

# **Roving Seminars on Weather, Climate and Farmers**

## **WADC Project METAGRI Training Seminar Phase III**

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# Outline

- **Importance of Weather and Climate in West African Agriculture**
- **Climate information, Climate Services**
- **Users: Main actors in the Climate Services**
- **The METAGRI project. Evolution and future**
- **Expected activities in the countries Phase III**

# Importance of Weather and Climate in West African Agriculture

- The dramatic growth in human population is imposing enormous pressure on existing farming production systems. 50% growth required food production by 2030 (FAO)
- Weather and climate are amongst the biggest risk factors impacting on farming performance and management in West Africa. This also particularly impacts on regional and world food security. Environmentally induced migrations: 50 million people worldwide could be forced to migrate within the next 10 years .
- Extreme weather and climate events such as severe droughts, floods, or temperature shocks often strongly impede sustainable farming development.

# Importance of Weather and Climate in West African Agriculture

- **Farmers and farming communities in West Africa had to adapt to growing climate variability.**
- **In addition, farmers are expected to manage the more insidious effects of long-term climate change that may now be occurring at an unprecedented rate.**
- **Against the very unfavorable economic scenarios of the last decades, farmers have been struggling to maintain their income by continuously trying to increase yields in their production systems.**

# Climate information – Climate Services

- **Climate information relevant to food production**  
[www.wamis.org](http://www.wamis.org)  
World AgroMeteorological Information Service
- **Example of Bulletin** [DMN Mali](#)
- **Climate Services. Bridging the gap between information producers and decision making groups**
  - **Government, Regional, Local Authorities**
  - **Users (food producers)**
  - **Private**

# Climate information – Climate Services (II)

- **Elements: Observations, Climate Research and Modelling feeding the Climate Services Information System**
- **Interface: Climate user Interface Programme**
- **GFCS Architecture:**
  - Development of the Framework through Capacity Building**
  - Global climate centres**
  - Regional Climate Centres**
  - Nacional Climate Services**
  - Cascade structure – Users at all levels. (Climate Services cycle)**
- **GFCS priority: target the most vulnerable sectors: Agriculture, Health, Water and Risk Reduction**

# Improvements in delivering Weather and Climate Information (taking in account user's perspective)

- **More targeted weather and climate information can increase preparedness and lead to better economic, social, and environmental outcomes for farmers.**
- **More effective approaches to the delivery of climate and weather information to farmers may need the incorporation of a more participatory, cross-disciplinary approach that brings together research and development institutions, relevant disciplines, and farmers as equal partners to reap the benefits from weather and climate knowledge.**

## Need for more Effective Approaches to Deliver Weather and Climate Information

- **Examples of more general decisions that can be aided by targeted weather and climate information include strategic and tactical crop management options, agricultural commodity marketing, food storage/transportation and policy decisions about future agricultural land use.**



## **Objective of the Roving Seminars on Weather, Climate and Farmers**

**To make farmers become more self-reliant in dealing with weather and climate issues that affect agricultural production on their farms.**

## Overall goal of the Roving Seminars

**To secure farmer self reliance, through helping them better informed about effective weather and climate risk management by sustainable use of natural resources for agricultural production**

# Planned Activities in the Seminars

Typically the Roving Seminars are of one-day duration and bring together farmers from a group of villages to a centralized location in any given region. The programme for the Seminars consists of two parts:

- **Part I – Weather and Climate of the Farming Region, Climate Change and Farming Risks**
- **Part II – Farmer Perception of Weather and Climate Information Provision and Feedback**

# Partners in the organization of the Seminars

**The Roving Seminars will be organized in full cooperation with:**

- **Local agricultural extension services**
- **Agricultural research personnel from a Regional Research Station or University in the Region**
- **NGO' s**
- **Local leaders**

# Expected Outcomes of the Roving Seminars

- **The Roving Seminars will help raise the awareness of the farming community in West Africa of the current advances in the provision of weather and climate information for facilitating operational decisions on farm.**
- **Feedback obtained from the farmers will help the personnel from the Meteorological Services and the Agricultural Extension Agencies to design more improved products for use by farmers and to improve the channels of communication to provide information to the farmers.**

# Expected Outcomes of the Roving Seminars (contd.)

- **Summary reports produced at the end of Phase I, II and III will help understand the current methods of weather and climate risk management at the farm level in different parts of West Africa and help introduce improved risk management tools for the farming community. Those reports would be the start point for a METAGRI operational project.**

## METAGRI How it was created

WMO experience:

Roving Seminars on Weather, Climate and Farmers concept. Dr. Sivakumar. Some countries where it was applied: Bangla Desh, Ethiopia.

Sahelian region: Mali, other countries and AGRHYMET.  
Training farmers, Seeding calendar, simplified raingauges.  
More than 25 years of activity

Coupling good ideas

WMO-National Met. Services + AEMETglue

## METAGRI Long term objectives

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Successful activities consolidation

Establishing links between social actors and Met. Services (Madrid Conference)

Enhance capability through NMHS staff and cooperative institutions by training in Agrometeorology

Ensure long term food security and wealth



## METAGRI Phase 1. Evaluation

- **Countries: Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Mali, Niger and Senegal .**
- **Number seminars: 25 seminars**
- **Farmers and capacity agents: around 1400**
- **Number raingauges: around 1000**
- **General outcomes and learnings**

# METAGRI Phase 1. Evaluation. From the Senegal Focal Point Report



## **Budget for METAGRI Phase III new countries**

**The average cost of organizing the Roving Seminars is about 2,250 € in a given location. This amount covers the cost of hiring an appropriate location and its preparation; production of suitable training material in local language; local organizational costs including transport, tea and lunch for all the participants; and travel and honorarium for the lecturers. Raingauges are sent from DMN Mali and the mast are encouraged to be build at every country. A sum of 10 € is provided for each one.**

**In Phase III (2011), it is planned to organize 10 seminars in each of the following five countries: Nigeria, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone.**

**WMO acts as the Coordinating Agency. Funds are provided by AEMET**

## Budget for METAGRI Phase III new countries

### *Countries level 3*

### Unit cost

Roving seminar 40 farmers/3 staff	2000	10	20000
Documentation F/E/Other languages) Office items	250	10	2500
Raingauges (Mali)	5	200	1000
Masts	10	200	2000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>25500</b>



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**Merci**  
**Thank you**