

## **FASAL Scheme**

National Crop Forecast Centre (NCFC) has been set up as an attached office of the Department of Agriculture & Corporation (DAC). Moreover, Chief Agriculture Officer, Ludhiana has been appointed as a Nodal Officer for the scheme. The activities to be performed by NCFC inter alia include:

- I. Multiple forecasts of major crops by operationalising the existing methodologies developed by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) as part of FASAL Scheme of DAC and drought assessment as part of NADAMS project.
- II. In near future, inclusion of additional crops in crop forecast and sub-district level moderate to high resolution drought assessment in the entire country.

NCFC requires both Satellite and Ground Truth (GT) data to carry out the above mentioned tasks. Arrangements for procurement of satellite data from ISRO have already been made. Since GT data to be collected at sample segment level (about 10% of 5km x 5km grids spanning across entire cropped area) plays crucial role in crop identification, condition assessment and yield forecasting; involvement of field functionaries of state department of agriculture and other agencies such as SASAs (State Agriculture Statistics Agencies) & SRSCs (State Remote Sensing Centres) is envisaged.

### **GT activity basically involves:**

- Intensive field visits to collect precise information on crops including the aspects stated in the foregoing paragraph, rough sketch of the plots, GPS location of the sample site, photographs of the crops and related parameters (such as crop stage, soil condition etc.) depending upon the area to be covered in various states, 2 to 8 teams each consisting of 2 to 3 trained officials are to be constituted in each state for this work.
- Young dynamic and bright officers of the rank of Agriculture Development Officer or equivalent in your Department/SASA/SRSC need to be identified in sufficient numbers so as to constitute the teams for your state. Provision for spare manpower may also be made to account for any last minute drop outs.

- GPS enabled devices with camera will be provided to each team by the National Crop Forecast Centre of the SRSC concerned.
- For Planning of Rabi/Kharif production forecasts CCE data collection and activities are also used in GT scheme.