

PREFACE

The standardization of meteorological observations and the uniform publication of observations and statistics are among the functions of the World Meteorological Organization, as stated in the WMO Convention. In accordance with these objectives, the World Meteorological Congress has adopted from time to time Technical Regulations that specify meteorological practices and procedures to be followed by the Member countries of the Organization. These Technical Regulations are supplemented by a number of Guides, which describe in more detail the practices, procedures and specifications that Members are invited to follow and implement in establishing and conducting their arrangements for compliance with the Technical Regulations and in otherwise developing meteorological services in their respective countries.

In 1999, during the twelfth session of the Commission for Agricultural Meteorology (CAGM) in Accra, Ghana, the Commission endorsed the idea proposed by C.J. Stigter, then president of the Commission, calling for a complete revision of the *Guide to Agricultural Meteorological Practices*. The Commission agreed that the new Guide should be more operational than previous editions. It was decided that a special Steering Committee of Experts would be established to assist the president in revising the Guide. Its members were C.J. Stigter (the Netherlands), who served as Coordinator, A. Khamidula Abdullaev (Uzbekistan), Wolfgang Baier (Canada), Mohamed M. Eissa (Egypt), P. Kozhakhmetov (Kazakhstan), Elijah Mukhala (Zambia) and Si Giai Ngo (Vietnam).

This team approved a draft discussion paper on the revised edition prepared by the coordinator and based on the previous decisions taken in Accra. The paper was approved by the CAGM Advisory Working Group in 2001 and was revised several times. It was then used as the basis for the rewriting process. At the thirteenth session of the Commission for Agricultural Meteorology, held

in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in 2002, the Commission endorsed the approach in the discussion paper and decided on the establishment of an Expert Team on the *Guide to Agricultural Meteorological Practices*. Its members were C.J. Stigter (Lead), H.P. Das (India), Anice Garcia (Brazil), Vasiraju R.K. Murthy (India), Byong Lee (Republic of Korea) and Robert Stefanski (WMO). This Expert Team met in 2005 and aided the coordinator in finding authors and contributors for several chapters. During the next several years, the draft chapters were completed and were posted on the International Society for Agricultural Meteorology Website (www.agrometeorology.org) and on the WMO Agricultural Meteorology Programme Website (www.wmo.int/agm). These drafts were publicly available while the final editing of the complete Guide progressed.

At the 2010 meeting of the CAGM Management Group in Geneva, it was decided that the Guide would conform to the new WMO publishing standards. This meant that there would no longer be sequential editions (second, third, fourth, and so on). Each edition would instead be denoted by year of release. Therefore the revised third edition is now the 2010 edition of the Guide. This new edition is being released only on CD and online. Any developing country may request a printed version of the Guide from the WMO Secretariat. In accordance with the new WMO publishing standards, an official print edition will no longer exist as such.

It follows from the decisions of Congress that this publication is by no means a textbook on agricultural meteorology. References to such textbooks and WMO publications on agricultural meteorology are given in an appendix to this Guide. A list of journals that publish papers on agricultural meteorology is also provided, as is a list of international organizations of interest to agricultural meteorologists. The principal aim of the *Guide to Agricultural Meteorological Practices* is to provide, in a convenient form, information

regarding the practices and procedures that are of the greatest importance in agricultural meteorology.

The Organization would like to express its gratitude to all those Meteorological Services, technical commissions, expert teams and individuals who have contributed to the present publication.

It is not possible to mention them all by name, but a special word of thanks must be addressed to C.J. Stigter, lead coordinator of the revision of this Guide, for his untiring efforts in the preparation of the publication, and to the members of the Expert Teams on the *Guide to Agricultural Meteorological Practices* for their valuable contributions.

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