



SASCOF 9 & CSUF-Ag2

September 27-29, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

Background: South Asian nations, supported by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), have been conducting the South Asian Seasonal Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF) since 2010. SASCOFs prepare consensus seasonal climate information on a regional scale that provide a consistent basis for preparing national level outlooks. Such forums also serve to interface with user sectors to understand and enhance the use of climate information as orchestrated and supported by the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS).

Recognizing the fact that significant amount of rainfall, of crucial importance to agriculture, is also received in South Asia during the months from October to February; winter SASCOF sessions were initiated since 2015.

During the winter months South Asian climate is influenced by both tropical (Oct-Dec) and temperate mid-latitude (Dec-February) circulation systems. North East Monsoon influences southern parts of South Asia, including peninsular India, Sri Lanka, Maldives and southern coastal areas of Myanmar. Northern parts of the region including Afghanistan, Pakistan, north India, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar get influenced mainly during by extra-tropical activity dominated by Western disturbances. Seasonal forecasts for winter season therefore need to be issued at two stages - one during September/October for southern region and the other during November/December for northern region.

Event: Myanmar's Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH), under the the Ministry of Transport and Communication, is hosting the 9th session of the South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF-9) on 27-28 September 2016 and the second session of the Climate Services Users Forum for Agriculture (CSUF-Ag2) on 28-29 September 2016, in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. WMO and the Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Early-warning System for Asia and Africa (RIMES) will be supporting SASCOF 9 & the CSUF-Ag2 meetings through funds available from the Government of Canada. The event will consist of two overlapping meetings with the **SASCOF 9 held during 27-28 September 2016** and the **CSUF-Ag 2 being held from 28-29 September, 2016**. The overlapping session will be held on 28th September 2016 wherein the consensus seasonal outlook shall be shared with user agencies. The venue for all the meetings will be the same and in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

While SASCOF9 will produce a consensus climate outlook for the season for South Asia, the CSUF-Ag1 shall bring together seasonal predictions experts and operational users of national agricultural departments of South Asian countries for better understanding seasonal climate outlook and its relevance for the agricultural sector. The CSUF-Ag2 will interpret the consensus outlook for effective use to manage climate risks in the region.

Participation: All South Asia NMHSs, invited national and international experts, WMO and RIMES. Experts from GPCs, RCCs and other leading agencies

Outcome: SASCOF 9 will prepare a climate outlook for the 2016 winter season. NMHSs from SASCOF member countries Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, as well as several regional and global experts will jointly prepare this consensus outlook. The meeting shall also review requirements for climate monitoring and seasonal forecast products and make suggestions for sustained conduct of the forums.

The CSUF-Ag 2 session will review of the agricultural situation of the previous cropping seasons and try to interpret seasonal climate information vis-à-vis its implications for the agricultural sector during the forthcoming crop season. Difficulties encountered in the interpretation and use of seasonal climate information will be also discussed and specific recommendations made for improvements.