Origin Of INSAM

Already at several occasions agrometeorologists have tried to build networks. One of the better known ones is the "Programma de la Paz", an informal regional network proposed in 1994 (Agric. For. Meteorol. 75, 213 - 214) that no doubt has had a very positive influence on circulation of agrometeorological information and on agrometeorology in general in South and Central America.

It was supported and strengthened in Cuba in 1995 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in Geneva and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome, that subsequently jointly established in 1996 the agromet-L internet conference. We believed in 2001, with those responsible for the earlier leads, that it was time for a renewed and wider initiative based on these original ideas that have worked very well. It was therefore proposed at that time in circles of the "Technical Commission for Agricultural Meteorology (CAgM)" of WMO to establish the International Society for Agricultural Meteorology. It is our vision that agrometeorologists and others having work with agrometeorological components from all over the world, from different sectors, institutes and institutions, should interact through INSAM on their activities and results, to increase the role of agrometeorology.

Because agrometeorology should ultimately be production and protection focused, agrometeorology is defined by us in the widest possible way. It includes climatology at all time scales and all environmental weather and climate related issues of production and protection in for example forestry, grasslands, fishery, glasshouse and other covered/indoor growth conditions and all the other subjects that are covered by our list of main interests from which members can chose. A good definition of agrometeorology appears to us that “agrometeorology investigates adaptation strategies to weather and climate in raising crops, trees, livestock and fish. It studies water, heat, air and related biomass development in the agricultural production environment, including disasters, and their socio-economic consequences for farmers as decision makers. This leads to agrometeorological services for response farming with irrigation scheduling, early warnings, microclimate manipulation and the application of weather and climate forecasts in a changing and increasingly variable climate”.

It is the intention of INSAM to be complementary to and collaborate with Applied Climate Services Division & Applications for Agriculture, Energy and Health in World Meteorological Organization. CAgM and the other international and national agrometeorological (parts of) organizations, societies and committees, to increase contacts between agrometeorologists all over the world. Some of these have hundreds of members and some even more than thousand, like us. The way we want to do that is exemplified by the contents of this Web site.