

Weather Impact

User story

CommonSense weather service Ethiopia

Name	Ato Gurshaw Yilma
Age	33 years
Location	Ergoye, Amhara region, Ethiopia
Details	Mixed farmer; crops and livestock production. He has a total land of 24 ha. In the production season of 2017 he sowed 15 ha sesame for the market, 2 ha millet for home consumption and 7 ha forage for his livestock feed.



Mr. Gurshaw has been using the CommonSense weather forecast text messages to plan his farm activities. The rainfall forecast is most important to him. According to his explanation his sesame was harvested, stalked and it was ready for threshing. He has two permanent laborers who normally do the threshing activity. This year, he received an SMS which says there are high rain chances in the coming three days. This made Mr. Gurshaw decide to hire six additional laborers. They were able to thresh the sesame within a day. Right after they finished threshing, during the evening of that day, heavy rain occurred. By hiring additional laborers, Mr. Gurshaw was able to reduce the risk of post-harvest loss (seed falling from the capsule) due to the rain. If it was with two laborers only, it would have taken more days and the sesame stalks would have been damaged by the rainfall.

Mr. Gurshaw strongly recommends the weather forecast service to reach more farmers as it is important for their farm activities.

In addition to this, by the end of September his millet was harvested and piled until it had dried for threshing. On Sep 25, 2017 Mr. Gurshaw received a message which indicated very high rain chances the coming three days. He covered the pile with plastic sheet and protected it from damage. Similarly, he had harvested the forage and left it in the field until it dried. With plastic he protected the forage from fungal disease development which is favored by high moisture and temperature and consequently affects the health of the animals.

Author: Melisew Misker Belay, agronomist at Sesame Business Network, www.sbnethiopia.org

CommonSense project: <https://g4aw.spaceoffice.nl/en/projects/G4AW-projects/63/commonsense.html>

Weather service information: www.weatherimpact.com, or contact us on info@weatherimpact.com

