1. INTRODUCTION

Based on recommendations from an Inter-Regional Workshop on Improving Agrometeorological Bulletins in Barbados in October 2001, the World AgroMeteorological Information Service (WAMIS) website has been operational since December 2003. WAMIS is a dedicated web server that countries and organizations can place their agrometeorological bulletins and advisories. By providing a central location for agrometeorological information, users can quickly and easily evaluate the various bulletins and gain insight into improving their own bulletins. Also, these bulletins represent the expert knowledge of the individual countries and can be used to assess extreme events and disasters in a historical perspective especially when an archive of bulletins are present. Placement of agrometeorological bulletins on WAMIS also increases the visibility of the national meteorological/hydrological services (NHMS). The current issues facing the WAMIS project are increasing the use of the website by members and developing tools and resources applications.

2. CURRENT STATUS

As of the end of December 2009, there are products or links from 50 countries and organizations. The following table describes these products and how they received by the project manager:

| Number of Web Links only | = 24 |
| Number of Actual Bulletins (PDF) | = 26 |
| Received by email | = 12 |
| Accessed by web | = 14 |
| Automatically uploaded | = 0 |

There have been over 450,000 visits since the inception of the website. During 2009, there has been on average of 11400 visits per month (see figure 1).

There is an Italian mirror server (http://wamis.bo.ibimet.cnr.it) that is working well and is updated every day.

A “Rainfall Monitoring” category was added to the Tools and Resources webpage. There are now 19 categories of Tools and Resources with over 77 links.

2.1 WAMIS/WIS Project

During the CAgM Management Group meeting in the Russian Federation (June 2008), there were discussions on how to improve the utility of WAMIS with new information technology. After the CAgM Management Group meeting, there were discussions at WMO Headquarters on how WMO Technical Commissions could contribute to the WMO Information System (WIS). Since Dr Byong-Lyol Lee of the Korean Meteorological Administration (KMA) has been very active in developing WAMIS and that Dr Lee also represents the CAgM in the Inter-Commission Coordination Group on the WMO
Information System (ICG/WIS), it was decided to involve DR Lee and KMA in the development of a CAgM project to integrate WAMIS into the WIS. The first phase of this project is the development of an ISO compatible search engine on WAMIS, which would enable users to make searches on WAMIS via WIS. Through discussions with Dr Byong Lee and the WMO Secretariat, Eliot Christian of the WMO WIS branch agreed to travel to the Republic of Korea to facilitate and provide guidance for this project.

![Number of WAMIS Visits per Month](image)

Figure 1. Number of web visits on WAMIS per month since inception of the website.

Mr Christian traveled to KMA in Seoul during the week of 25-29 May, 2009. In technical discussions between Dr Lee and Mr Christian, it was decided to provide the WIS-compliant search interface for WAMIS by implementing "GeoNetwork". GeoNetwork is free, open source, software written primarily in Java. Dr Lee assigned Je-Young Ryu, a KMA contractor, to work directly with Mr Christian on this issue. Mr Ryu quickly installed a copy of GeoNetwork and began learning how to administer the software. Using some custom tools plus GeoNetwork facilities, Mr Ryu and Mr Christian created metadata for each of the 43 primary resources accessible through WAMIS. Meanwhile, development and testing of the Geonetwork-based WAMIS metadata search and maintenance Web site continues. One technical issue still outstanding is to configure and test the ISO 23950 interface of GeoNetwork.

A potential future phase of the WAMIS-WIS Integration is to provide an extension of WIS functions and services tailored to the needs of the agrometeorological community including databases, simulation models, web-GIS and other tools. For further details, please see Doc 10.3, section 9.1 of this CAgM Management Group meeting.

2.2 Other WAMIS Projects

WAMIS is being used as file storage for the web pages of WMO’s Agricultural Meteorology Programme and the Commission for Agricultural Meteorology. Therefore, WAMIS is being used to store PDFs files from the WMO meetings and an archive of past CAgM reports and brochures for the WMO AGMP websites. This will be an ongoing process and the first CAgM reports went online in March 2005.

In 2009, WMO hired a web programming to develop an online database of the National
Progress Reports. This database is currently online at http://npr.wamis.org/ with the Reports based from 2002-2005. The results of the new Reports from 2006-2009 will also be put online before the 15th Session of CAgM in July 2010.

In OPAG 2, the Expert Team on Collection and Evaluation of Operational Agrometeorological Tools and Methodologies held in October 2008, highlighted several tools and methodologies by various agencies in different regions for agrometeorological applications. Based on the final report of the Expert Team, the WAMIS Project Manager and the ET Leader Roger Stern will discuss putting these links on WAMIS before CAgM-XV Session takes place in July 2010.

3. FUTURE PROJECTS, USES AND ISSUES

Dr. Lee and Robert Stefanski of WMO are in discussions to organize a WAMIS Workshop: Next Phase in South Korea sometime in the spring of 2010.

4. WAMIS BUDGET

The current budget in the WAMIS Trust Fund is CHF 72,827 (USD 69,504 as of 15 January 2010). The yearly cost of maintaining the web server is USD 2700 (USD 225 per month).