

Working Group Discussions

Group 1: Resources Needed for Sustainability of the effort

- Put in practice the national focal points within the met services. These focal points will liaise with CIMH
- Ensure that there is an agro-met liaison officer within the Ministry of Agriculture
- CIMH will provide the National Met Services with a template for putting together agro-met data
- There needs to be greater collaboration between agricultural ministries and met divisions
- Policy needs to support this collaboration and this policy needs to be consistent
- Must demonstrate to the Ministries of Finance the economic value of ensuring agro-met systems are in place to help promote resources for agro-met
- Public education of farmers and community groups to ensure that they are sensitized to the importance of agro-met information

Group 1 Cont'd

- Greater inclusion of agriculture in regional meteorological meetings and the same for met in regional agriculture meeting for eg.
 - Caribbean week of agriculture
 - CDEMA's comprehensive disaster management meeting
- Inclusion of agro-met in agricultural education curriculum
- Tap into climate change adaptation funds for human needs
- CCCCC is a liaison point for sourcing funds
- Proper land use management to ensure effective use of agro-met data
- Promote strong community groups who understand the importance of agro-met information
- Monitoring and evaluation system to ensure the expected impact is created

Group 2: Future of Modeling Applications (Including Stats)

- Identify a crop that's important to modeling (done earlier in the project)
- Pest and disease modeling was good
- DSSAT useful when done on short-scale use of long term projections
- Need for dedicated staff, working under constraints
- Modeling plays key part
- Need to sensitize government's and management to the use of data capturing
- Strengthen the HRs sector
- Policy decisions impact climate change, productivity and capacity in terms of training.
- Use of a wider variety of crops for modeling; different countries have different crops.
- Lack of biological data; a lot more can be done.

Group 2 Cont'd

- Many questions of farmers can be answered from data available; use of FAO data; a range of questions cannot be answered by models.
- Farmers' concerns are seasonal.
- DSSAT requires dedication.
- Problems of farmers is variability; period of drought;
- Models very useful in supplying answers to drought issues,
- Be aware of the difference between yield forecasting and climate change forecasting; yield forecasting requires a huge infrastructure; climate change forecasting is easier
- More input from GIS based solutions at the national and regional level.

Group 2 Cont'd

Discussion points

- We are busy
- Model use is a challenge
- Training especially in statistics is required
- Concern about human resources (HR)
- Questions about weather and crop data.
- Need for assistance in the climate section
- Closer collaboration between Agriculture, Meteorology and the Statistical Office
- Use of SMS for timely receipt of daily weather data.
- Establish contact with university personnel (both at the student and mentor level)
- Climate section needs good data.

Group 3: Policy Relative to Data Networks

- Caribbean Agromet Data Sharing Policy
- **Vision:** Establishing a data network for sharing agromet and crop data within the region
- **Mission:** To address the impact of climate variability and change on food security
- **Goal:** To provide a framework to maximize the agromet and crop data contribution to regional sustainable economic development

Group 3 Cont'd

- **Objectives:** To establish a concise system to ensure data is provided to a Caribbean data clearinghouse (CIMH)
- To ensure proper data management and quality control
- To ensure that the data is maintained by standardized procedures
- To ensure that the data products are regionally disseminated
- To establish protocols for data information management sharing such as data dissemination

Group 3 Cont'd

- Guiding Principles
 - Applies to everyone – Public and private
 - Agromet Data is for the public good therefore member states should have ultimate ownership

Group 3 Cont'd

- Agromet data – crop data – access to crop data
- Issue is still sharing even with MOU
- One-sided data sharing – Met Services share
- Bring all stakeholders together into national workshop / meeting
- Countries need to make a policy statement
- Information sharing is key
- Caribbean water information system (WISE) – supporting document

Group 3 Cont'd

- One database (repository) per country – Met & Crop
 - Including raster and spatial data
- Met services could maintain weather / climate data
- Public Access is available to all network
- National policy needs to be in place to ensure that the regional policy is carried through
- How do we standardized the data across the region
- There should be national policy – regional policy

Group 4: Sections for Policy Brief and Strengthening Communication (**Policy Makers and Farmers**)

Communication Strategies

- ***How do we ensure that the communication strategies in CAMI are efficient and effective?***
 - Basic needs assessment of the farmers to ascertain what is available and what is required by the farmers (already done and on CAMI website)
 - **Close the gaps between farmers, meteorologists and extension officers**
- ***Problems***
 - Feedback on the bulletins needs to be obtained from the country that has done the bulletin at both national and regional level (this should be done in the form of surveys)
 - Bulletins, websites and telephones are some of the tools which have been used in the project and must be continued

Group 4 Cont'd

- ***Needs***

- Document the good practices (best management practices) through documentary etc. (these should be obtained from the region)
- Partner with media to bring across transfer the information through opportunities that come in the meeting (e.g. CWA, farmers forums and other national events)
- Training for met, media and continue farmers forum at critical times
- Utilize secondary and tertiary schools to disseminate agro-meteorological information (e.g. as done in Antigua and Barbados)

Group 4 Cont'd

Policy Brief – needs to be targeted (Policy Makers and Farmers)

- We will have to outline:
 - Objectives (link to food security/sovereignty)
 - Advantages/benefits of agro-meteorology (why is this necessary and how will this bring positive economic, social and environmental benefits)
 - Priority actions
 - Agenda for the policy makers to be involved and to effect change (time line)

Group 4 Cont'd

Challenges of met service to play their new role:

- No human resources (limited)
- Insufficient equipment/material
- Insufficient specialization
- Funding is not available (usually) to finance some of the key aspects