Kenya Climate Information Prize Workshop and Award Ceremony

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Workshop 3:

Presentation 1: Using meteorological data

By

Ayub Shaka

Kenya Meteorological Department

Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Authorities

Notes

> KMD initially was a regional centre: served southern Africa
  - Responsible for training officers (regional training center for English speaking Africa and as far as Asia)
  - Mombasa station: 1902

> Global observing system:
  - Satellite space observing systems
  - Ocean data Buoys and ships
  - Balloons
  - Meteorological radar
  - Surface station
  - Automatic station
  - Satellite ground station

> Why should met data be used: to monitor the weather; monitor climate variabilities ad changes; make reliable forecast, better decisions often can be made

> How met data can be used:
  - Appears in the form of statistical summaries of historical data
  - Indices derived from such data (climatological information)
  - Forecasts on various time scales- weather forecasts and seasonal climate outlooks
  - Warnings and alerts

> Met department provides information to
  - Water resource management
  - Forest conservation
  - Agriculture and livestock

- DRR
- Economic planning
- Financial services and banking
- Energy development production, management and distribution
- Health management and disease control
- Aviation, ports and harbours
- Safety of marine navigation including marine and fisheries research
- Insurance and banking industry
- Transport

> How is information accessed

- On request
- Websites
- Media
- Datasets on request
- MoUs/ Partnership
- Delivery mode
- Tv
- RANET (radio and internet), community based radio stations
- Public display, email and social media

> How does KMD work to disseminate data/ services to community

- What are KMD looking for in a partner: collaboration
- Met data is expensive to produce but relatively cheap to reproduce; hence considered a public good
- Need help adding value to information and channels to reach the 'last mile'

Enhancing climate information: IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre

> Was formed in 1989 as the Drought Monitoring Center and is housed as Kenya Met

- Responsible for climate monitoring,
- Receives data from met bodies of IGAD countries;
- Blended data to develop statistics to understand climate (1981 - present)
- Climate model data
- Indigenous knowledge

> Role of ICPAC

- Regional climate data archiving and data management
- Climate monitoring, modelling, prediction and research (verification)
- Provision of information on intra-seasonal characteristics of rainfall- onset, intensity, duration, dry spells, wet spells
- Longer term trends- changes in rainfall, air temperature, soil moisture, evapotranspiration
- Environmental monitoring

- Develop drobust integrated early warning systems
- Forecasts: ICPAC.net

> Collaboration between ICPAC and KMD

- Coordination of climate related activities and projects at regional level
- Capacity building and regional training workshops
- Data sharing (in situ, atmospheric, oceanic)
- Data blending – geoclim
- Weather monitoring and forecasting

> Dissemination of ICPAC climate information to users

- GHA climate outlook forums engagement of sector experts
- Agriculture and food security
- Water
- Health
- DRR
- Energy
- Sms alerts to target groups (project based)
- Bulletins
- Social media
- Geospatial apps:

> Uses of information

- Mainstreaming climate into regional and national plans, policies, programmes and strategies
- Decision making by farmers, governments and NGOs
- Early warning for Early Action DRR/M
- Longer term planning – climate change adaptation and mitigation
- How best can KMD and other providers work with intermediaries to ensure that information is accessed, understood and used properly by end- users

> WeFarm: Has 51 000 farmers on their peer to per network to share information and allow farmers to ask farming questions. Ambition is to reach 1 000 000 users by the end of the year

Group suggestions on how KMD and other providers could work with intermediaries to ensure that information is accessed, understood and used properly by end-users.

> Provide information that is sector specific as in most cases different sectors need different information

> Explain all scientific terms and avoid uses of jargon in communicating Met data

> First step will be to understand how the end user will want to use the weather information. Kenya met and the intermediary can then tailor the weather information to suit and be understandable to the end user

> KMD could also work with the Ministry of Education to educate learners on weather expectations. Maybe provide charts, maps or other learning materials. This is a long term strategy

> The KMD can have the National Weather forecast and through their county offices have it downscaled and maybe through the intermediaries be interpreted to a language that is understood

> Having multi-stakeholder platforms where users interact with providers and intermediaries to assess the data but also understand and interpret it into user responsive information

> Through downscaling and monitoring activities to ensure that end users are coming for and getting the right kind of information for users

> KMD and other providers and intermediaries come together to profile needs of communities to tailor information and send it via a simple sms system to reach audience. By integrating/ partnering with platforms that reach these end users such as wefarm where the platform is using the peer to peer model to ensure small holder farmers access knowledge. Peer- peer information is easy to understand and interpret using sms for more access

> Provide a platform that is accessible to everyone

> Have a contact person at the local region who can interpret the climate information and put it in local language and ensure follow up of the understanding of the information by users

> Through an application programming interface

> Partner with private enterprises to process the content and package it and also through pastoral networks for dissemination

> Incorporate indigenous traditional systems

> Decentralising services to county level and making information available in local language

> Openly indicate at what level is the information required is no longer free of charge or requires specialists

> Make the information simple and livelihood applicable

> Use the local language to disseminate information

> Work with existing structures such as provincial administration and nyumba kumis