APRIL-JUNE 2013
PROGRAM UPDATE
ENHANCE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM FOR COMMUNITY BASED RESPONSE IN BANGLADESH

A. 1-10 DAY FLOOD FORECASTS

Operational discharge (1-10 day) forecast for Brahmaputra, Ganges and Meghna
June 2013

Generation of 1-10 day medium-range forecast products for Brahmaputra, Ganges, and Meghna became operational from 1 June 2013, with a launch at FFWC website. Forecasts are provided for 18 locations. Forecast products for 20 additional locations downstream of Meghna shall be launched in August. Additional research on data assimilation shall be carried out from July 2013 to enhance rainfall forecasts for the hydrological model. Figure 1 shows the 2013 forecast products.
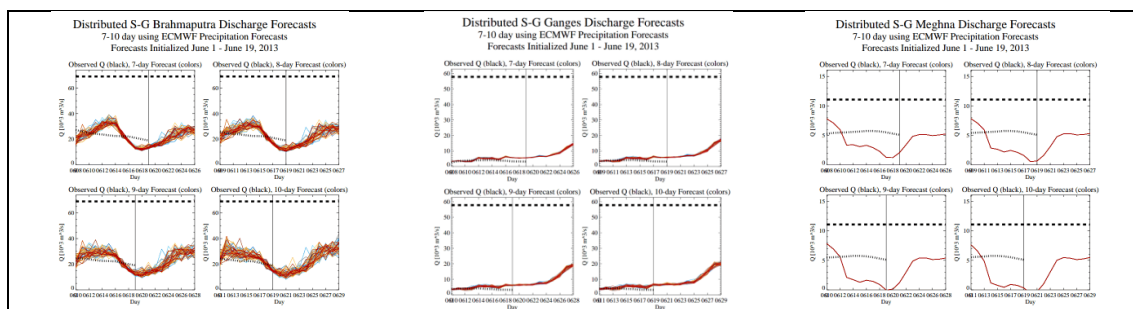

Figure 1 Discharge forecast (1-10 days)

B. FLASH FLOOD FORECASTS

Flash flood forecast model
April 2013-June 2013

RIMES developed and demonstrated the operational web-based flash flood guidance system using data based model of rainfall forecasts. Forecast products were disseminated to Jagaddal Union through SMS via GP RIMES agreement and voice call. Products are available in http://edet.rimes.int/flash_flood/index.php. The model is yet to be calibrated and refined, with participation of FFWC technical staff seconded to RIMES to enable technology transfer.
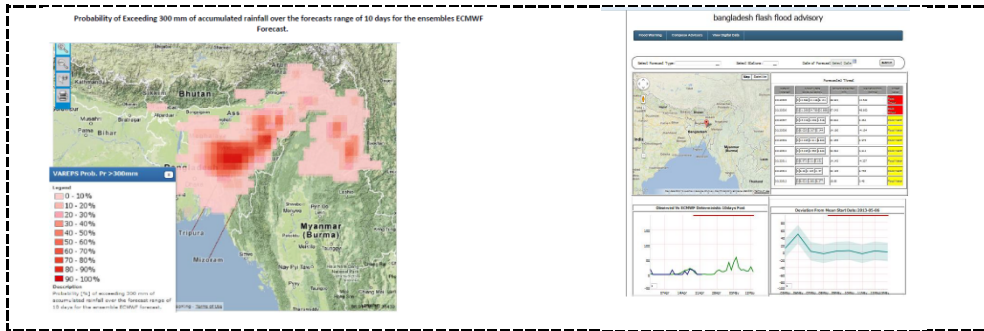
Figure 2 Flash flood guidance by RIMES and FFWC (05 May 2013)

Site Profiling and Community Consultation
April 2013

FFWC and RIMES staffs visited the pilot sites in Kulkandi, Islampur, and Jamalpur to collect biophysical and socioeconomic data, as well as consult with local stakeholders. Early warning system audit was conducted for assessing current early warning system, gaps and needs. Meeting was also conducted with the Union Disaster Management Committee (UDMC), Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer, and local elites for familiarization with local demographic condition, possible early warning dissemination process, use of early warning in different sectors, and installation of local water level gauges and maintenance. Moreover, reconnaissance was conducted for socio-economic data collection. Site visits were made to familiarize with flood zones, for model input, evaluate existing water gauge condition, and survey probable site for installing new gauge.

C. OPERATIONALIZE 20-25 DAY AND SEASONAL FORECASTS
Seasonal forecast model
April 2013-June 2013

The seasonal forecasting model is ready; training shall be provided to FFWC in the next quarter. Model shall be refined against observations during the season.

D. Training
Refresher Training
June 2013

Training on flood forecasting technology for community-based response in Bangladesh was conducted on 11-12 June 2013 at Sirajganj and Kurigram. The training was a refresher training, based on standard modules developed last year, with participants from the Union Disaster Management Committee (UDMC) and from CARE, as well as their implementation partners. The training aimed to familiarize participants with medium-range forecast products and their applications. Topics covered were: history of flood and flood forecasting technology, climate condition in the north-western part, present and modern rainfall and water level measurement techniques and forecast generation, medium range forecasts and uncertainty, decision support system and dissemination system for medium-range forecasts, and application at community level. Simulation was conducted at the end of the training to observe perception of participants towards medium-range forecasts. The training was able to bridge gaps between producers and users to understand and utilize medium-range forecasts in decision-making. It also helped to understand user needs, as input to customizing forecast products.

Figure 3 Training activities (Sirajganj and Kurigram)

E. TRAVEL
RIMES staff traveled to Bangladesh to conduct the community level training and meeting with CARE and FFWC.

F. UPCOMING ACTIVITIES: June – September 2013

- Continuous monitoring of rivers situation, forecast generation, and on the job training to FFWC staffs
- Capacity building activities in pilot Unions
- Updating of flash flood model and evaluations
- Seasonal forecasts model training to FFWC