Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Save the Date:

2nd Asia-Pacific Agriculture Climate Services Week

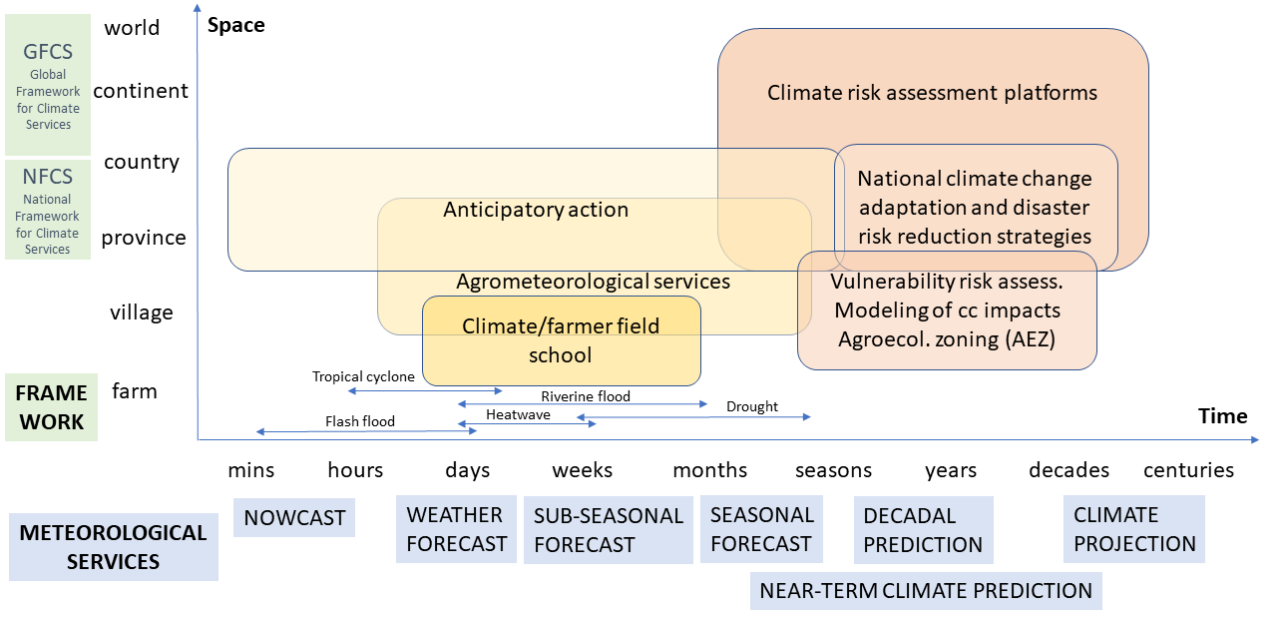
30th November to 3rd December, and 7th December 2021
Zoom sessions 10:00 to 13:00 each day [Bangkok time/GMT+7]

The share of agriculture in gross domestic product (GDP) has reached almost 20 percent for the first time in the last 17 years, making it the sole bright spot in GDP performance during 2020–2021. Agriculture is a USD 5 trillion industry and is subject to high and direct risks of climate changes impacts. In Asia and the Pacific, agriculture not only represents a significant part of the national GDP but also provides employment for more than a third of the workforce in most countries in the region, a critical livelihood for small holders, and an important driver of poverty alleviation.

The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group I report 'Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis' illustrates an urgent need to accelerate adaptation to climate change while accelerating actions for immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions to limit warming to close to 1.5°C.

A climate service is a decision aide derived from climate information that assists individuals and organizations in society to make improved ex-ante decision-making. A climate service requires appropriate and iterative engagement to produce a timely advisory that end-users can comprehend (World Meteorological Organization, 2013). Climate services that provide information interpreted in a way that assists decision-making and enable early action and preparedness, on various temporal and spatial scales, can increase the agri-food systems' capacity to make strategic planning and decisions, contributing to enhancing adaptive capacity and resilience of agricultural communities to weather and climate risks.

Types of climate services for resilient agri-food systems



Climate service providers and their services are critical in supporting the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) — under the SDG 13 Climate Action, Targets 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.4a and 13.4b.

The importance of developing effective climate services in support of climate change adaptation and disaster risk management in the agriculture sectors has gained international recognition and become an important stream of work for FAO in the Asia-Pacific region. In July 2019, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific together with a range of partners organized the 1st Asia-Pacific Agriculture Climate Week. The week facilitated the sharing of new approaches, technologies, and experiences such as modeling of climate change impacts on agriculture and suitability of crops, using agro-ecological zone (AEZ) approach for long-term planning, climate vulnerability and risk assessment in agriculture and land sectors, strengthening agrometeorological services for both climate hazards and pests and disease, developing climate data, information platforms and visualization tools.

The 2nd Asia-Pacific Agriculture Climate Services Week will be organized on 30 November to 3 December, and 7 December 2021, 3 hours each day, with the **objectives** to:

- Take stock of progress since the first Climate Services Week.
- Explore and highlight innovations (including digital and social innovations) in climate services that support transformative agri-food systems.
- Promote knowledge exchange, collaboration and partnerships.
- Develop a collective vision or roadmap for agriculture climate services in the region.

The week is organized around **three main topics:**

A. Evidence-based climate resilient planning and investment for transformative food system.
B. Agrometeorological services to address multiple hazards.
C. Early warning and anticipatory action to transform the management of climate extremes/disasters.

See the week's indicative programme below.

Tell us how you would like to join: https://forms.office.com/r/7GFHyJzvnP

- Share innovations in agriculture climate services and good practices.
- Video, photos, posters, good practices documents and lessons learned will be showcased during the week.
- Work with us in organizing sessions and events.
- Pitch ideas for collaboration and partnerships to strengthen the provision of climate services to vulnerable farmers.

Please register here, if you want to learn more about the week and participate.

https://forms.office.com/r/7GFHyJzvnP

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2nd Asia-Pacific Agriculture Climate Services Week, 30 November to 3 December, and 7 December 2021

Tuesday, 30 November *Setting the scene & supporting evidence-based climate resilient planning and investment*	**Wednesday, 1 December** *Agrometeorological services to address multiple hazards*	**Thursday, 2 December** *Early warning and anticipatory action to transform the management of climate extremes/disasters*	**Friday, 3 December** *Beyond crops — climate services for all sub-sectors and value chains*	**Tuesday 7 December** *Cross-cutting issues and the way forward*
Refreshing of the concepts. New developments in agriculture climate services. Examine the agri-food systems' evolving vulnerability to climate change, on longer time scale. Share innovations in strengthening evidence-based planning in the agriculture sectors and increasing investments on climate actions.	How agrometeorological services on shorter time scale aid farmers in their everyday decision making. Countries experience (of the national agrometeorological services and agriculture) in designing new projects with climate services as an integral component. Regional collaboration in supporting agrometeorological services in countries.	What if we invested in protecting people from disasters rather than wait for the worst to happen? That's the guiding principle of anticipatory action (AA). Technological advances in climate services are making it easier than ever before to forecast natural hazards from a matter of days to even months. With that growing availability of information comes a growing responsibility to act on it. AA uses that technology and intervenes quickly based on early warning signs.	Evidence-based climate resilient planning and investments in fisheries/aquaculture, livestock and forestry value chains. Required climate services for integrated approaches, linking with sustainable water, land and other resources management, nutrition and resilient livelihoods.	Relevant structures and policies that support and sustainably finance climate services in agriculture that leave no one behind. The way forward.
Key questions • How to improve the use of data and tools for new ways of formulating climate responsive agriculture policies and planning, and for project development (climate rationale)? • How to address the food system's vulnerability to climate change, not just agricultural production? • What are remaining gaps, needs and challenges?	**Key questions** • What are good examples of improved delivery (to reach the "last mile") and farmers' uptake of agrometeorological advisories ("last-mile")? • What are good practices in collecting local data (e.g. farm condition, phenology, weather), validating forecasts and advisories, and providing feedback to service providers? • What are new types of information and advisories (e.g. pest and disease risks)? • What are challenges in scaling up and operationalizing agrometeorological services?	**Key questions** • What are good examples for early warning messaging that instigated timely anticipatory action? • How can risks be monitored and prioritized, based on agreed indicators, thresholds and triggers to instigate AAs? • How can climate science and early warning creators better support AA? • How can we better communicate early warnings and ensure they are socially inclusive? How can we ensure they reach farmers and are understood by all? • What does AA look like for Small Island Developing States? • What are the benefits of anticipatory action? • How can we localize AA through collaborative processes?	**Key questions** • What are good examples of climate services for these agriculture sub-sector value chains? • What are challenges in serving these sub-sectors and the food system as a whole? • What are potential collaboration and partnership opportunities?	**Key questions** • Reflecting on the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties outcomes, how do climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction agendas underpin the climate services work at all levels? • How to mainstream climate services in national policies and programmes? • How to leverage information communication technology and digital agriculture? • What are capacity development needs, how to evaluate them, and how to address them? • How to improve monitoring and data and information governance? • What are the business models to sustainably finance climate services? • What will be our collective vision or roadmap for climate services for agriculture in Asia and the Pacific?