

PROCEEDINGS OF ROVING SEMINAR

A day long Farmers' Awareness Seminar on "Weather, Climate and Farmers" was organized by Agro-meteorological Field Unit of Regional Agricultural Research Station, Shillongani (Assam Agricultural University) on 20th March 2015. The seminar was sponsored by India Meteorological Department under Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India. Besides agricultural scientists, extension officers, district disaster management authority, media person and other invitees, eighty five farmers participated in the seminar.

The inaugural session started with welcome address by Dr. B. Guha, Chief Scientist, Regional Agricultural Research Station, Shillongani. In his address, Dr. Guha spoke about the changing weather scenario of Nagaon and Marigaon districts and importance of weather based agro-advisories in mitigating the ill effects of weather on crops. He also highlighted the contribution of Regional Agricultural Research Station in varietal development related to pulses, oilseeds, jute, wheat and boro paddy.

Dr. P.C. Sarmah, Nodal Officer of the Gramin Krishi Mausum Sewa, Shillongani Unit explained in length about objective of the seminar. He informed the house that the overall goal of the seminar was to make farmers more self reliant in dealing with weather and climate issues that affect agricultural production on their farms and to increase the interaction between the farmers and the Agro-meteorological service providers.

Mr. Sanjib Das, Nodal Officer of District Disaster Management Authority, Nagaon enlightened the house about the activities of District Disaster Management Authority, Nagaon. He spoke about various schemes of government which can benefit the farmers as well as the common people of Assam as this state has been traditionally vulnerable to natural disasters like floods, droughts, earthquakes and landslides.

Mr.D.Nath, RARS, Shillongani offered vote of thanks to the dignitaries on the dais and participants of the meeting.

Dr. P.Neog was the first speaker of pre-lunch session. He dealt in length about different issues related to global warming and agricultural practices. He discussed about strategies to be adopted by the farmers in aberrant weather condition. He appealed to the farmers to look for every single opportunity amidst unfavourable weather condition to maintain/increase the level of their farm production. He further stressed the importance of weather based agro-advisories in farm management.

Mr.Ranadhir Ghose discussed in length about different terminologies used in weather forecasting and gave an outline of process and procedures used in preparation of weather forecasts by India Meteorological department. He showed various websites presently used by the India Meteorological Department for the benefit of farmers and demonstrate how one can find out the district and state composite weather based agro-advisory bulletins using internet.

Dr. R.L. Deka presented the impact of positive and negative effect of global warming and climate change on agriculture and stated about the economic importance of agro advisory bulletins to the farming community with concrete examples.

Dr. P.C. Sarmah discussed about the climatic risk in production of different crops in Central Brahmaputra Valley Zone of Assam. He also collected feedback from the farmers regarding the usability of the weather forecasts and their need.



The meeting ended with vote of thanks from Dr. P.C. Sarmah.

FARMERS AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON “WEATHER, CLIMATE AND FARMERS”

Venue: RARS, SHILLONGANI, NAGAON, ASSAM

Date: March 20, 2015

Time	Programme Schedule
9.00 to 9.30 hrs	Registration
9.30 to 10.00 hrs	Inaugural Session
09.30 hrs	Dignitaries take seats
09.35 hrs	Felicitation of the dignitaries
09.40 hrs	Welcome address by: Chief Scientist, RARS, Shillongani
09.45 hrs	Objectives of the meeting by: Dr. P.C. Sarmah
09.50 hrs	Inaugural address by: Mr. Sanjib Das, Nodal Officer, District Disaster Management Authority , O/o Deputy Commissioner, Nagaon
09.55 hrs	Vote of thanks: Dr. T.P. Saikia
10.00 to 10.20 hrs	High Tea
	Technical Session
10.20 to 11.20 hrs	Better weather/climate risk management through AAS system. Future climate change and its implications : by Dr. P. Neog, Assoc. Professor and Nodal Officer, B.N.C.A.
11.20 to 12.20 hrs	Coordination of different agencies on weather forecasting service for farmers : by DDGM, RMC, Guwahati
12.20 to 13.20 hrs	Impact of climate change on agriculture: by Dr. R.L. Deka, Asstt.Prof. and T.O., Department of Agrometeorology, AAU, Jorhat
13.20 to 14:00 hrs	Lunch break
	Post Lunch Technical Session
14.00 to 14.40 hrs	Climatic risk in production of different crops in CBVZone : By Dr. P.C. Sarmah, Principal Scientist and Nodal Officer, RARS, Shillongani

14.40 to 15.20 hrs	Ways and means to improve communication of climatic & weather information to farmers- Interactive session with farmers and scientists: By Dr. P.C. Sarmah, Prin. Scientist and Nodal Officer and Nabajyoti Deka, RA (T.O.), GKMS, RARS, Shillongani
15.20 to 15.30 hrs	Tea
15.30 hrs	Vote of thanks: Dr.P.C. Sarmah
15.35 to 16.00 hrs	Field trip/ visit to Agromet observatory/ KVK