

Workshop Evaluation

M.V.K. Sivakumar¹

Introduction

The Inter-Regional Workshop on Improving Agrometeorological Bulletins was co-sponsored by the World Meteorological Organization, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Caribbean Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology. The purpose of this meeting was to assess the current status of preparation of agrometeorological bulletins in the six Regions of WMO and determine the different ways and means to improve the contents of these bulletins to facilitate timely and efficient on-farm operational decision-making that relies on agrometeorological information.

The specific objectives of the Workshop were to:

1. Evaluate how the NMHSs in six Regions of WMO determine the contents and methods of presentation of information in the agrometeorological bulletins that are issued in their countries;
2. Identify the shortcomings and limitations in the current methods of preparing agrometeorological bulletins;
3. Review the different improved methods and tools to improve the contents and presentation of information in the agrometeorological bulletins and their delivery to decision-makers in a timely fashion;
4. Formulate an effective training strategy to build the capacity of the NMHSs in the different WMO Regions to rapidly implement improved systems of preparing and disseminating agrometeorological bulletins.

¹ Chief, Agricultural Meteorology Division, World Climate Programme Department, World Meteorological Organization, 7bis Avenue de la Paix, Case postale 2300, CH-1211 GENEVA 2, Switzerland
Tel.: +41 22 730 8380, Fax: +41 22 730 8420, Email: msivakumar@wmo.int

Format for the Workshop

The Workshop was designed in such a way as to allow time for:

- Presentations by participants from each of the six WMO Regional Associations describing the current procedures being followed by them to provide agrometeorological information to the user community.
- Presentations from invited experts outlining the technological perspectives in improving agrometeorological bulletins.
- Brainstorming and analysis of different issues mentioned under the objectives of the Workshop in order to seek the divergent views from the participants, engage the participants in discussion and arrive at a consensus view on future approaches to improve agrometeorological bulletins.

Participant Interaction

The Workshop was interactive with emphasis on active participation. The participants were encouraged to exchange ideas and evolve concepts, particularly in the brainstorming and analysis sessions, to address the specific issues of the workshop outlined above. The interaction helped the participants appreciate the problems in improving agrometeorological bulletins and develop appropriate recommendations for future action by the Members.

Workshop Evaluation

In order to facilitate the evaluation of the Workshop and help obtain feedback from the participants, an evaluation form was circulated on the final day. A summary of the participant evaluation of the Workshop is shown in Table 1. All the participants rated the workshop as good to very good.

Overall the workshop has been a success. It was held in an atmosphere of free discussion and friendly exchanges. The recommendations of the workshop should help generate strong interest among the Member countries to review the current procedures being used in the preparation of agrometeorological bulletins and take adequate improve them.

Table 1. Summary of workshop evaluation
(Responses given in percentage of the total participants (22) responding to the evaluation form)

Question	Very well met/ Very relevant/ Very good	Fully met/ Relevant/ Good	Nearly met/ Adequate	Yes	No/ Poor	No response
1. Did the workshop meet all its objectives?	64	27	5	-	-	4
2. Will the knowledge acquired help you contribute more effectively in your work?	23	27	-	50	-	-
3. Relevance of programme to your work?	37	46	-	17	-	-
4. Did you receive advice relevant to work?	14	23	8	41	5	9
5. Did you have language difficulties?	5	5	9	8	73	-
6. Quality of workshop programme?	73	27	-	-	-	-
7. Quality of papers presented in different sessions?	45	55	-	-	-	-
8. Did you find the discussions during the workshop productive	32	18	-	46	-	4

9.	Did you find the brainstorming session useful?	-	-	-	91	-	9
10	Was the duration of the workshop adequate?	18	27	18	27	5	5
11	Quality of pre-workshop information	37	37	9	-	5	12
12	Quality of service received from WMO /UNDP regarding travel arrangements	37	28	5	-	5	25
13	Assistance received from CIMH	55	28	5	-	-	12
14	Do you have suggestions for future workshops of this nature?	5	-	-	-	78	17
15	How do you rate the workshop?	82	18	-	-	-	-