Dissemination and Uptake of Weather and Climate Information in Zimbabwe

Presented by
R Manzou[Mrs]

Meteorological Services Department
Presentation Outline

- Introduction
- Weather and climate services generated
- Modes of dissemination
- Problems encountered
- Recommendations
VISION
The Meteorological Services Department's vision is that world-class meteorological, climatologically and seismological products and services are timely, affordable, easily accessible and understood by all anytime and anywhere within and outside Zimbabwe.

MISSION
As the National Designated Authority on meteorology, climate and seismology, we contribute to the protection of life and property and science-based informed socio-economic decision-making by providing customer and stakeholder-driven quality meteorological, climatological and seismological products and services.

CORE PURPOSE
The MSD serves as Zimbabwe’s official authority on and National Government Advisor of matters pertaining to meteorology, climate and seismology with the tasks among others, of observing, recording, monitoring, quality controlling and archiving of data in addition to providing forecasts, advisories and warnings.
Introduction

The MSD serves as Zimbabwe’s official authority on, and National Government Advisor of matters pertaining to meteorology, climate and seismology with the tasks, among others, of observing, recording, monitoring, quality controlling and archiving data in addition to providing forecasts, advisories and warnings.

Protection of life and property
Weather and Climate Services Products

- General forecasts (seasonal and daily)
- Specialized forecast as per request
- Data as per request (raw and unprocessed)
- Data analysis as per request (Time series, trend analysis, bar graphs, analyzed maps and charts)
- Lightning and severe weather confirmation products
- Sector specific - farmers, insurance, NGOs
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rainfall Bulletin</th>
<th>Agromet Bulletin</th>
<th>Forecasts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Produced weekly during the rainfall season (October to March/April)</td>
<td>Produced dekadal (1, 11, 20 of the month) throughout the year</td>
<td>Produced daily, 3-day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Winter – frost incidence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer – Rainfall performance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past weather summary, 7-day forecast</td>
<td>Past weather summary, 10-day forecast</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Rainfall Situation</td>
<td>Crop, livestock, water supply situation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated Rainfall (1 October to date) % of normal</td>
<td></td>
<td>Advisory for the coming dekad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dissemination

- Website and Social Media
- Radio, Television and Print Media
- Use of local languages
- Workshops and seminars in conjunction with partners and other stakeholders
- Agricultural shows
Website, Electronic & Social Media

Used

- Twitter: @MSDZIM
- Whatsapp: +263 778 125 911
- Facebook: Meteorological Services Department of Zimbabwe
- Website: www.weather.co.zw
Disaster Risk Reduction Climate Services Products

- Provision of weather and climate information
  - Seasonal Forecasts (at the start of the rainy season)
  - Short range forecasts (during the bi-monthly meetings)

- Provision of warning and alerts to Department of Civil Protection, DCP

- Participation in the DCP pre-season meetings in flood prone areas
Agricultural Food Security Climate Services Products

- AGRITEX
  - Pre-planting meetings
    - Dissemination of the Seasonal Forecasts (focusing on region of interest)
  - Crop and Livestock Assessment Reports
    - Specific analysis for the reports (Season Quality)
  - National Early Warning Unit
    - Specific analysis for the bulletin
Challenges

- Staffing –
- Inadequate resources
  - Inadequate/ Lack of equipment
  - Awareness and advocacy of use of weather and climate products
- Sparse rainfall network which affects generation of area specific products
- Community outreach mostly dependent on partners programmes
- Terminology of weather and climate products in local languages needed
- Low uptake of products (perception, misinterpretation (jargon))
- Limited access of products by users because of the platforms used (Facebook, Twitter)
- Data regarded as being expensive
Recommendations

- Strengthening the dissemination channels for the products to be reached by wider audiences.
  - Mobile weather application, which can be easily accessed by everyone is needed
  - Improved/increased Collaboration with the Network providers

- Increasing the product portfolio to be able to offer sector specific products

- Improvement of rainfall station density
  - 1 standard rain gauge/ward (>1000 needed)
  - 1 AWS/district (60+ to go)
    - The strategy is to have observing stations not more than 50km apart, particularly for rainfall.
    - The strategy for the 2013-2018 is to install at least 150 AWS throughout the country.

- Continued capacity building of MSD personnel

- Production of products in local languages as a means of improving understanding