

Agro-meteorological Services by AASU Shimla

India Meteorological Department (IMD) started weather services for farmers in the year 1945. It was broadcast by All India Radio in the form of Farmer's Weather Bulletin (FWB). Subsequently, in the year 1976, IMD started Agro-Meteorological agricultural Advisory Service (AAS) from its State Meteorological Centers, in collaboration with Agriculture Departments of the respective State Governments. Though these services are being regularly provided by IMD for the past many years, the demand of the farming community could not be fully met due to certain drawbacks in the system. In view of that AAU Shimla started functioning w.e.f Aug 2003.

- ✓ The Agricultural Meteorology Unit of Metrological Centre Shimla has been functioning since September 2003. Since then forecasts and agro-meteorological advisories for farmers of Himachal Pradesh are issued by this unit with collaborations of State Agriculture and Horticulture Department (HP).
- ✓ These bilingual (in Hindi and English) bulletins are disseminated on a real time basis through All India Radio, Doordarshan, Newspapers and website of the IMD.
- ✓ The prime object of Agromet Advisory Service Centres of IMD is to minimize the impact of adverse weather on crops and to make use of crop-weather relationships to boost agricultural production.
- ✓ **Extension of Agro-meteorological Services**

In order to meet the farmer's need in real-time and to have a state-of art AAS service in the country, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India is going to implement the **"District Agromet Advisory Services" w.e.f June 2008'**

The objective of the Integrated AAS scheme is:

- (i) To provide location specific weather forecast and Agro-Meteorological advisory service (AAS) as per different climatic conditions and cropping patterns.
- (ii) To implement an efficient outreach system so that the farmers receive weather based agro-advisories specific to their areas and crops on real time basis.
- (iii) To set up operational arrangements for AAS involving extension and information disseminating agencies.

Collaborating organization and their linkages under Integrated Agromet Advisory Services

