

Customized Irrigation and Climate Advisory Services through Citizen Science

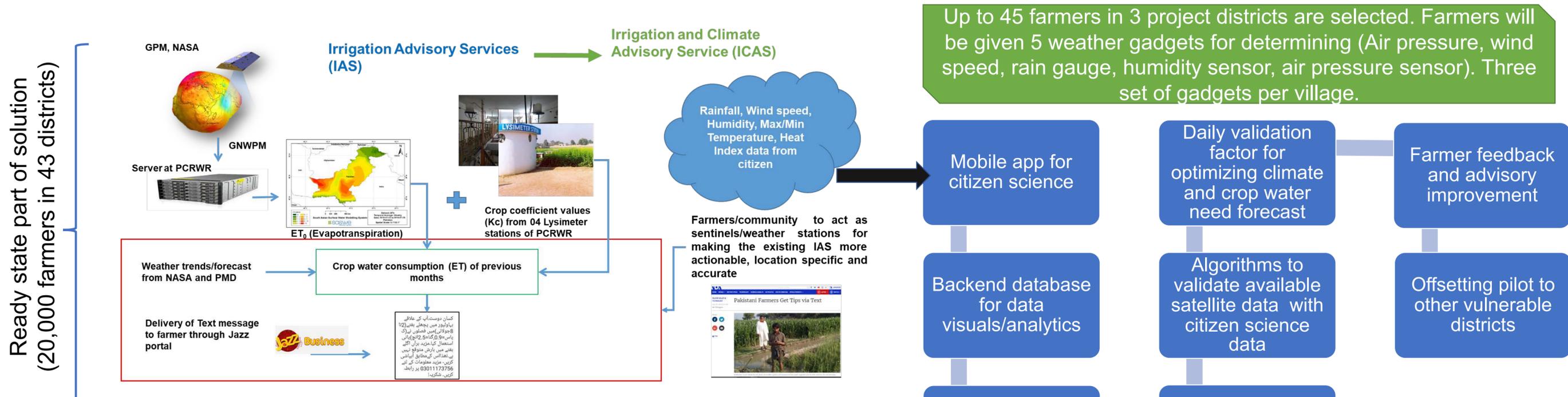
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Introduction

Communities living in Southern Punjab (a province of Pakistan) and the Indus delta (the lowest riparian of the Indus Basin) are extremely vulnerable to climate variability. During the last three years, farming communities in these regions have suffered extreme weather conditions and bear loss of their standing crop. To resolve this challenge there is a need to enhance the spatial coverage of weather observatories in response to this challenge. This option is time consuming as it needs huge investment for establishment and operation of such stations.

Making citizens “satellites” or “Weather observatories” for the greater benefit of farmers in Pakistan and across the region



Up to 45 farmers in 3 project districts are selected. Farmers will be given 5 weather gadgets for determining (Air pressure, wind speed, rain gauge, humidity sensor, air pressure sensor). Three set of gadgets per village.

What incentive ICAS would offer

This pilot has the potential to scale out to other climate-vulnerable communities in the region (India and Bangladesh) as Irrigation Advisory Services scaled out. The information thus generated will be easily accessible to people and at limited costs. It offers climate education to participating communities while building their resilience to climate change. Through this approach for climate forecast if farmers are able to reduce individual losses they will reduce the share in national losses in agriculture. ICAS will help develop relationships between people to people and the planet, bringing closer the communities living in delta and canal irrigated areas.

We acknowledge the support of FCDO, World Bank and ADPC for supporting this pilot.

Farmer Selection Criteria

- Farmers present within 50 km radius of studied district
- Farmers with ability to read, write and use smart phones
- Farmers willing to give feedback on irrigation advisory services
- Young members of farming family, including women are encouraged to participate
- Farmers registered for Irrigation Advisory Services of PCRWR