

Profile of Dr. Kees Stigter, visiting professor in Africa, Asia and South America for Agromet Vision, the Netherlands.

[Update of January 2014]



Kees Stigter (1940) is an experimental physicist by education (Phys. Cand., Amsterdam, 1962; Phys. Drs., Amsterdam, 1966) and agrometeorologist/-climatologist by profession (Ph.D. in agriculture, Wageningen, 1974). He was a member of staff of Wageningen (Agricultural) University, the Netherlands (1966 – 1975; 1985 – 2005 (ret.)); from 1974 as an Associate Professor and from 1985 in addition as an externally funded Principal Project Supervisor. His first mission to Africa was in May-September 1969 as an FAO expert in climatology in Madagascar. He was resident Associate Professor (1975 – 1978) and Full Professor (1978 – 1985) at the University of Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) Physics Department, in the fields of agricultural physics and agricultural meteorology.

From 1985, in the Traditional Techniques of Microclimate Improvement (TTMI) Project, he was for Wageningen University an Honorary Visiting Professor at the University of Gezira, Wad Medani, Sudan (Department of Environmental Sciences and Natural Resources) till 2005; the University of Nairobi, Kenya (Departments of Crop Science and Meteorology) till 1999; the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (Department of Physics) till 1999; and (from 1991) the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria (Departments of Geography and Soil Science), till 1999. Author of the Picnic model for research education in Africa in more than 40 TTMI missions and lead author of a book on the TTMI-Project (1995).

He has been involved in evaluation and other missions in agricultural meteorology, higher education and institutional matters, including invited lectures, in 20 African countries from 1969 till the present (January 2014): Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Most recent visits to Africa: the Sudan in 2005 and 2012, South Africa in 2006, 2008, and annually from 2010 till 2014, Lesotho in 2008, 2010 and 2011, Namibia and Swaziland in 2010, Zambia and Zimbabwe in 2011 - 2013, Ghana in 2012, mostly with Roving Seminars.

He was a Member of the National Advisory Board (NAR) of the Minister for Development Collaboration of the Netherlands (1985 – 1997); Member of numerous assessment committees for collaboration proposals between Dutch Universities and Universities in Developing Countries for the Netherlands University Foundation for International Collaboration (NUFFIC, 1985 – 1999). Member of the daily board of the largest Dutch NGO for development collaboration NOVIB (1988 – 1993, now OXFAM Netherlands).

He was subject expert (1988 – 1991) and project management key consultant (1991 – 1993) for FAO/WMO/UNDP/ICAR in establishing the Centre for Advanced Studies in Agricultural Meteorology (CASAM) in Pune, India. Since 1997 (last time 2011), thirteen missions (on average of more than one month) to China for the Asian Picnic Model Project (APMP), including the China Agricultural University in Beijing, trying to jointly establish pilot projects on assessing and evaluating (institutionalization of) agrometeorological services with five provincial meteorological administrations. From 1999 onwards, for the same APMP, living in Indonesia for part of the year, lectures at eleven Universities and Institutes in Indonesia, with early emphasis in Bogor and later on Yogyakarta, and presently Depok/Indramayu, three missions to Vietnam and one mission each to the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre, Bangkok, to Fukuoka, Japan and (since 2011) three to Iran (Roving Seminars and Agricultural Extension courses) and once to Taiwan.

He served as Vice-president (1986 – 1991) and president (1991 – 1999) of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Technical Commission for Agricultural Meteorology (CAgM); and Dutch principal delegate in CAgM (1985 – 2007). He was Member of various CAgM (WMO) Working Groups and nominations as Rapporteur (1979 - 2010), since 1986 as Chairman of such Working Groups or Expert Teams.

He is Founding President of the International Society for Agricultural Meteorology (INSAM), since 2001. Kees writes since 2003 the quarterly homepages of the INSAM web site (www.agrometeorology.org).

Author/co-author of more than 850 publications, of which 145 in peer reviewed journals and 235 invited/selected ones in books/monographs/ CD-ROMs. Many of these are related to agriculture in semi-arid and arid areas, fighting land degradation and combating desert encroachment.

He was Lead author of a CAgM Report (Nr. 25, WMO/TD-No 228) on “Microclimate management and manipulation in traditional farming” (1988); Lead author of a CAgM Report (Nr. 43, WMO/TD-No. 499) on “Application of microclimate management and manipulation techniques in low external input agriculture” (1992). Sole author of a CAgM Report (Nr. 104) on “Agrometeorological services: Reaching all farmers with operational information products in new educational commitments” (2011).

Co-author of a book on agrometeorology of multiple cropping (1993 (French); 1997 (English)). Leader of the CAgM Expert Team and Editor-in-Chief on writing the third edition of the WMO Guide to Agricultural Meteorological Practices (GAMP, WMO 134), on which he worked since 1999 with 180 people.

From early 2006 till September 2009 he worked, as the sole Editor, with 112 co-authors, but writing also a lot himself, on the book “Applied Agrometeorology” that appeared in July 2010 with Springer (Heidelberg/Berlin/New York, xxxviii + 1101 pages). Co-editor with anthropologist Yunita T. Winarto (Indonesia) of “Agrometeorological Learning: Coping better with climate change” that appeared in November 2011 with Lambert Academic Publishing (Saarbrücken).

Developed from 2000 to 2011, in many lectures, three Roving Seminars, each of three to five days, on “Agrometeorological services: theory and practice”, “Agrometeorology and sustainable development”, and (in 2010) “Reaching farmers in a changing climate”, that was given most recently in Havana, Cuba (December 2013). In November 2011 he wrote a training course of four days for agrometeorological extension officers in Iran, particularly related to the drought conditions of Iran. In late 2012/early 2013, he wrote a new Roving Seminar “What climate change means for farmers in Africa” that had its “premiere” in March 2013 in Harare. The total of such Roving Seminars is now 30 in 13 countries.

These days Kees works particularly on connecting agricultural sciences, environmental sciences, social sciences and extension services, proposing to use new educational commitments such as Science Field Shops and Climate Field Schools for farmers and extension, to obtain a rural response to climate change through their own innovations and what these applied sciences have to offer through extension.

He has been nominated 3 times by the Netherlands Government for the World Meteorological Organization “IMO Prize” , in May 2011 – 2013.