

# USDA GLOBAL CHANGE FACT SHEET



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## USDA's Global Change Program Office

- ▶ The issue of climate change is important for agriculture and forestry. The risks of climate change, such as higher temperatures, changes in precipitation, increased climate variability and extreme weather events can result in significant impacts on agriculture, forestry and rural areas. The risks posed by climate change and the substantial challenge presented by mitigation and adaptation strategies require a strong USDA commitment to global climate change issues.
- ▶ The Global Change Program Office operates within the Office of the Chief Economist and functions as the Department-wide coordinator of agriculture, rural and forestry-related global change program and policy issues facing USDA.
- ▶ The Office serves as USDA's focal point for climate change issues and is responsible for coordinating activities with other Federal agencies, interacting with the legislative branch on climate change issues affecting agriculture and forestry, and representing USDA on U.S. delegations to international climate change discussions.
- ▶ The Office ensures that USDA is a source of objective, analytical assessments of the effects of climate change and proposed mitigation strategies, and has a coordinated research program to address the multidisciplinary dimensions of climate change.
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