

Govt. of India
Ministry of Earth Sciences
India Meteorological Department

Guidelines

Subject: Establishment of 530 District Agro-Met Units (DAMU) at district level in Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), ICAR under Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS)

India Meteorological Department (IMD) has set up in the country a network of 130 Agro-Meteorological Field Units (AMFUs) which are multidisciplinary units responsible for preparation and dissemination of district agromet advisories during XIIth FYP. These AMFUs are located at State Agricultural Universities, ICAR centres and other institutions. Each AMFU utilizes the weather forecast and agromet products including weather data from conventional and automatic weather station (AWS) provided by IMD and ICAR to generate crop specific advisories for agricultural management for the respective districts of Agro- climatic Zones identified under the area of its jurisdiction and disseminate the same to the farming community.

Under Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS), IMD jointly with ICAR proposes to expand the network to cover 660 districts by establishing District Agro-Met Units (DAMUs) in additional 530 districts including 115 aspirational districts in the premise of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) of ICAR, under approved centrally sponsored scheme of MoES during 2017-20. DAMU/ AMFU will frame the sub-district/ block level agromet advisory bulletins and disseminate to farmers using multi-channel communication mechanism in the country to reach out to 95.4 million farming households.

Following guidelines will be followed for implementation of DAMU project:

1. Project Human Resources:

1.1 Subject Matter Specialist (SMS) and Agromet Observer

For the implementation of GKMS, Subject Matter Specialist (SMS-Agrometeorology) at KVK in the scale of Scientist 'B' i.e. Rs. 15600-39100 (GP- Rs. 5400/-) and Agromet Observer in the scale of Rs. 5200-20200 (GP Rs. 2000/-) as per 6th CPC or 7th CPC prorata (Rs. 56100-177500 and Rs. 21700-69100 respectively) on contractual basis co-terminus with the GKMS scheme on year to year extension basis. Annual increment along with service extension will be granted based on review of annual performance which will also be borne by IMD.

1.2 Qualification of SMS:

The essential qualification for the post of SMS-Agrometeorology is Post-Graduation in Agrometeorology. Candidates with qualifications in Agrometeorology /Meteorology/ Agronomy/ Agricultural Physics also be considered but preference will be given to candidates with Agrometeorology qualification.

The essential qualification of the Agromet Observer will be 10+2 along with the basic knowledge of computer operations preferable from science stream.

1.3 Recruitment responsibility of SMS-Agrometeorology at DAMUs:

Recruitment of SMS and Agromet observer at KVK/DAMU under GKMS will be done by the host institute as per their existing practises. Nominees from IMD and ICAR must be included in the selection committee for recruitment of the SMS.

1.4 Financial Entitlement:

Under salary Head, Basic salary, Dearness Allowance and House Rent Allowance are permissible in Grant-In-Aid (GIA). The other allowances and higher grade pay than above mentioned will be borne by the host organization in case of permanent manpower is posted at DAMU.

1.5 Travel Entitlement of SMS:

The SMS will be entitled for 2nd class AC train travel. Other modes of transportation in difficult areas may be allowed as per recommendation of the Director, ATARI.

1.6 Allowance entitlement:

No Medical/Pension/LTC/Carrier Advancement/PF/Transport allowance is permitted under Grant-in-aid (GIA) in GKMS scheme.

1.7 Duties and Responsibilities of SMS

- i. Receive IMD forecast and translate it into Agromet Advisory Bulletin under the guidance of Expert Panel consisting of experts of different domains of agriculture constituted at DAMU.
- ii. Undertake dissemination work using all available channels of communication and spread farmer awareness by conducting Farmer Awareness Programmes (FAP) each unit every year.
- iii. To manage Agromet observatory/ AWS work, undertake R&D for operational use in AAB preparation, attend meetings, training programmes when ever required and prepare periodic data & reports and Annual Progress Report (APR) for performance review and monitoring of work at AMFU/DAMU.
- iv. To Submit of Utilization certificate/Statement of Expenditure and demand by DAMU and subsequently by ATARI to ICAR, HQ shall be done as per existing practise.

1.8 Duties and responsibilities of Agromet Observer:

To take weather and crop observations including visual extreme weather like fog, frost, hail etc. maintain observatory and AWS, supply data for archival to IMD and other agencies, maintain records, interaction with farmers and undertake all work to be assigned by SMS.

2. Expert Panel for framing Bi-weekly Agromet Advisory Bulletin

The Expert Panel to frame weather based Agromet Advisory Bulletin on Tuesday and Friday will have Project Coordinator (P.C.)/ In-charge of KVK as Chairman, SMS-Agrometeorology as Convenor and SMSs in other disciplines as member Expert panel. Joint Director of Agriculture/District Agriculture officer, SDA shall be member of this panel.

3. Grant-in- Aid

I. Yearly budget allocation per DAMU per annum is as follows:

- i. Manpower salary (Basic, GP, DA and HRA) as per 6th CPC
 - a) SMS (Agrometeorology) = Rs. 15600-39100 (GP- Rs. 5400/-)
 - b) Agromet Observer = Rs. 5200-20200 (GP Rs. 2000/-)
- ii. Contingency = Rs. 1,00,000/-
- iii. Travel = Rs. 60,000/-
- iv. Outreach including FAP = Rs. 35,000/- + SMS dissemination

II. The GIA will be released to ICAR-HQ in instalments. However, monthly expenditure report will be submitted to IMD by DDG (Agriculture Extension) for better financial monitoring of the system.

4. Training

IMD will organise 2 days Capacity building on agromet advisory preparation for Nodal Officer and 10 days comprehensive training for SMS-Agrometeorology after recruitment is done, at Regional Met Centre/ State Met Centre/ AMFU.

5. Responsibilities

5.1 IMD

- I. IMD agrees to provide technical guidance, install and inspect Automatic Weather Station (AWS) at all ICAR centres and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) by bringing them at par with national network of IMD, where ever such systems are not installed so far.
- II. IMD agrees to provide training to personnel/scientists posted at DAMU.
- III. IMD agrees to share historical and current weather data including measured ET data from Meteorological observatories/ Agromet observatories/ AWS/ lysimeters to ICAR represented by CRIDA for its research use.
- IV. IMD agrees to bear the entire expenditure to be incurred towards installation and maintenance of AWS at DAMUs.
- V. IMD agrees to share records on extreme weather events like hails, frost, heat waves, cold waves etc. with ICAR.
- VI. IMD agrees to enable online access to weather data from all the AWS (existing ones and newly planned) to ICAR represented by CRIDA.
- VII. IMD agrees to bear the salary, travel and contingency allowances for post of SMS (Agrometeorology) and Agromet Observer.

5.2 ICAR

- i. ICAR agrees to provide suitable site with adequate space (10 mts x 10 mts) with appropriate exposure in research field of KVKs and ICAR centres for installation of AWS, wherever weather station is not so far established. ICAR agrees to exchange data on soil and crop recorded at their centres to DAMUs (KVKs) and IMD.
- ii. ICAR agrees to encourage and guide scientists posted at DAMU for active participation in supervision, exchange data with other organisations as per dynamic needs in the system.
- iii. ICAR agrees to enable online access to weather data from all the AWS and conventional agrometeorological observatories in KVKs and Research Centres (existing and new ones) to IMD.
- iv. ICAR agrees to deploy the SMS (Agrometeorology) so recruited to supervise the Meteorological Observatory/AWS, conduct experiments related to agromet advisories and issue weather based agro advisories in the jurisdiction of the respective DAMU under KVK, based on IMD forecast.
- v. ICAR agrees to provide periodic cleaning of AWS premises and local support for its maintenance.

6. Procedure for operationalization of DAMU

- i. ICAR will designate Director, Agricultural Technology Application Research Institutes (ATARI) as Principal Nodal Officer (PNO) at each ATARI headquarter and the program coordinator of each KVK as the Nodal Officer of the respective DAMU for proper monitoring and supervising the work of Subject Matter Specialist (SMS-Agrometeorology) under GKMS at DAMU and mobilizing the advice of agriculture

- scientists from different domains of agriculture in preparation of block level agromet advisory bulletin with dissemination up to village level in their respective district.
- ii. PNO at ATARI will coordinate and liaise with PNOs at SAUs headquarter as these SAUs have the department of Agrometeorology with enough experience in operational agromet advisory service and also with Director, State Meteorological Centres and District Agriculture Department In-charge in respective states. .

7. Monitoring Mechanism

DDG (Agriculture Extension), ICAR will establish mechanism through ATARI to monitor and evaluate the performance of each DAMU and submit the Annual Progress to IMD. The office of DDG (AE), ICAR will submit consolidated Utilization Certificate (UC) and Statement of Expenditure (SoE) in GFR format along with demand for the next financial year to IMD in the April every year.



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