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India likely to lead farmers' network

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Apte Road: India may lead the first-ever network of farmers from South Asian and African countries, which is set to be formed. This was announced on the last day of a workshop titled 'Improving Climate Services for Farmers in Africa and South Asia', organised in the city that ended on Tuesday.

FARMING IN S ASIA & AFRICA

The workshop brought together farmers from South Asian and African countries, who shared the problems they are facing while adapting to climate change. They stressed on the need of working together to face the challenges.

"This network can alone unite the farmers and make their voices and demands heard. The governments will be forced to pay heed and improve the weather systems provided to them," said consultant of World Bank and World Meteorological

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS MADE AT THE WORKSHOP

- Need to identify climate products and services to improve agriculture produce at both regional and national levels.
- Establishment of farmers' consortium at sub-regional and regional levels.
- Better communication between farmer community and meteorology department.
- Efforts to strengthen meteorological observations and efforts to improve weather forecasts.
- Identifying farmer groups based on livelihood options, eco-system and socio-economic conditions.
- Setting up regional weather-based data base management system and drafting policies for open data sharing.
- Documenting success stories of farmers and involving media for highlighting success stories.

logical Organisation Man-nava Sivakumar.

According to the Head of Agriculture Meteorology Division of the India Meteorology Department (IMD), Nabansu Chattopadhyaya, India could be the leader among all the countries in this field.

"The recommendations

received at this workshop will be discussed and some concrete decisions will be made ahead of the final meet that will be held sometime in July at Adis Ababa. The network will benefit farmers in both regions which share similar socio-economic conditions," Chattopadhyaya further added.