



**15th Session of the South
Asian Climate Outlook
Forum (SASCOF-15)
&
Climate Services Users
Forum (CSUF)
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Hotel Hycinth , Thiruvananthapuram,
Kerala, India

South Asian climate is influenced by both tropical (Oct-Dec) and temperate mid-latitude (Dec-Feb) circulation systems during the winter months. The southern parts of South Asia, including peninsular India, Sri Lanka, Maldives and southern coastal areas of Myanmar are influenced by the North East Monsoon (Reestablishment of prevalent north easterly trade-wind regime over South Asia associated with the southward movement of the ITCZ), while extra-tropical activity dominated by “Western disturbances” influence the northern parts of the region including Afghanistan, Pakistan, north India, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar. It is therefore necessary that seasonal forecasts for the winter season are issued at two different times - one during September/October for the southern region and the other during November/December for the northern region.

The crucial role of winter rains and the growing recognition of the benefits of SASCOFs in articulating and sharing seasonal climate information have led to the need for regularly conducting winter SASCOFs. Winter sessions of SASCOF’s were started in 2015 keeping in view the importance of winter seasonal climate to key user sectors. The first winter SASCOF session was held in Oct 2015, at Chennai, Tamil Nadu India, and most recently in Colombo, Sri Lanka in Sep 2018.