



October 3, 2013

Dear Colleague

On behalf of the planning committee, it is our pleasure to invite you to participate in the upcoming workshop on **Climate Information Needs for the Large-scale Agricultural Sector**. We would appreciate your insights on the expectations and information needs of large-scale agricultural decision makers from climate science and services.

This invitation-only workshop will occur in Montego Bay, Jamaica in the morning of December 3, 2013, in conjunction with the 3rd International Conference on Climate Services on December 4-6 ([www.climate-services.org/iccs/iccs-3/home](http://www.climate-services.org/iccs/iccs-3/home)), to benefit from the presence of agricultural experts such as yourself who are already attending ICCS-3.

The goals for this event are to:

- make the climate science and services community more aware of the information needs of large-scale agricultural decision makers;
- increase awareness among the decision makers of the benefits of using climate information;
- build new avenues of collaboration between scientists and decision makers;
- identify new services to better meet the decision makers' needs.

We will present and discuss examples where climate information is used in the large-scale agricultural sector, and where climate information is not found to be adequate for the users' needs. Ultimately, we will assess the gaps and determine a path forward for the effective design and delivery of climate information and services for large-scale agricultural needs. Please see the draft agenda below.

This workshop is jointly organized by the UK Met Office and the U.S. National Center for Atmospheric Research with support from UK Embassy's Science and Innovation Network. Please don't hesitate to bring any questions you may have to our attention.

It would be very helpful to the successful organization of this workshop if you could let us know by email to [iccs-ag@rap.ucar.edu](mailto:iccs-ag@rap.ucar.edu) by November 1 as to whether or not you, or a single representative in your place, plan to attend. Space is limited so please respond as soon as possible.

Best wishes,

Chris Hewitt UK Met Office  
Lawrence Buja US/NCAR

Peter Backlund US/NCAR  
Jane Strachan UK Met Office

Catherine Santamaria UK Embassy  
Caspar Amman US/NCAR

**Climate information needs for Large-scale Agricultural Sector**  
**Montego Bay Convention Centre, Montego Bay, Jamaica, December 3, 2013**  
**0900 - 1230**  
**Draft Agenda**

09.00	Introduction to workshop and & Desired Outcomes
09.15	Keynote presentation: Climate Services in the Large-scale Agricultural Sector
09.30	Presentation 1: Sector Needs and Priorities for Climate Services e.g. Planning, Production, Investments
09.45	Presentation 2: Sector Needs and Priorities for Climate Services e.g. Markets, Supply Chain, Crop Insurance
10.00	Open Panel Discussion
10.20	Breakout group discussions (with coffee): Small group discussions identifying key issues, priorities, bringing climate service providers, funders, developers and users together
11.40	Sharing breakout group findings
12.00	Agree on post-workshop activities
12.30	CLOSE
	Planning team: Post-meeting report to be written up for distribution after the meeting including key sector needs and priorities and post-workshop activities