



AAM

Newsletter



Issue 1

June 2023

From the desk of President

Dear Esteemed Members,

I am honored to lead our Association of Agrometeorologist (AAM) for the term 2023-2025. With approximately 1900 life members spread over 20 chapters across the country, we are a strong and vital organization focused on being your go-to professional resource.



AAM is operating its activities from the Department of Agricultural Meteorology at Anand Agricultural University, Anand, Gujarat, India as its headquarter with 20 branch offices called the Chapters of AAM. The Association has been able to reach not only to meteorological and agrometeorological communities but also amongst a wide spectrum of scientists across the globe of allied fields viz., agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries besides forestry and environmental sciences etc. In order to encourage cutting edge education and research in the field of agrometeorology, the Association has instituted various awards. The Association regularly confers Fellowships and Honorary Fellowships upon renowned scientists for their life time achievements and contribution in the field of Agricultural Meteorology and allied sciences, in addition to felicitating the retired agrometeorologists. It has successfully organized nine National Seminars and three International Conferences on contemporary topics of agrometeorology in different parts of the country.

The Association is celebrating its 25th year (2023-24) as silver jubilee year planning mega events such as international symposium, capacity building for agromet scholars/ scientists, awareness programmes for farmers, brainstorming on reorientation in education and research in agrometeorology, strengthen industry academia interaction for opening more job opportunities in the area of agrometeorology and allied fields. These become increasingly important in the era of climate change. The Association is also engaged in creation of mentors and mentees network on agrometeorology and allied domains, participatory events for PG students and research scholars of agrometeorology departments, taking up the issues of non-uniform salary structure of the manpower engaged in GKMS with ICAR and SAUs. Regular interaction with existing chapters, creating chapters in remaining states, increasing institutional and life members will remain among the main agenda items of the year, besides website upgradation and publication of newsletter regularly.

Since it is the first newsletter, I take this opportunity to invite the members freely express their ideas and views along with feedback, and also share own exemplary findings in their field that can be included in the upcoming issues of newsletter. Your valuable input will prove to be very important for the editorial board of Newsletter in improving its quality. We recognize the incredible efforts of the editorial team in the past and present for successfully managing Journal of Agrometeorology. With the strong support of the members, we dedicate ourselves to make the Association more thriving in months and years to come.

K. K. Singh
(President, AAM)

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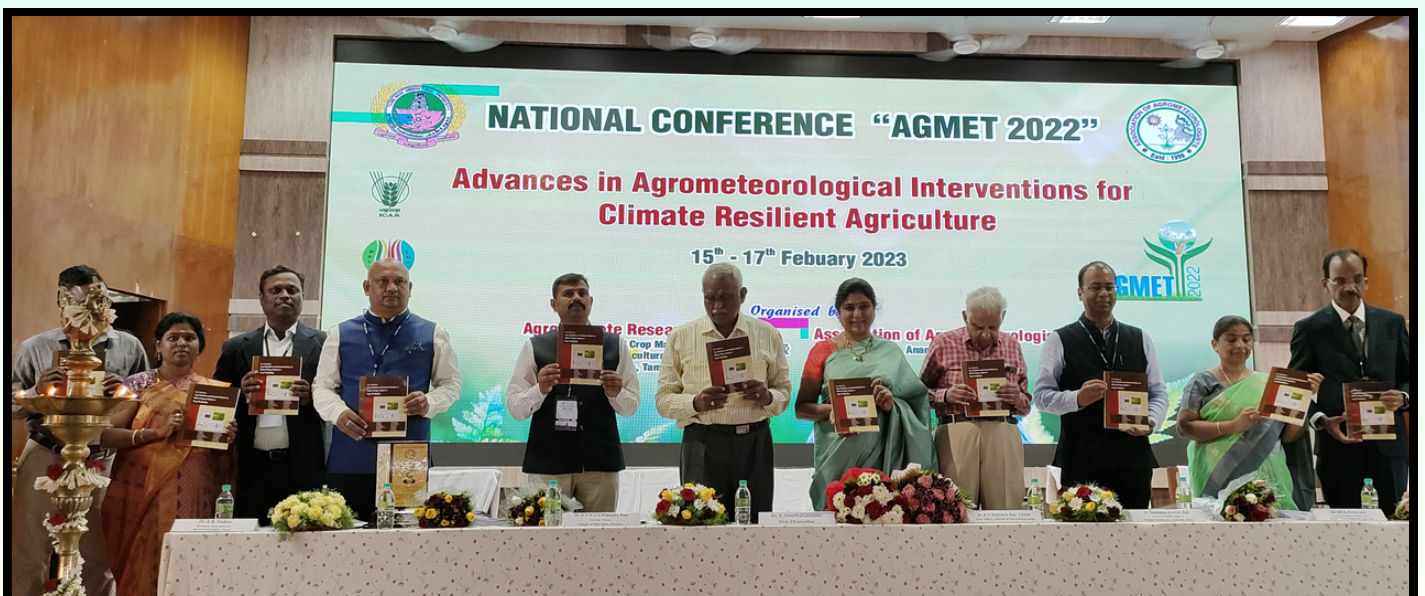
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Glimpses of AGMET - 2022

The National Conference on “Advances in Agrometeorological Interventions for Climate Resilient Agriculture (AGMET-2022)” was 11th in the series of National Seminars/Conferences organized by the Association of Agrometeorologists (AAM), India. During 2023, the conference was organized in collaboration with Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore between 15-17, February 2023. The AAM – Coimbatore Chapter took the lead in organizing this National Conference- AGMET 2022. On 15.02.2022, the inaugural function of the National Conference was held at the Anna Auditorium, TNAU, Coimbatore. Dr. M. K. Kalarani, Chairman of the Organizing Committee and Director, Crop Management, TNAU welcomed the gathering. An opening remarks was offered by Dr. Santanu Kumar Bal, Acting President of AAM, Anand followed by felicitation by the Senior Agrometeorologist Dr. G.S.H.L.V. Rao. Awardees of FAAM, best M.Sc and Ph.D thesis, best research paper and Dr. S. Venkataraman young scientist were honored at the Inaugural function with certificate of merit and memento by AAM.

The Chief guest of the inaugural function Dr. V. Geethalakshmi, Vice Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore, released the “AGMET 2022 Abstract Compendium” and two publications viz., “Crop Weather Relationship” and “User’s Manual on Crop Simulation and Statistical Models for Climate Change Analysis in Crop Production” and addressed the gathering. The esteemed chief guest strongly emphasized the importance of collaborative research among various agrometeorological institutions for enhancing the welfare of the farming community. This approach entails mutual training, data sharing, and a concerted effort to achieve fruitful and beneficial research outcomes. The Keynote address was delivered by the Chief Editor (JAM) and senior agrometeorologist Dr. B.V. Ramana Rao, who insisted the need for Agrometeorological education in every SAUs of our Country. Finally, Dr. S. P. Ramanathan, the Organising Secretary (AGMET 2022) and the Professor & Head, Agro Climate Research Centre, TNAU, Coimbatore proposed the vote of thanks in the National Conference. There were separate oral and poster sessions for the faculties and students participants in all the five themes, totally 10 sessions spread well over all three days.



AAM Awards - 2022

- **Dr S. Kokilavani**, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Meteorology), ACRC, TNAU, Coimbatore was conferred with Dr S.Vekatraman Young Scientist Award
- Dr P. D. Mistry Best Ph.D. Thesis Award was received by **Dr. M. A. Sarath Chandran**, for the Thesis entitled "Identification of sustainable cropping sequences under projected climate of New Alluvial Zone of West Bengal using crop simulation modelling" submitted to Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Mohanpur, Nadia, West Bengal
- Professor P. S. N. Sastry Best M.Sc. Thesis Award was presented to **Ms. Chinnu Raju**, Thesis entitled "Estimation of crop water requirement in rice using satellite data and GIS" submitted to Department of Agricultural Meteorology, College of Agriculture, Vellanikkara, Thrissur, Kerala
- Prof. S. Venkatraman best paper Award on abiotic and biotic stress management was selected for the Paper entitled "Modelling climate smart rice- wheat production system in the middle Gangetic plains of India" and authored by **Abdus Sattar and R. C. Srivastava** which was published in Theoretical and Applied Climatology (2021) 144:77–91, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00704-020-03497-6>
- Prof. B. V. Ramana Rao best paper Award on Agricultural Meteorology was given to the Paper entitled "Algorithms for weather-based management decisions in major rainfed crops of India: Validation using data from multi-location field experiments" authored by **P. Vijaya Kumar, Santanu Kumar Bal, Rajkumar Dhakar, M. A. Sarath Chandran, A. V. M. Subba Rao, V. M. Sandeep, V. P. Pramod, S. N. Malleswari, G. Sudhakar, N. S. Solanki, H. S. Shivaramu, M. M. Lunagaria, K. K. Dakhore, V. M. Londhe, Mahender Singh, Pragyan Kumari, S. Subbulakshmi, M. H. Manjunatha and N. J. Chaudhari** which was published in Agronomy

Fellow of Association of Agrometeorologists

- **Dr. Saon Banerjee**, Professor and Former-Head, Dept. of Agril. Meteorology and Physics, AICRP on Agrometeorology, Nodal Officer Agromet Advisory Service, BCKV, Nadia, WB, India.
- **Dr. Joydeep Mukherjee**, Principal Scientist, Div. of Agril. Physics, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi.

Honorary Fellows of AAM

- **Dr. V. K. Dadhwal**, Former Director Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) and National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), ISRO, India
- **Dr. G.S.L.H.V. Prasada Rao**, Retd. Professor & Head, Department of Agricultural Meteorology and Associate Director Research, Kerala Agricultural University, Kerala, India

Achievements by life members

- **Dr. S. K. Bal** has been promoted to the esteemed position of Project Coordinator for the All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Agrometeorology
- **Dr. N. Subash** had been promoted as the Head of Division of Agricultural Physics at IARI
- **Dr Gautham Saha** had been promoted as the Head of Department of Agricultural Meteorology

Achievements by life members

Awards Recognized at AGMET-2022: Advancing Agrometeorological Interventions for Climate-Resilient Agriculture

- **Dr. K. K. Dakhore** received the “Best paper award in Agricultural Meteorology” for the year 2022 and third prize in oral presentation under the theme Climate variability and extreme events
- **Arjun Vysakh** received the Second prize in oral presentation under the theme Climate variability and extreme events
- **Harithalekshmi V.** received the first prize in poster presentation under the theme Climate variability and extreme events
- **Riya K. R.** received the third prize in oral presentation under the theme GHG, air pollution and climate change
- **Dr. S. Subbulakshmi** received the first prize in poster presentation under the theme Micro climatic modification
- **Dr. K. Boomiraj** received second price in oral presentation under the theme GHG, air pollution and climate change
- **Dr. K. Bhuvaneswari** received the first price in oral presentation under the theme Crop Weather and Forewarning Models
- **Dr. Gowtham** received first price in oral presentation under theme GHG, air pollution and climate change
- **Dr. Guhan V.** received the second price in poster presentation under the theme Crop Weather and Forewarning Models
- **Dr. Pradipa C.** received the third price in poster presentation under the theme Crop Weather and Forewarning Models
- **Dr. Vengateswari M.** received the first prize in poster presentation under the theme Climate variability and extreme events
- **Dr. Mohan Kumar S.** and **Mr. Sachin S.** shared the third prize in poster presentation under the theme Microclimate and Climate Resilience

Across the Chapter

Thrissur, Kerala shines bright on World Meteorological Day 2023

The World Meteorological Day was celebrated on 23-03-2023 by the Department of Agricultural Meteorology, College of Agriculture, Vellanikkara in association with the Association of Agrometeorologists (AAM), Thrissur. The theme for the World Meteorological Day 2023 was “The future of weather, climate and water across generations”. The programme started with a flash mob at 10am by the KAU students. An exhibition was arranged and it was inaugurated by Dr. Mani chellapan, Dean, College of Agriculture. The inaugural function of the World Meteorological Day was held at the Seminar Hall, College of Agriculture, Vellanikkara on 23.03.2023 at 2.00 pm. The welcome address was given by Dr. B. Ajithkumar, Head of the Department, HoD, Dept. of Agri. Meteorology and Secretary, AAM. The chief guest, Dr. Mani chellapan, Dean, College of Agriculture, distributed the mementos and certificates to the students those who won in various competitions. The presidential address was given by Dr. Ajith. K., President of AAM, Thrissur chapter. The felicitation address was given by Dr. S.B.Yadav, Secretary AAM, Anand. There were two lead talks by Dr. U Surendran (Scientist, CWRDM) and Dr. Sridhara, (Professor, College of Agriculture Shimoga). Dr. P. Lincy Davis, Treasurer, AAM has delivered the vote of thanks.



World Meteorological Day celebration
Thrissur

Celebration of World Environment Day: Jorhat Chapter

Jorhat: A plantation drive was organized on the occasion of World Environment Day at the premises of "Krishilaya Primary School" in the Assam Agricultural University campus under the banner of Association of Agrometeorologists, Jorhat Chapter and Department of Agricultural Meteorology, AAU, Jorhat. All the students and teachers of the school as well as the students and employees of the Department of Agricultural Meteorology actively participated in the event. Awareness was created among One of the members of the Association also apprised the school students about the significance of celebrating World Environment Day and encouraged them to plant more saplings and nurture them. The whole programme was successfully accomplished under the constant supervision and guidance of Dr. R. L. Deka, Chairman, Jorhat Chapter.



Celebration of World Environment Day: Punjab Chapter

Punjab: The Department of Climate Change & Agricultural Meteorology celebrated World Environment Day on June 5, 2023, with the theme "Beat the Plastic Pollution." A series of events was organized and the Postgraduate students participated enthusiastically, engaging in a poster-making competition, quiz, and presentations was done to raise awareness about environmental degradation. Dr. R. K. Dhaliwal, Dean of the College of Agriculture, was the chief guest, and Dr. Joydeep Mukherjee, Principal Scientist at IARI, New Delhi, was the guest of honor. Dr. P. K. Kingra, Head of the Department, discussed about the environmental issues and advocated sustainable practices like minimizing usage of plastic and promoting recyclable materials. Awards were given to encourage the students participation in different events . The event also featured a plantation drive which was successfully organized by Dr. Harleen Kaur and Dr. Sukhjeet Kaur, with Mr. Ankit recording the proceedings and Dr. R. K. Pal



Celebration of World Environment Day at
Punjab

Celebration of World Environment Day: Ayodhya chapter

Association of Agrometeorologists Anand-ANDUAT, Kumarganj, Ayodhya chapter organized World Environment Day on 5th June 2023 in the village Dobhiyara, Block Baldirai, Dist- Sultanpur, located near ANDUAT, Kumarganj, Ayodhya. 10 scientist from ANDUAT, Kumarganj, Ayodhya and nearly 100 farmers of Dobhiyara village participated in the programme. Dr. Sitaram Mishra chairman of Ayodhya chapter delivered a lecture on Climate Change and Agricultural Productivity and other scientists also delivered lecture on various theme.



Celebration of World Environment Day: Ayodhya chapter

Celebration of World Environment Day : Kashmir Chapter

Kashmir: The Faculty of Agriculture, SKUAST-K, Wadura organized a week-long campaign from 22nd to 28th May to celebrate World Environment Day with the theme "Climate Resilient and Smart Agriculture." The focus of the event was to raise awareness about the importance of millets for nutritional security and promote sustainable farming practices. The event featured various activities and initiatives aimed at engaging students, faculty, and staff in environmental responsibility. A comprehensive awareness campaign on Nutri-Cereals was conducted, utilizing posters, banners, emails, and social media to spread information within and outside the institute. Sowing of millets took place at the Agronomic Research Farm, showcasing sustainable farming practices and encouraging farmers to adopt climate-smart agriculture. A quiz competition tested students' knowledge on environmental issues, while a panel discussion provided insights from environmental experts. Green meetings covered topics such as waste management, energy conservation, sustainable agriculture, and biodiversity conservation. Additionally, a campus clean-up drive fostered a sense of ownership and responsibility for maintaining a clean and green environment. Moving forward, the faculty remains committed to integrating environmental sustainability into institute life through ongoing initiatives, workshops, and collaborations, contributing to a greener future.



Celebration of World Environment Day at Kashmir

Across the Chapter

Faculty and student interaction meet with Professor V. Geethalakshmi, famous climatologist & Vice Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore

Date: May 15, 2023 at Virtual Class Room, SKUAST-K, Shalimar, Srinagar

On May 15, 2023, the Faculty of Agriculture at SKUAST-K, Shalimar, Srinagar, organized an interaction meet with renowned agrometeorologist Professor V. Geethalakshmi, Vice Chancellor of TNAU, Coimbatore. The objective was to discuss various aspects of agrometeorology in academic research and teaching. Professor Geethalakshmi shared her career journey, highlighting her passion for studying climate patterns in relation to agriculture. She emphasized the importance of continuous learning through research opportunities and collaborations. The challenges and opportunities faced by agrometeorologists were discussed, with a focus on addressing climate change impacts and optimizing resource management. Emerging technologies and data analytics were seen as opportunities for integrating agrometeorological models with agricultural production models. Collaboration between meteorologists, agronomists, and farmers was stressed, as well as the importance of interdisciplinary research and knowledge-sharing platforms. Successful initiatives where agrometeorologists work with farmers to develop weather-based advisory services were highlighted. The future directions of agrometeorology were discussed, emphasizing the role of academic institutions in research, knowledge exchange, and capacity building. Professor Raihana H Kant, Dean Agriculture, welcomed the guest speaker, and Dr. S. Sheraz Mahdi, Assistant Professor, presented the vote of thanks. Overall, the interaction meet inspired participants to explore innovative approaches for a resilient and productive future in agriculture and agrometeorology.



Faculty and student interaction meet with Professor V. Geethalakshmi, famous climatologist & Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore

Membership Boost

The Association of Agrometeorologists continues to gain recognition and importance in modern agriculture. It is proud to announce the addition of 17 new Life Members who joined the association from January 2023 to June 2023. One industry took institutional membership: Shri Jagan Mohan Bhalaki, Director, Arable Labs India Private Limited, Bengaluru

Farmers Awareness Programme, Itanagar

A day long Farmers' Awareness Programme on "Self-Reliant Farmers: Empowering Farmers through Agrometeorological Advisory Services in Changing Climate" was successfully organized on 14th July 2023 at DK Convention Centre, Itanagar. This event was a collaborative effort by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MOES); the Association of Agrometeorologists (AAM); the India Meteorological Department (IMD); the Department of Agriculture Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh; the Centre for Earth Sciences and Himalayan Studies (CESHS) under Department of Science & Technology; and the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Papumpare with the financial support from MOES.

The Chief Guest Shri Kiren Rijiju, Hon'ble Union Minister for Earth Sciences inaugurated the event in the presence of State Agriculture & Horticulture Minister Shri Tage Taki and declared it as an historical event on weather and climate for concern of farmers of the state. Among others, Advisor to State Minister (Agriculture & Horticulture) Shri Tana Hali Tara (MLA), IMD DG Dr M Mohapatra, Commissioner (Agriculture) Shri Bidol Tayeng, President AAM Dr KK Singh, and State's Secretary (Horticulture) Mrs Koj Rinyo and Secretary (S&T) Shri Repo Ronya, Dr SC Bhan, Sh. K N Mohan and Sh. Sanjay Shaw (IMD), Director CESHS Dr Tana Tage, Director (Agriculture) Sh. Anong Lego and a huge gathering of farmers (around 900) of Pakke Kissang and Papumpare districts. A large number of senior officers, scientists and stakeholders from centre and state attended the event. AAM EC members Dr JV Singh (MOES) chaired the technical and interactive session with farmers and Dr Prasanta Neog (AAU Sonitpur) and other experts enriched the deliberations to the benefits of farmers.



Empowering Agrometeorologists: Online Training in Python for Weather Data Analysis and the Call for Hands-on Learning

The Association of Agrometeorologist, Anand organized a 10 days online training programme from 14 June to 5 July 2023 (two lectures in a week) on "Basic Training in Python language for weather data analysis". Total 39 faculty members and students of Agricultural Meteorology discipline from various state agricultural universities/Institutes of India participated in the training programme. Dr. Ganesh Borpatra Gohain was the training resource person. Dr. S. B. Yadav, Secretary AAM was coordinator of this training programme. The Online Valedictory function was also organized under the chairmanship of Dr. K. K. Singh, President AAM. The positive feedback was received from participants, some participants suggested for physical training of Python language for weather data analysis.

CROWN YOUNG TALENT



Dr. B. V. Ramana Rao

In every forum, whether it may be cultural, social, political or scientific, people are talking about climate, climate change, global warming, climate induced extreme weather events viz., floods, droughts, heat waves, cold waves hail storms and conclusively about losses in food production and impending food shortages. It has become a necessity for agricultural scientists in particular to incorporate the word climate to publish their research work.

It is well established fact that agricultural production depends upon innumerable factors. However, it is weather and climate that decides the quality and quantity of the end product. Wise people all over the world realized the need for better understanding of the weather and climate for planning and management of agricultural production systems and laid foundation for a new super speciality in agricultural sciences as Agricultural Meteorology.

India is one of the earliest Countries to initiate research in agricultural meteorology in the India Meteorological Department at Pune under the leadership of Late L.A.Ramdas during the year 1932. Although, it is more than 90 years by now, it is regrettable to note that the discipline of agricultural meteorology has not yet received the attention to commensurate its importance excepting for the development of Agromet Advisory Services covering more than 700 districts in the Country due to courageous decision taken by the India Meteorological Department. From the numbers available, there are 68 agricultural universities and little more than 100 research institutions under the umbrella of Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Apart from the number of scientists working for agricultural meteorology in the India Meteorological Department, there are not even 100 scientists and teachers involved teaching and research in agricultural meteorology in the entire National Agricultural Research System inclusive of agricultural universities and ICAR institutions for a Country with population of more than 140 crores. There is one and sole reason for the current status of agricultural meteorology. It is not harsh, if it is attributed to the lack of more imaginative and creative research of high quality with more practical utility, except for some sporadic contributions from limited number of individuals. There are several reasons for lack of enthusiasm for high quality research like lack absence of leadership, inadequate facilities, limited financial support etc. Some good scientists do not have marketing skills for spreading awareness about the practical utility of their research at regional/national level. It is big challenge for emerging young scientists in the field of agricultural meteorology to draw national attention. The Association of Agrometeorologists can play very useful role in motivating young and emerging scientists by creating avenues for them to reach excellence by

- Identifying need based research problems with greater priority.
- Creating a mentor network to enable young scientists through interaction and guidance from best available distinguished professionals in formulating research projects acquisition of data, analysis of data and interpretation of results.
- Promoting confidence by improving their communication skills by organizing Seminars and Symposia exclusively for young scientists.

CROWN YOUNG TALENT (Cont.)

- Publishing good research work at National level by starting a Journal so that there will be no compulsion for them to publish their work in local journals.
- Igniting the need for greater interaction between the institutions/organizations to develop multi institutional linkages for team work on issues of national importance.

A time has now come to groom youngsters, help them to grow professionally, show case their talent and crown them.

Patron



Dr. K. K. Singh
President, AAM

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Exciting Upcoming Events on the Horizon



Brainstorming workshop

Brainstorming workshop on 'Reorientation of Education and Research in Agricultural Meteorology for Efficient Agrometeorological Advisory Services and Climate Resilient Agriculture' during **28-29 September 2023** at ICAR-CRIDA Hyderabad.

INAGMET 2024



International Conference (INAGMET 2024) of AAM will be held at Banaras Hindu University (BHU) during **8-10 February 2024** jointly organized by BHU Varanasi Chapter of AAM, Institute for Environment and Sustainable Development (IESD), BHU and South Asian Forum For Agricultural Meteorology (SAFOAM). Other international bodies are likely to join as host in organizing this prestigious event. In the recent meeting held on 16th May 2023, the Executive Council (EC) strongly recommended and constituted a committee for the finalization of the title, themes and technical programme of an international symposium.

1. Dr. Naresh Kumar Soora, CESCRA, IARI, New Delhi
2. Dr. S. K. Bal, PC AICRPAM, CRIDA, Hyderabad
3. Dr. N. Subash, Head, Agriculture Physics Div, IARI, New Delhi
4. Prof. R. Bhatla, Head, Dept. of Geophysics, BHU, Varanasi
5. Dr. Nabansu Chattopadhyay, Secretary, SAFOAM
6. Prof. R. K. Mall, Dean, IESD, BHU Varanasi

Pre-conference training at BHU, Varanasi

A pre-conference training has been arranged to provide scholars and young scientists with valuable knowledge in the following areas:

- (i) Data collection using modern types of equipment viz. IOT sensors and UAV, its analysis and use on 6th February 2024
- (ii) Application of weather forecasting tools in sub-seasonal to seasonal (S2S) range on 7th February 2024.