

Regional Review Meeting (GKMS & FASAL projects) for Eastern Region

(29-30 March, 2016)

Bihar being an agriculturally dependent state, the impacts of climate change and climate variability will be much more on livelihood options of the people and consequently on the state's economy. Bihar, like many parts of India, is highly vulnerable to hydro-meteorological disasters, with North Bihar in general being highly flood-prone, and South Bihar being highly drought prone. The state is besieged by all sorts of natural hazards. Rainfall during the monsoon season is the key element of Bihar's climate and continues to be the primary source of water for the vast rainfed agricultural regions in the State. Variability in monsoon related weather and climatic conditions as a result of climate change is, therefore, regarded as the primary cause of spatial and temporal fluctuations in agricultural yields. Besides, frequent heat wave and cold waves also seriously impair with the crop performance. In the recent years, uncertain weather events have increased manifold seriously affecting the crop production particularly rice and wheat crops. Extreme deviation in temperature has now been a regular and common feature endangering the production potential of *rabi* crops. Thus climate change will have far reaching consequences on the agricultural sectors. Available evidences suggest that there is high probability of increase in the frequency and intensity of climate related natural hazards and hence increase in potential threat due to climate change related natural disasters in India, and Bihar is no exception to this.

In the context of climate change, the role of weather forecast based farm advisory among the farmers are very significant in avoiding loss due to inclement weather and harnessing benefits under favourable weather conditions. Actionable weather forecast based advisory can play a pivotal role in the mitigation of climatic risks in agriculture and help in the efforts towards sustainable agricultural production.

To highlight the importance of weather forecast and farm advisory, and for greater outreach of advisory among the farmers for successful weather risk management in agriculture under changing climatic scenario, Rajendra Agricultural University with support from India Meteorological Department is organizing Regional Review Meeting for Eastern Region under Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS) and Forecasting Agricultural Output using Space Agrometeorology and Land based Observations (FASAL) Projects during 29-30 March, 2016 at RAU, Pusa, Samastipur with active participation of various stake holders. The delegates from India Meteorological Department, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal are participating in the deliberations.