

Japan's pilot project on user interface platform for agriculture

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The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) has operationally provided Early Warning Information on Extreme Weather (EWE) since March 2008 in Japan, announcing the possibility of extremely high or low temperature phenomena up to two weeks ahead. EWE is a probabilistic forecast targeting the possibility of extreme weather/climate conditions from one week ahead up to two weeks ahead in order to reduce risks arising out of large difference from climate-normal, including the continuation of extremely high or low temperature. EWE is provided to disaster management organizations of the national and local governments, mass media and private weather companies, while the public can access EWE through the JMA website. Nowadays, EWE is mainly used in some climate user sectors, especially in the agricultural sector in Japan.

To enhance the use of climate information in Japan, JMA carried out a pilot project to promote the use of climate information in the agricultural sector in collaboration with the National Agriculture and Food Research Organization/Tohoku Agricultural Research Center (NARO/TARC) of Japan (Figure 1). The pilot project aimed to produce temperature prediction on fine-scale (1 km mesh) up to two weeks ahead and to provide it to users including farmers by a website experimentally. Users can use the information to mitigate damage to rice crops caused by cold/hot temperatures. Through this pilot project, knowledge sharing and dialogue among climate information users and providers were recognized to be very important in order to develop useful climate information which was expected to contribute to the users' decision making.

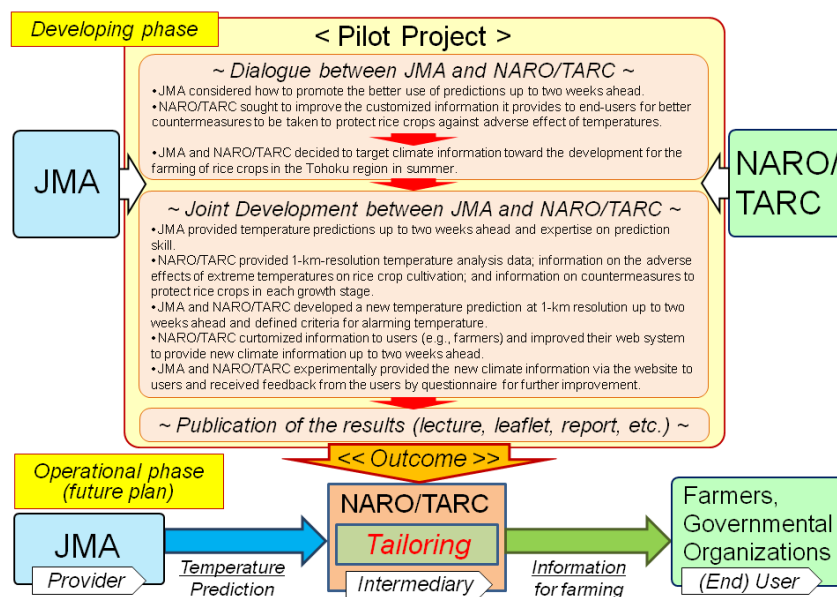


Figure 1 Development of climate information for farming by JMA and NARO/TARC