

## **Vigyan Samachar: MoES News**

**13/02/2020**

### **Weather forecast-based Agro-Met Services under Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS)**

India Meteorological Department (IMD), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), State Agricultural University and other institutes have collaborated to provide weather forecast-based agricultural advisory services (AAS) at district level through a network of existing 130 Agro-Met Field Units (AMFUs). These advisories are prepared and circulated by the experts twice a week (Tuesdays and Fridays). They include information on present weather conditions, weather forecasts and operational advices for the next 5 days. It helps the farmers to understand crop patterns, sowing and harvesting time, moisture stress mitigation, fertilizer application, pesticide/fungicide spray, threshing and post-harvest work activities, dairy, hatchery, fisheries, market-related decisions, etc.

IMD and ICAR have jointly started extending the network of Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS) to the district levels by setting up of District Agro-Met Units (DAMUs) at Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) campuses. The collaboration would strengthen the agricultural advisory and warning services at block levels and Panchayat levels.

Each DAMU will feature one Subject Matter Specialist (Agrometeorology), one Agro-met Observer and Agro-AWS. Already, 135 DAMUs have been set up and experimental agro-met advisors have been prepared for 1200 blocks in the country every Tuesdays and Fridays.

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