



Annual Regional Agrometeorology Workshop November 13-17, 2006, Gaborone, Botswana

Theme: Enhancing FAO tools and methodologies in the SADC Region for applications in food security monitoring and assessments.

Motivation:

In the SADC region, 90% percent of agricultural production is rain-fed leaving only 10% to irrigation. These statistics strengthen the argument that weather and climate are one of the biggest production risk and uncertainty factors impacting on agriculture systems performance. Southern Africa practices various agricultural activities that can be supported by a range of rainfall amounts. Many of the dryer areas in the southern half of the region produce good harvests when they grow drought tolerant crops such as Millet and Sorghum. In contrast, areas in the northern half of the region have more options in terms of agricultural activities, they can undertake a wider range of activities, including growing tuber crops besides maize farming.

As the season commences, it is important that the regional staff are prepared to monitor and assessment the performance of the agricultural season. The monitoring will involve, the evaluation of rainfall performance, crop condition and estimation of potential yields and production. To do this, the staff have to be equipped with appropriate tools and methodologies. FAO has developed tools and methodologies for food security monitoring and assessment and it is these tools and methodologies that will be shared with the Member States during the workshop.

Objectives:

To equip regional experts in:

- Use of remote sensing data for applications in food security monitoring and assessments including the access of SPOT NDVI data from Meteosat Second Generation (MSG).
- Use of FAO tools and methodologies for applications in food security monitoring and assessments, mainly the Crop Monitoring box (CMB).
- Development of Meta Data to enhance the use of their data for analysis to realize useful products.
- Appreciation of Geo-WRSI for seasonal monitoring using satellite data.

Target group:

The target group for the annual Agrometeorology workshop, are Agrometeorologists involved in the food security monitoring and assessment including vulnerability analysis in their countries.

Contribution by participants:

It is expected that participants will make contributions by giving a 10-15 minutes presentation on how they use agrometeorological tools (e.g. AgroMetShell) and Remote Sensing imagery for seasonal monitoring and estimation of yield and production in their countries.