

South Asian Seasonal Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF)



SASCOF-11: Winter Season Maldives, September 2017



SASCOF-13: Winter Season Colombo, September 2018



SASCOF-14: Summer Monsoon Season Nepal, April 2019



SASCOF15: Winter Session & Climate Services User Forum on Water 2019

South Asian nations, supported by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), have been conducting the South Asian Seasonal Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF) since 2010. SASCOFs prepare consensus seasonal climate information on a regional scale that provide a consistent basis for preparing national level outlooks. Such forums also serve to interface with user sectors to understand and enhance the use of climate information as orchestrated and supported by the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS). Recognizing the fact that significant amount of rainfall, of crucial importance to agriculture, is also received in South Asia during the months from October to February; winter SASCOF sessions were initiated since 2015. During the winter months South Asian climate is influenced by both tropical (Oct-Dec) and temperate mid-latitude (Dec-February) circulation systems. North East Monsoon influences southern parts of South Asia, including peninsular India, Sri Lanka, Maldives and southern coastal areas of Myanmar. Northern parts of the region including Afghanistan, Pakistan, north India, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar get influenced mainly during by extra-tropical activity dominated by Western disturbances. Seasonal forecasts for winter season therefore need to be issued at two stages - one during September/October for southern region and the other during November/December for northern region. The impact of seasonal weather forecast on agriculture is also explored in this forum