

Gramin Krishi Mausam Seva (GKMS)

Weather is an inherently unpredictable factor in agriculture, yet its impact on crop production is profound. India, with its diverse climatic regions, experiences a wide range of weather patterns. Timely and accurate weather information is indispensable for farmers to make informed decisions. For instance, during the critical planting season, knowing the upcoming rainfall patterns can guide farmers in selecting appropriate crop varieties and irrigation methods. Similarly, accurate forecasts regarding temperature fluctuations can influence the choice of crops, helping farmers avoid losses due to frost or heat stress. Moreover, foreknowledge of impending extreme weather events, such as cyclones or heavy rainfall, enables farmers to secure their livestock, harvests, and equipment, thus mitigating potential damages.

Agrometeorological Advisory Services (AAS) offered by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) serve as a lifeline for farmers, empowering them to adapt their agricultural practices in response to weather fluctuations. By providing tailored weather forecasts and expert advisories, AAS equips farmers with the knowledge needed to minimize risks. This proactive approach not only safeguards farmers' investments but also contributes significantly to food security. By aligning farming activities with weather forecasts, farmers can optimize their crop yields, reduce losses, and ultimately enhance agricultural productivity. Thus, AAS plays a pivotal role in enhancing the resilience of India's agricultural sector against the uncertainties posed by weather variations.

Keeping the need for Agromet Advisory Services (AAS) to be more crop and location-specific to address wide variations in weather within the district into consideration, IMD is in the process of implementing block level AAS by establishing 530 District Agromet Units (DAMUs) phase wise in the premise of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). Till date only 199 DAMU units was established by IMD. Under ICAR ATARI Pune Zone VIII there is 21 DAMU units (11 from Maharashtra, 9 From Gujarat and 1 from Goa)

Objective of Scheme:

1. To continuously improve the existing District level Agromet Advisory Services (AAS) and extend them further to sub district/ block level.
2. To establish District Agromet Units (DAMUs), complimentary with already operating 130 AMFUs/DAMUs, in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) at Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs).
3. To expand the existing channels of communication of weather based Agromet Advisories to the farmers so as to expand the outreach to cover all farmer households.
4. Promote Research & Excellence in Agro-meteorology in support of targeted improvement to the operational services.

Achievement of DAMU units during 2022-23

Gujarat	KVK	No of WhatsApp Group Created By DAMU Kvk	No of Farmers Covered	No of The Villages Covered	Total Number of Village
1	Amreli	18	2490	180	619
2	Dahod	16	3406	403	552
3	Dang	9	4322	273	311
4	Jamnagar	19	2904	375	677
5	Narmada	19	2248	237	723
6	Panchmahal	9	2000	150	607
7	Surat	18	2478	218	721
8	Vadodara	93	7876	570	1549
9	Valsad	39	3608	416	448
	Total	240	31332	2822	6207
Maharashtra					
1	Amravati II	180	39000	1245	1986
2	Aurangabad I	16	42300	913	1362
3	Bhandara	33	4620	83	816
4	Buldhana II	57	8172	91	1502
5	Gadchiroli	105	52460	1250	1678
6	Nagpur I	246	38870	876	1617
7	Nandurbar	242	19427	653	931
8	Osmanabad	23	2548	48	622
9	Palghar	59	13295	702	1008
10	Solapur II	64	14840	967	1152
11	Washim	142	22160	385	760
	Total	1167	257692	7213	13434
Goa					
1	North Goa	130	7000	196	216
	Grand Total	1537	296024	10231	19857

In 2022, under ICAR-ATARI Pune, 21 KVKs (Maharashtra-11, Gujarat-9 and Goa-01 KVKs) were operational under DAMU. The above table shows the Dissemination and coverage of AAS in different Agromet units. The total number of WhatsApp group formed are 1537, which benefitted 296024 farmers. The number of villages covered under the WhatsApp group is 10231 villages. About 267 FAP programmes were conducted to create awareness among farmers about Agromet services, more than 16946 farmers physically attended these programmes and about 18118 Agro advisory bulletins were prepared in the year. CBP programmes attended by 35 DAMU staff.

