

Bangladesh Met. Department joins climate services partnership

With approval from the Office of the Prime Minister, the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) formally joined the Climate Services for Resilient Development (CSRD) partnership in South Asia in September of 2017

The Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) formally joined the CSRD partnership during a signing ceremony on 28th September, 2017, held in the conference room of the Ministry of Defense in Dhaka. Representatives from BMD and International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), which leads CSRD activities in South Asia, signed as the collaborative parties of the project. CSRD is a global partnership whose core mission is delivering climate services — including the production, translation, transfer, and use of climate information — purposefully designed to enable decision-makers to address climate problems and create solutions. CSRD's efforts in South Asia focus on assisting smallholder farmers and stakeholders in agriculture to make better use of climate information to increase farm resilience.

Mr. Akhter Hussain Bhuyia, Secretary, Ministry of Defense, Mr. David Westerling, the Acting Economic Growth Office Director and the Feed the Future Team Leader, USAID, Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed, Director, BMD, Dr. Timothy J. Krupnik, CIMMYT and CSRD in South Asia Project Leader, Dr. Ghulam Hussain, CSRD Senior Coordinator, and Dr. Thakur Prasad Tiwari, CIMMYT-Bangladesh Country Representative, were present in the ceremony.

“By working CIMMYT and the and other national and international CSRD partners, BMD will greatly benefit from this unique partnership that aims to integrate agriculturally relevant meteorological information into easy-to-use and demand-driven decision support platforms to improve climate advisory services for crop management” said Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed, Director, BMD.

Part of the Government of Bangladesh, BMD issues meteorological forecasts and warnings in Bangladesh and is responsible for providing climate information to public and private sector agencies in Bangladesh.

“We are excited by this new opportunity to develop new tools, services, and approaches and to increase forecasting capacity in BMD through CSRD.” Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed added that “This work will strengthen our ability to generate agriculturally relevant information and increase climate resilience in Bangladesh.”



Dr. Thakur Prasad Tiwari, Country Representative, CIMMYT-Bangladesh and Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed, Director, BMD signed the partnership agreement in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 28th September 2017. Photo: MSH Khan (CIMMYT)

Climate Services for Resilient Development (CSRD) is a global partnership whose core mission is to translate actionable climate information into easy to understand formats to spread awareness and use of climate services. In South Asia, CSRD supported by USAID and led by the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) in partnership with the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), Bangladesh Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), International Institute for Climate and Society (IRI), University de Passo Fundo (UPF), and the University of Rhode Island (URI).