Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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CONCEPT NOTE:

Five-day regional workshop:

"Training on Agrometeorological Services and Early Warning Systems in Central Asia: with presentations of the country baselines studies on disaster risk reduction, early warning systems and agro-meteorology services"

FAO Regional Office in Europe and Central Asia (REU) and FAO Sub-regional Office for Central Asia (SEC)

Dates: 2-6 December 2019

Tashkent City Hotel, Tashkent Uzbekistan

Background and Objectives

The Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region is prone to various natural hazards, including floods, droughts, hails, avalanches, landslides, storms and so on. With climate change, these extreme weather events as well as temperature and precipitation changes are expected to increase in frequency and severity and threaten to reduce yields and productivity in crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry in many areas of the region as well as impact food security, nutrition and ecosystem services. The agriculture sector and in particular the smallholder farmers, herder, fishers and foresters, are particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change as the majority of these small holder producers are dependent on the sector and its activities for their food and livelihoods.

The Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU) of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), under its Regional Initiative 3 that focuses on 'Sustainable Natural Resources management in a Changing Climate' and in the framework of project GCP/SEC/293/GFF (CACILM 2) for the five Central Asian countries, will conduct national baseline studies with regard to their legislations, policies, capacities and services related to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Early Warning Systems (EWS) and Agro-meteorology Services (AS). Each country study will review the current status of DRR, EWS and AS and assess the gaps and needs to improve and strengthen these areas. The results of the country studies will be used as technical background reports for the development and implementation of capacity development initiatives in 2020-21.

Objectives

The main objective of the training is to enhance the capacity of agro-meteorological divisions and national early warning system on the use of satellite/market based data and tools for the provision of reliable, timely and accurate agrometeorological services and agricultural early warning information to decision makers within the agriculture and food security sector including farmers.

Specific objectives of the training will be as follows:

1. CACILM project will be used as a platform for regional developments and capacity development in using remote sensing/climate information and crop/agricultural monitoring techniques.
2. Promote technical cooperation among countries and among national institutions and stakeholders in information sharing and food security monitoring

The expected outcomes are:

1) Better understanding of EWS, AS and DRR at regional level, national level and sub-national levels
2) Easier access to and use of satellite data and products for agrometeorological services and early warning systems (in particular drought monitoring)
3) Capacity development to produce crop monitoring, market price monitoring, market and food security monitoring and briefings.

Topics to be covered during the workshop (detailed agenda is attached)**:**

Day 1: Introduction of the training workshop, presentations of the Country Baseline Studies on Disaster Risk Reduction, Early Warning Systems and Agro-Meteorological Services and Agro-Meteorology Service Gap Analysis:

1) Early Warning Systems: An assessment of capacities, gaps and opportunities
2) Disaster risk reduction: An assessment of capacities, gaps and opportunities
3) Review of AS gap analysis by CACILM team
4) Current status of agrometeorological services: An assessment of capacities, gaps and opportunities
5) Recommendations on the future technical area and working programmes

Day 2: Training on Early Warning Systems and Drought Monitoring:

1) Early Warning Systems for Agriculture (and food security)
2) GIEWS tool
3) Remote Sensing for Agricultural Monitoring/Agricultural Drought Monitoring Systems (ASIS)

Day 3: Training on Agro-meteorology services and crop and food security monitoring:

1) Food Price Monitoring and Analysis
2) The Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool
3) Food Security Information and Early Warning Reporting/Bulletins

Day 4: Collect Earth training and support to LDN monitoring:

1) Collect Earth land assessment survey in selected project areas.
2) Data analysis using Saiku

3) Preparation of reports that meet the UNFCCC and UNCCD requirements using the obtained results.

Day 5: Collect Earth training and support to LDN monitoring:

1) Data analysis in Saiku
2) Using satellite based data to obtain indicators of Land Productivity Trends in LDN monitoring
3) Use a regional approach and tools to validate Land Productivity Trend products at the CACILM scale.

Participants

Participants will include the following (4-5 persons/each country)

- National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) staff from five countries in CA
- Experts/senior managers from the Ministry of Agriculture and other national institutions, familiar with GIS and remote sensing, and involved in drought mapping and land degradation neutrality monitoring
- Experts form FAO country officer

List of trainers:

- Mr Oscar Rojas
- Mr Mario Zappacosta, Team Leader and Senior Economist of Global Information and Early Warning Service (GIEWS), FAO, Rome
- Mr Paul Racionzer, GIEWS lead officer on price monitoring and information system, FAO, Rome
- Mr Cheng Fang
- Danilo Mollicone
- Cesar Luis García
- Ingrid Teich

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