



Acronym: RRSU
Full Name: SADC Regional Remote Sensing Unit
Website: www.sadc.int
Established: 1988
Location: Gaborone, Botswana

Areas of expertise: Training programmes and technical support in the field of Remote Sensing, Agrometeorology and GIS in support of early warning for food security, natural resources management and disaster management.

Main Partners and collaborations: Departments of Meteorological Services (DMS), National Early Warning Units (NEWUs) and National Disaster Management Units (NDMUs), United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), USAID's Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWSNET), the United States Geological Survey (USGS), International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) and the UN's World Food Programme (WFP).

Short Description:

The SADC Regional Remote Sensing Unit (RRSU) is part of the Regional Food Security Programme. The RRSU was conceived as a project in 1988 and received technical assistance from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). In 1998, the project was integrated into the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Development Unit (DU).

Its financial resources come from SADC Member States. In addition, the RRSU becomes financial and technical support through a bilateral agreement between the Government of the Netherlands and SADC.

Main activities:

The RRSU is as a centre of technical expertise and offers training programmes and technical support in the field of Remote Sensing, Agrometeorology and GIS in support of early warning for food security, natural resources management and disaster management.

The Center monitors the progress of the season using cold duration/intensity images, rainfall estimates and vegetation images (Normalised Difference Vegetation Index), which are provided every ten days from the NOAA, SPOT and METEOSAT series of satellites. Additionally, the RRSU maintains a database with satellite images and vector datasets of SADC countries, which include information on national and sub-national administrative boundaries, elevation, infra-structure, hydrology, major growing areas, forests, protected areas and cultural sites. The data set is regularly updated and improved by the Unit.

The RRSSU organizes training courses and national and regional workshops to create a core of trained experts in the SADC region, but are also used to create awareness amongst potential users and stakeholders.

Contact:

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Source:

- Regional Remote Sensing Unit
- FAO, Land Resources Information Systems for food security in SADC countries, 1999, pg. 21