



Communication between forecaster and researcher at KNMI

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Good and frequent communication between model developers (research) and model users (operation) is very important for a number of reasons. Among these are:

- An optimal usage of NWP model output. A good explanation of the workings of a model by a researcher helps the forecaster in understanding the conditions under which models show deficiencies.
- A smooth introduction of new models and applications. Communication between the researcher and forecaster helps understanding the needs of the forecaster and increases the probability that a new application will be used in the forecasting practice. Even though an application might provide additional insight, if it does not look appealing enough or if it is impractical it will not be used.
- A quick discovery of model deficiencies and a focus of model improvement on the right subjects.

One of the problems in the communication between forecasters and researchers is that they usually have a different way of looking at model use and quality. Forecasters are very case driven and looking at very specific parameters while researchers are looking at model improvement mostly through statistics, often over long periods. This means that forecasters and researchers are not looking at models in the same way. If you are not careful forecasters may feel that model deficiencies do not get enough attention whereas researchers may feel that their work is not appreciated in the right way. When this escalates this may result in models not being trusted and used by forecasters.

In my presentation I will show how we try to manage and improve this communication at KNMI and show some examples of successes and failures in the introduction of new models and applications.