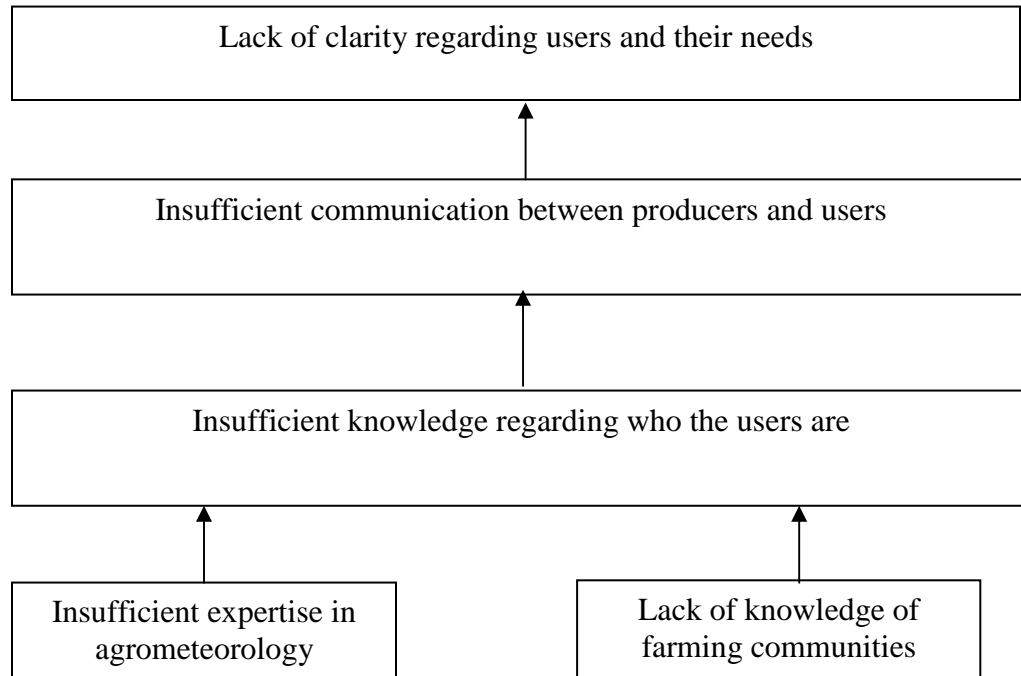
The workshop identified the main problems in improving agrometeorological bulletins as follows:

1. Lack of clarity regarding users and their needs
2. Lack of adequate data (quantity, quality) and timely availability
3. Lack of resources (expertise, financial, infrastructure), tools and methodologies
4. Lack of systematic feedback and evaluation
5. Inappropriate style (user friendliness) in the preparation of products and their timely dissemination and lack of standards
6. Lack of cooperation between relevant agencies
7. Lack of training (staff and users)

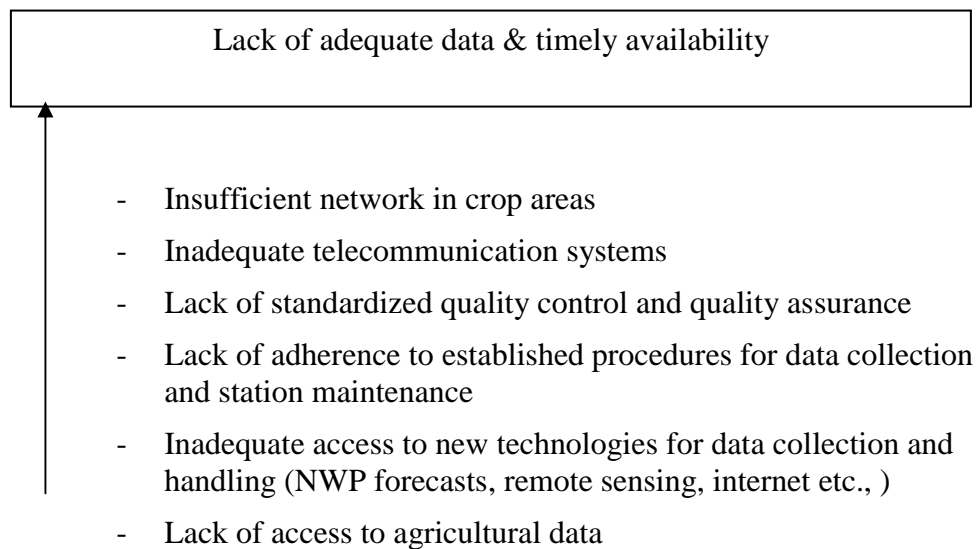
The group then constructed cause-effect tables for each of the above categories as follows:

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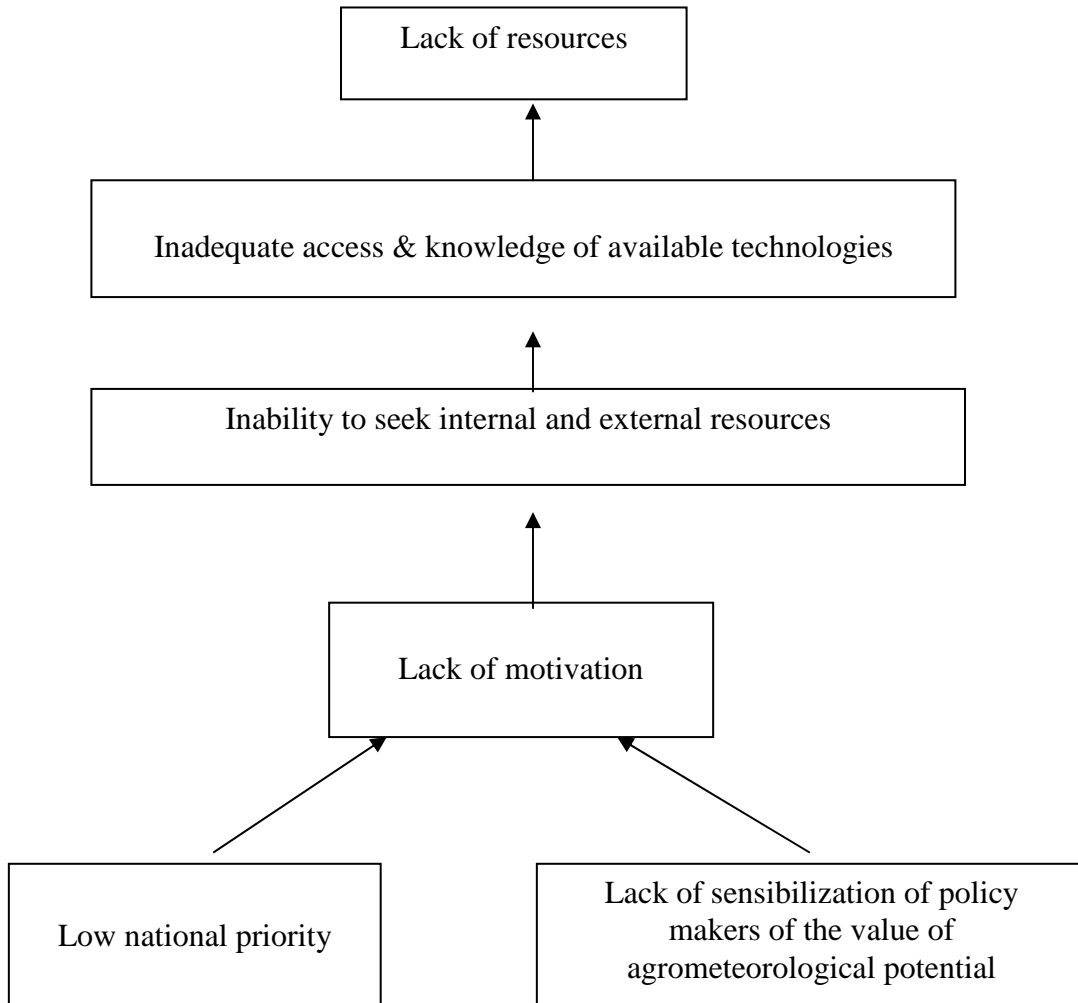
Category 1. Lack of clarity regarding users and their needs



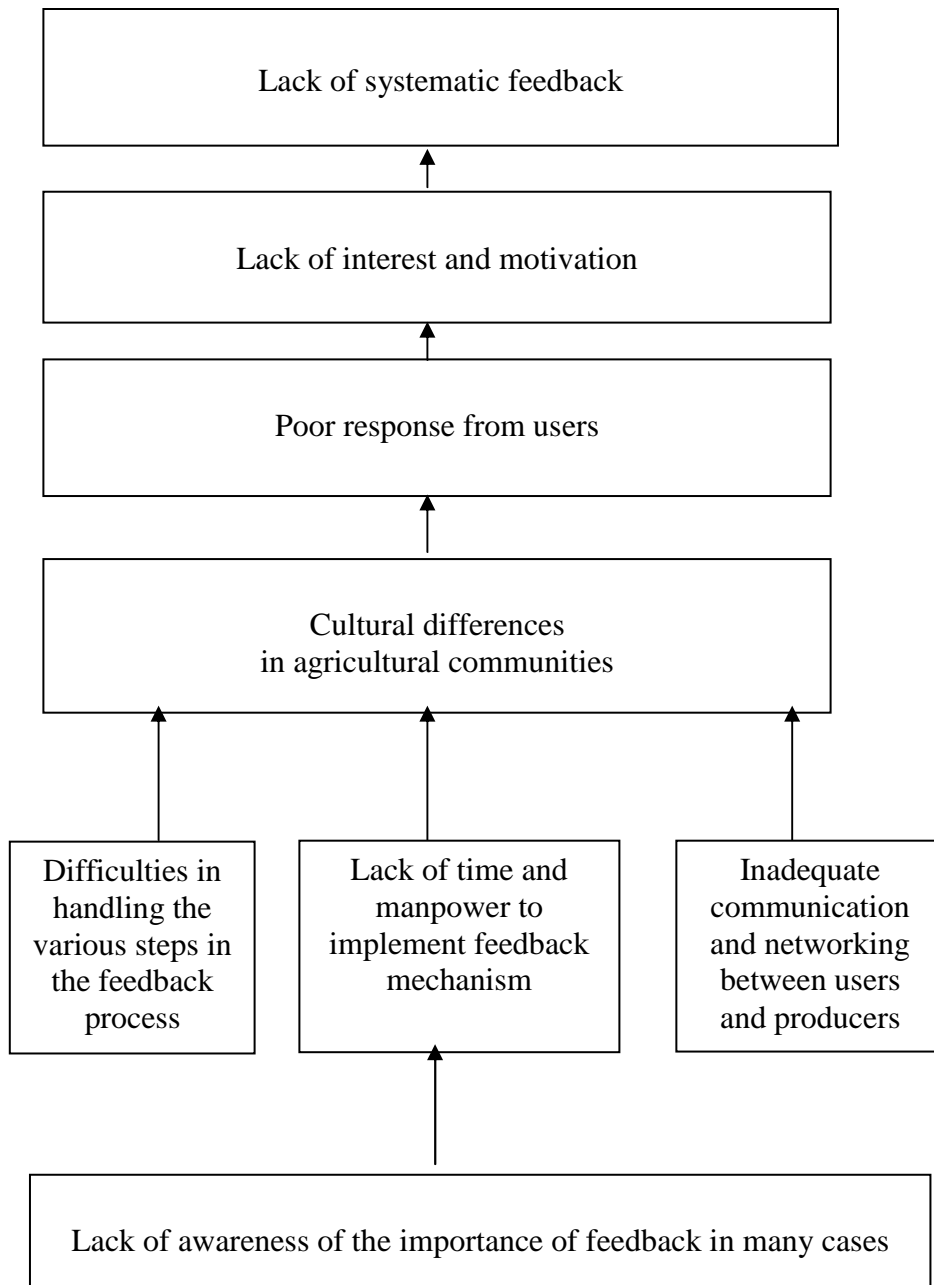
Category 2. Lack of adequate data (quantity, quality) and timely availability



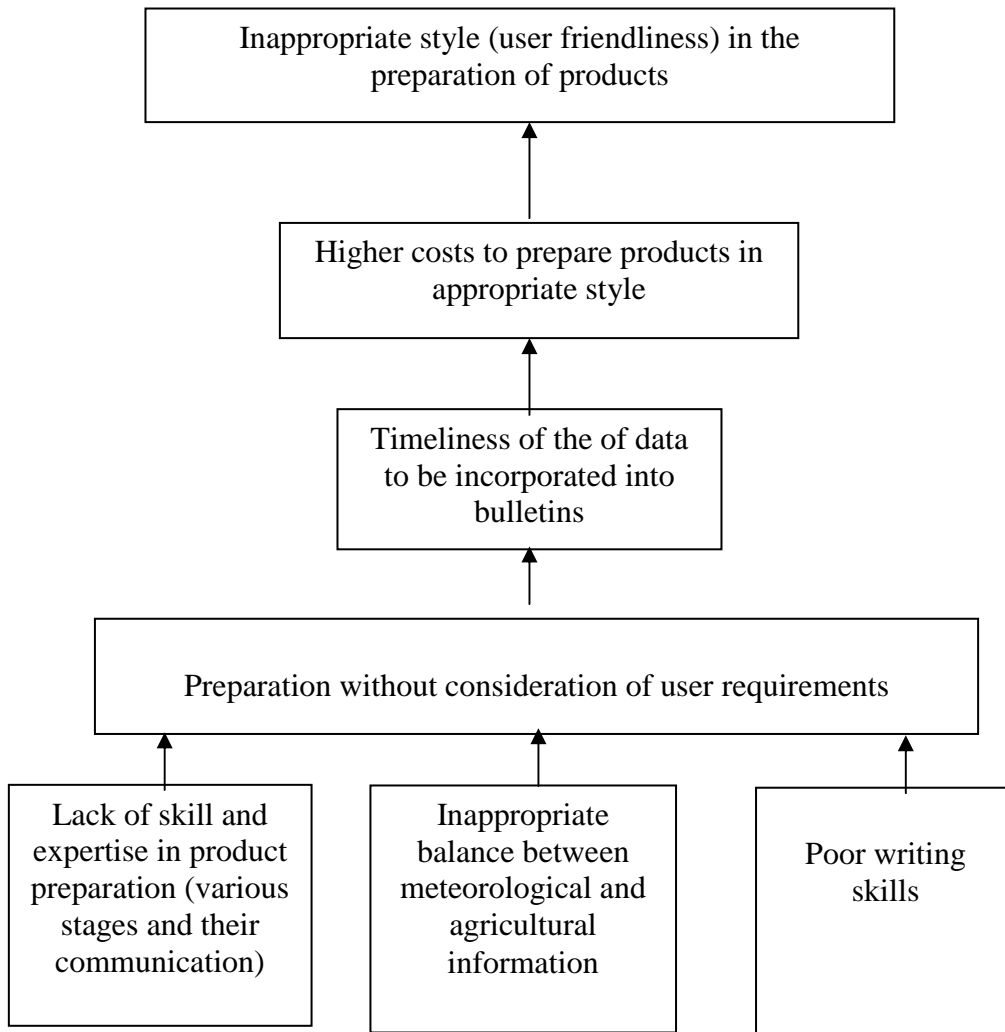
**Category 3. Lack of resources (expertise, financial, infrastructure),
tools and methodologies**



Category 4. Lack of systematic feedback and evaluation



Category 5. Inappropriate style (user friendliness) in the preparation of products and their timely dissemination, lack of standards



Prioritization of problems in improving agrometeorological bulletins

The participants were asked to prioritize the problems identified and convey their views regarding the prioritization by voting on the problems. Following the voting, the following problems emerged as the priorities:

1. Lack of Resources (expertise, financial, infrastructure), tools and methodologies
2. Lack of clarity regarding users and their needs
3. Lack of adequate data (quantity, quality) and timely availability
4. Lack of cooperation between relevant agencies
5. Lack of training (staff and users)
6. Lack of systematic feedback and evaluation

Strategies to address the priority problems in improving agrometeorological bulletins

Considering the above prioritization, participants were asked to suggest appropriate strategies to address the particular problem. After exchange of views, all the members agreed on the following priority strategies to address the main problems (identified in bold characters):

Lack of Resources

- Pool resources at a central regional/national location to create a technological infrastructure for agromet information for value added products at the national level.
- Improve the efficient use of existing resources through international and regional cooperation
- Form partnerships with national and international interests to share and exchange resources and technology
- Mobilize resources

Lack of Awareness of User Needs

- Conduct regular surveys and open forums with users
- Increase knowledge of agriculture and user needs in agrometeorological units

Lack of Data

- Improve agrometeorological networks in crop areas
- Use additional non-conventional sources of data (Remote Sensing, Numerical Weather Products, Geographical Information Systems)
- Improve skills in database management
- Improve the skills of instrumentation personnel

Lack of Cooperation

- Create partnerships between relevant agencies through effective dialog and education
- Enhance cooperation through administrative mechanisms (establish MOUs)
- Form inter-institutional working group on agrometeorological products

Lack of Training

- Request WMO to organize more roving seminars
- Develop mechanisms for more formal and informal self-training
- Establish training programs for providers and users of agrometeorological bulletins using workshops/seminars
- Give high priority to training

Lack of Feedback and Evaluation

- Provide contact details (e-mail, fax, telephone.) and encourage user feedback (comments, complaints, suggestions)
- Organize user forums and user pay systems (cost recovery)
- Establish working programs with extension services to facilitate feedback and evaluation
- Maintain dedicated and sustained liaison with end users

General Strategy

- Establish a server on the World Wide Web (WWW. Agromet.com) for all Agrometeorological bulletins issued from different countries.