



34th Session of the South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF-34) for the Summer Season and Climate Services User Forum (CSUF)

Malé, Maldives | 25–30 April 2026

DETAILED AGENDA

Programme Overview

Date	Event
25–27 April 2026	Pre-COF Hands-On Training Workshop
26–27 April 2026	SAHF Climate Services Working Group Meeting (parallel track)
28 April 2026	34th South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF-34)
29–30 April 2026	Climate Services User Forum (CSUF)



Pre-COF Hands-On Training Workshop

25–27 April 2026 | 09:00 – 17:00 (UTC+5) | Malé, Maldives

Participants: Seasonal forecasters and NMHS technical staff

Purpose: Strengthen technical skills in generating, interpreting, verifying, and communicating seasonal outlooks using regional and global products.

Expected Outputs:

- Strengthened producer technical capacity
- Training materials aligned with regional priorities
- Baseline and post-training evaluation results

DAY 1 – 25 April 2026 (Saturday): Technical Forecasting and Modelling Capacities

09:00 – 09:30	Registration
09:30 – 10:00	Inaugural Session
10:00 – 10:30	<i>High Tea</i>
10:30 – 11:00	Basics of Seasonal Forecast <u>Dr. O. P. Sreejith, IMD</u>
11:00 – 11:30	Introduction to Python Programming and Hands-on session <u>Khan MD Golam Rabbani, Nazmul Ahasan & Rajkumar Rai, RIMES</u>
11:30 – 12:00	Availability of Climate model in NMME and ECMWF Climate Data Store and Preparation of Climate Model data <u>Rajkumar Rai, RIMES</u>
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>
13:00 – 13:30	New Relative ONI Index for ENSO Monitoring & Prediction <u>Dr. Sabeerali C T., RCC-Pune</u>
13:30 – 15:30	Introduction to Xcast and Hands-on Exercise of Model evaluation using Xcast <u>Rajkumar Rai, Khan MD Golam Rabbani, RIMES / Sabeerali C. T., RCC-Pune</u>
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Tea Break</i>
16:00 – 17:00	Hands on Training on Xcast <u>Rajkumar Rai, Khan MD Golam Rabbani & Nazmul Ahasan, RIMES</u>

DAY 2 – 26 April 2026 (Sunday): XCAST, QGIS, and FOCUS X

09:00 – 10:30	Hands-On: Xcast <u>Rajkumar Rai, Khan MD Golam Rabbani, RIMES</u>
10:30 – 12:00	Overview of Impact Analysis Tool with Hands-on Demonstration <u>Leila Salarpour Goodarzi & Rahul Suman, UN ESCAP</u>
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>
13:00 – 14:30	Demonstration and Hands-on Demonstration of Offline and Online GIS Tool <u>Leila Salarpour Goodarzi & Rahul Suman, UN ESCAP</u>
14:30 – 15:00	<i>Tea Break</i>
15:00 – 16:00	Interactive Session: Presentation and hands-on demo on the updated FOCUS Tool <u>Jie Qiu, RIMES & Andrew Colman, UKMO</u>
16:00 – 16:30	Open Discussions



DAY 3 – 27 April 2026 (Monday): Translation of Climate Information into Climate Services

09:00 – 09:30	Communication of Forecast Uncertainty to Sectoral Stakeholders <u>RCC-Pune</u>
09:30 – 10:30	Co-Production of Climate Services <u>Dr. Jane Strachan, UK Met Office</u>
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Tea Break</i>
11:00 – 12:00	Development of IBF and Risk-Informed Climate Advisories <u>Asif Uddin Bin Noor, RIMES</u>
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>
13:00 – 15:30	Developing Sector-Specific Climate Outlook and Advisories <u>Raihanul Haque Khan and Asif Uddin Bin Noor, RIMES, & Dr. Jane Strachan, UK Met Office</u>
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Tea Break</i>
16:00 – 16:30	Extending DataX for Seasonal Forecast: Progress and Future Plan <u>Nazmul Ahasan, RIMES</u>
16:30 – 17:00	Valedictory Session and Feedback
	<i>End of Pre-COF Hands-On Training Workshop</i>



SAHF Climate Services Working Group Meeting

26–27 April 2026 | 09:00 – 16:00 (UTC+5) | Malé, Maldives

Participants: SAHF Climate Services Working Group Members, Development Partners

Purpose:

- Present and review findings from the regional and national climate services assessment reports
- Present and discuss TNA results and validate the training plan
- Present the DSS catalogue and gather feedback
- Define next steps and sustainability beyond the current project implementation

Expected Outputs and Outcomes: Updated Climate Services Working Group priorities; endorsed training roadmap; and agreed coordination mechanism for continued engagement

DAY 1 – 26 April 2026 (Sunday)

09:00 – 09:30	Registration
09:30 – 10:00	Opening Session
10:00 – 10:20	Overview of the Meeting
10:20 – 10:30	Group Photo Opportunity
10:30 – 10:50	<i>Health / Tea Break</i>
10:50 – 11:20	Global Status of Climate Services, Challenges and Opportunities for South Asia <u>Dr. Jane Strachan, UKMO</u>
11:20 – 11:40	Presentation of the CS Work Plan <u>CS WG Co-Chairs</u>
11:40 – 12:00	CS Project Activities: Presentation and Validation of the Assessment Reports (Regional and National Levels) <u>Dr. Anshul Agarwal, RIMES</u>
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>
13:00 – 14:00	Presentation and Validation of the TNA Results and Corresponding Training Plan <u>Raissa Ancheta, RIMES</u>
14:00 – 15:00	Group Activity: Updating of Work Plan and Identification of Priority Activities
15:00 – 15:20	<i>Health / Tea Break</i>
15:20 – 16:00	Presentation of Group Activity, Open Discussions

DAY 2 – 27 April 2026 (Monday)

09:00 – 09:30	Registration, Recap of Day 1
09:30 – 10:00	Presentation of the DSS Catalogue and the SKHub COP Discussion Board <u>Danna Valdez, RIMES</u>
10:00 – 11:00	Presentation of the Proposed Enhancements to the FOCUS Tool with Hands-On Demo <u>Jie Que, RIMES</u>
11:00 – 12:00	Interactive Session: RFCS for South Asia and Requirements for Implementation <u>David Corbelli, UKMO</u>
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>
13:00 – 14:00	Presentation of the Updated Work Plan and priority activities
14:00 – 15:00	Open Discussions:



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Endorsement of Training Plan- Operationalization of CSUF- Barriers to Implementation and Potential Solutions- Way Forward (beyond project implementation; agreement on coordination mechanism for continued engagement)
15:00 – 15:30	Summary and Wrap-Up
15:30 – 16:00	Messages from the WG Co-Chairs, RIMES, and UKMO
	<i>End of SAHF Climate Services Working Group Meeting</i>



34th South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF-34)

28 April 2026 | 10:00 – 17:00 (UTC+5) | Malé, Maldives

Participants: Seasonal Forecasters, SAHF CS WG Members, Regional and Development Partners

Purpose: Prepare consensus seasonal climate information on a regional scale to provide a consistent basis for preparing national-level outlooks for the June–September (JJA) 2026 season.

Target Output: Produce a Seasonal Climate Outlook for JJA 2026 Season

34th SOUTH ASIAN CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (SASCOF-34) – TUE 28 April 2026	
09:30 – 10:00	Registration
10:00 – 10:30	Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recitation of Holy Quran ● Remarks/Messages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. O.P. Sreejith, RCC-Pune, IMD ○ Director General Abdulla Wahid, MMS ○ Dr. Anshul Agarwal, RIMES-SAHF
10:30 – 10:50	Participants' Introduction
10:50 – 11:00	Group Photo Opportunity
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Tea Break</i>
Session I: Seasonal Prediction of South Asia for JJAS Season 2026 – Country Perspectives (Part 1)	
11:30 – 11:40	Afghanistan
11:40 – 11:50	Bangladesh
11:50 – 12:00	Bhutan
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>
Session I: Seasonal Prediction of South Asia for JJAS Season 2026 – Country Perspectives (Part 2)	
13:00 – 13:10	India
13:10 – 13:20	Maldives
13:20 – 13:30	Myanmar
13:30 – 13:40	Nepal
13:40 – 13:50	Pakistan
13:50 – 14:00	Sri Lanka
14:00 – 14:10	Open Discussion
Session II: Seasonal Prediction of South Asia for JJAS Season 2026 – Global and Regional Perspectives	
14:10 – 14:30	Introduction of Emerging ENSO indices and its application <u>Dr. Sabeerali, C.T., RCC-Pune</u>
14:30 – 14:50	<i>Health / Tea Break</i>
14:50 – 15:10	JMA's Seasonal Prediction of South Asian Climate for JJA 2026 <u>Ken Yamada, Tokyo Climate Center-Japan Meteorological Agency (TCC-JMA)</u>
15:10 – 15:25	Global and Regional Perspectives: WMO Lead Center for Long-Range Forecast <u>Dr. Jeongmin Han, APEC Climate Center (APCC)</u>
15:25 – 15:40	Global and Regional Perspectives: UK Met Office



	<u>Andrew Colman, UKMO</u>
15:40 – 15:55	
15:55 – 16:10	Pre-Consensus Presentation and Discussion on Outlook: RCC, IMD, Pune <u>Dr. Sreejith O.P., RCC/IMD</u>
16:10 – 16:30	Agreement / Final Remarks on the Draft Text of the Consensus Forecast for JJAS 2026
	<i>End of SASCOF-34 Program</i>



Climate Services User Forum (CSUF)

29–30 April 2026 | 9:00 – 16:00 (UTC+5) | Malé, Maldives

Participants: Representatives from user sectors in South Asian countries, regional and development partners, NMHSs

Purpose:

- a. Strengthen user sectors' ability to interpret the SASCOF consensus outlook
- b. Improve understanding of impact-based forecasting concepts
- c. Strengthen capabilities in communicating climate risks and translating probabilistic forecasts into sector-specific advisories
- d. Integrate climate outlooks into planning and anticipatory action
- e. Share best practices on the application of climate services in different sectors

Target Outputs and Outcomes:

- a. Documented user feedback
- b. Strengthened producer-user co-production process
- c. Better interpretation and translation of forecasts into sector-specific advisories

DAY 1 – 29 April 2026 (Wednesday)	
08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:45	Opening / Inaugural Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recitation of Holy Quran ● Remarks/Messages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. OP Sreejith, RCC-Pune, IMD ○ Honorable Ali Shareef, Minister of Climate Change, Environment and Energy ○ Nick Low, Male British High Commissioner ○ Mr. David Corbelli, UKMO ○ Dr. Anshul Agarwal, RIMES-SAHF
09:45 – 10:20	Overview of the Forum, Participant Acknowledgment
10:20 – 10:30	Group Photo Opportunity
10:30 – 10:50	<i>Health / Tea Break</i>
Session I: SASCOF-34 Consensus Outlook for JJA 2026 Season	
10:50 – 11:05	Presentation of SASCOF-34 Consensus Outlook <u>Dr. Sreejith, RCC/IMD</u>
11:05 – 11:20	Presentation on Impact Outlook Developed for the South Asian Region at SASCOF-34 and its implications for key sectors <u>Leila/Rahul, ESCAP</u>
Session II: Sub-Seasonal Products and their Utilisation	
11:20 – 11:35	Extended-Range Forecast Products <u>Dr. Susmida, IITM</u>
11:35 – 11:50	S2S Forecast Products from NCMRWF
11:50 – 12:00	Introduction of Recent Updates of Tokyo Climate Center (TCC)'s Services <u>Ken Yamada, TCC-JMA</u>
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>
Session III: Status of Climate Services and Impact-Based Forecasting	
13:00 – 13:20	Presentation of the Regional Assessment on the Status of Climate Services and TNA Report <u>Dr. Anshul Agarwal, RIMES</u>



Session IV: Interpretation of Climate Information and Products	
13:20 – 13:40	Forecasting Impact of Climate Drivers on Agricultural Sector: An ongoing research at RIMES <u>Raihanul Haque Khan, RIMES</u>
13:40 – 14:10	Interpretation of Seasonal Outlooks, Probabilistic Forecasts, and Climate Advisories <u>Dr. Jane Strachan, UK Met Office</u>
14:10 – 14:25	User Sector Presentation <u>Dr Jothiganesh Shanmugasundaram, WFP</u>
14:25 – 14:40	<i>Health / Tea Break</i>
Session V: Case-based Discussions: Application of Climate Services in Decision-Making	
14:40 – 14:50	Climate Services for Disaster Management <u>Ms. Faroosha Ali Naseer, NDMA Maldives</u>
14:50 – 15:00	Climate Services for Agriculture: SESAME DSS (Bhutan) <u>Ms. Tshering Pem, Department of Agriculture Bhutan</u>
15:00 – 15:10	Experience-sharing from the User Sectors: <u>Nirmala Regmi, NDRRMA & Puja Shakya, RIMES</u>
15:10 – 15:40	Panel Discussion: Experience-sharing from the User Sectors Moderator: Raihanul Haque Khan
15:40 – 16:00	Open Discussion

DAY 2 – 30 April 2026 (Thursday)	
09:00 – 09:20	Registration, Recap of Day 1
Session VI: Heat Health Initiatives for South Asia	
09:20 – 09:35	Framing and Objectives <u>Dr. Roxy Mathew Koll, IITM</u>
09:35 – 09:50	Seasonal Heat Outlook for Indian Region and South Asia <u>Dr. Rohini P., IMD / WMO RCC</u>
09:50 – 10:15	Sub-seasonal Heat Outlook and Forecast Use for Early Action <u>Dr. Akhil Shrivastava, IMD</u>
10:15 – 10:30	Heat-Health Advisory and Public Health Preparedness <u>Dr. Aakash Shrivastava, NCDC/MOHFW</u>
10:10 – 10:25	Heat Risk Preparedness
10:25 – 10:45	<i>Health / Tea Break</i>
10:45 – 11:00	From Forecasts to Action: Synergizing Heat Health Resilience across Meteorology, Health Sectors, and Communities in South Asia <u>Dr. Novil Wijesekaram, Sri Lanka</u>
11:00 – 11:15	Heat Risk Preparedness in India <u>Shri Krishna Vatsa, NDMA India</u>
11:15 – 11:30	Roundtable Discussion with Experts
11:50 – 12:00	Key Takeaways and Next Steps
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>
13:00 – 13:15	GHHIN South Asia <u>Dr. Vishwas Chitale, GHHIN South Asia</u>



Session VII: Analyzing and Communicating Sector Specific Climate Risks	
13:15 - 13:30	Demonstration of the INSTANT South Asia Portal <u>Khan MD Golam Rabbani & Nazmul Ahasan Shawn, RIMES</u>
13:30 – 14:40	Interactive Session: Co-Production of Climate Outlook and Advisories <i>Improving awareness and dissemination of climate information within sector institutions and communities</i> <u>Raihanul Haque Khan & Asif Uddin Bin Noor, RIMES</u>
14:40 – 15:00	Tea Break
Session VIII: Using Long-Term Climate Information	
15:00 – 15:30	Use of Climate Projections to Support Infrastructure Planning and Climate Adaptation Strategies <u>Dr. Sabin T.P., IITM (online) and Leila Salarpour Goodarzi & Rahul Suman, UN ESCAP</u>
15:30 – 15:50	Open Discussions
15:50 – 16:00	Way Forward and Closing Remarks
	<i>End of SASCOF-34 & CSUF Programme</i>