

Report

Focus group summary: Valuing the socio-economic benefits of weather and climate services

ARRCC MOP

The Asia Regional Resilience to a Changing Climate (ARRCC) Met Office Partnership (MOP) is a four-year programme running from 2018-2022, which aims to strengthen weather forecasting systems across Asia.

The programme will deliver new technologies and innovative approaches to help vulnerable communities use weather warnings and forecasts to better prepare for climate change.



Background

Researchers from the ARRCC MOP programme held a participatory session on experiences and perceptions of conducting weather and climate service (WCS) evaluations. The session was led by ARRCC MOP colleagues from the University of Leeds, UK and was held at the Sixth International Conference on Climate Services (ICCS6) in Pune, India on 12 February 2020.

The participants

The session was attended by 18 participants from academia, practice and policy with a variety of backgrounds including; food security, meteorology and project management. Participants were divided into two groups; those who had previously used evaluations, the 'experienced evaluators', and those who had not, the 'potential evaluators'.

Key points

- **Evaluations are seen as useful and important** - the importance of evaluations was recognised by everyone, even those with little experience of conducting them. Both groups discussed how important evaluations were in justifying a course of action for a specific product, as well as for measuring the impact of a service.
- **Evaluations should be built into programme design** – many participants faced challenges when an evaluation strategy had not been built in to the programme from the start. Thinking about evaluation very early on can help plan resources and identify data requirements, including collecting the correct baseline data against which the impact of a WCS can be evaluated.
- **No common methodology is a barrier** – respondents noted that in order to conduct or commission appropriate evaluations they must be confident they have selected the correct evaluation method. But respondents were not always clear on how to do this. It was suggested that a data portal might be a good way to consolidate knowledge on methods and reporting.
- **There is an appetite for in-house training** – where internal resources do not allow for in-house evaluations they are often commissioned

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externally. However, there is an appetite for more in-house training so evaluations can be conducted internally.

Next steps

The ARRCC MOP programme will produce a guidance document intended to help National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and other providers of met/hydro services develop a basic understanding of the methods for evaluating the socio-economic benefits (SEBs) of weather and climate services (WCS).

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