



Operational short-term flood forecasting for Bangladesh: application of ECMWF ensemble precipitation forecasts

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The country of Bangladesh frequently experiences severe catchment-scale flooding from the combined discharges of the Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers. Our group, Climate Forecast Applications for Bangladesh, has been operationally disseminating ensemble (probabilistic) forecasts for these two river basins based on the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecast's ensemble weather forecasts as part of humanitarian relief efforts for this country. In year 2006, we will be entering our 4th operational year, and we would like to present some of the most recent developments in our multi-model forecast schemes to produce reliable ensemble forecasts of discharge with 1 to 10 day lead-times. We would also like to present a new verification measure for assessing the utility of any ensemble forecast's relationship between ensemble spread and expected error.