

Farmers Awareness Programme

CIARI, Port Blair

23rd August, 2014

Andaman and Nicobar Islands is located in the humid tropical zone which experiences heavy rain during monsoon season and drought like situation during the dry season due to high evapo-transpiration. The Islands also experiences heavy winds and intermittent dry spell during the monsoon season. As the agriculture in the entire Island depends on rainfall it is very essential to understand the weather parameters and give proper forecast to the farmers. Therefore Agromet Advisory Services are very useful to the Farmers of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. **Under Gramin Krishi Mousam Seva**, CIARI, Port Blair has conducted Farmers Awareness Programme on 23rd August, 2014 to sensitize the farmers on weather based agricultural activities to minimize the loss and optimize the resource use.

The programme was attended by twenty representative farmers and local leaders from various parts of South Andaman. They were appraised of weather based agro advisories, its utilize and source of information by the agromet advisory team of scientist. A small interactive session was organized after apprising them of the current weekly forecast to get their feedback. Dr. S. Dam Roy, Director CIARI has inaugurated the programme and urged the farmers to utilize the agromet services to the extent possible as it is very important under Island condition so as to minimize the losses during rough weather condition. Farmers were directly interacted with him and shared their views and put up their queries. He also distributed rain gauge to the farmers and asked them to record the data, analyse it and see themselves its usefulness. Dr. A.Velmurugan, PI, GKMS made farmers aware how the agro advisories were prepared and disseminated including the SMS service. A total of 1000 farmers were enrolled in the SMS portal and farmers showed greater interest to receive the information. Shri.Tapan Kumar Biswas demonstrated the farmers how to install and use the rain gauge in their field. AMFU CIARI, Port Blair has started multilingual dissemination of agro-advisories through Doordarshan and All India Radio apart from the local print media.



Awareness Programme on Weather and Agriculture Production was also conducted on 12 to 13 March 2015 Andaman and Nicobar islands experience tropical climate which receives rainfall from both southwest and northeast monsoon. However, during dry season starting from January to April, evaporation is much higher than rainfall and little rainfall is received from 17 rainy days which makes agricultural production difficult and underline the need for proper water management strategy. The study of climatic pattern highlighted decreasing trend in rainfall and rainy days over the Islands in winter and post-monsoon seasons. In order to make the farmers aware of the impact of weather on island agriculture and utility of agromet advisories recently CIARI in collaboration with IMD, Pune under GKMS has conducted an awareness programme at Harminder Bay, Little Andaman. Dr.A.Velmurugan and Dr.T.Subramani under the supervision of Dr.S.Dam Roy, Director, CIARI visited the tribal village and assessed the water resources and crop condition during the dry period. A training programme was organised to appraise them about the climatic pattern of Little Andaman and ways to manage both flood and drought situations. The programme was graced by Shri.Fred Levy, captain and Shri. Feitus, Secretary of Harminder Bay and nearly 30 farmers have participated in it.

