

Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (2022-23)

In GKMS, 17 KVKs having DAMU were functioning and providing weather forecast bulletins to the farmers. Two more KVKs of West Bengal i.e. Darjeeling and Uttar Dinajpur, were selected to set up DAMUs during FY 2022-23 and instruction conveyed to the Host Organization of KVKs to recruit the man powers, SMS and Agromet Observer, and the KVKs initiated the process for recruitment. The sanctioned budget during FY 2022-23 was Rs. 2.64 crores. Weather forecast bulletins/special bulletins were generated in English and local languages and communicated to the farmers well in advance. Agromet Advisory Bulletins were prepared twice a week and circulated among all the farmers of the district. Several modes of dissemination of advisories were used like email, messages, whatsapp group, social media, through input dealers, block level extension functionaries, through village-based clusters etc. Each year during extreme weather conditions over Odisha, West Bengal and neighbourhood, these DAMUs prepared special bulletins of warnings in regional languages and circulate to the farmers well in advance, such as to complete harvesting of crops, to strengthen the macha of vegetables and betel vine, to stay at home along with safety of cattle and livestock in this period and fishermen were advised not to move into the sea. That helped the farmers to a great extent in minimizing the loss and crop damage during these extreme weather conditions. The KVKs took initiative in popularizing of *Meghdoot* and *Damini* mobile apps for outreach of agromet advisories.

