



## The Climate Change Program Office



The Climate Change Program Office (CCPO) operates within the Office of the Chief Economist and functions as the Department-wide coordinator of agricultural, rural, and forestry-related climate change program and policy issues. The CCPO ensures that USDA is a source of objective, analytical assessments of the effects of climate change and proposed response strategies.

The CCPO also 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. Some of CCPO's activities include:

### **Climate Change Adaptation**

CCPO is leading USDA efforts to identify how climate change is likely to affect our ability to achieve mission, operations, and policy and program objectives. Through adaptation planning, USDA will develop, prioritize, implement, and evaluate actions to minimize climate risks and exploit new opportunities that climate change may bring. By integrating climate change adaptation strategies into USDA's programs and operations, USDA better ensures that taxpayer resources are invested wisely and that USDA services and operations remain effective in current and future climate conditions.

### **Greenhouse Gas Accounting Capabilities and Responsibilities**

In coordination with the Agricultural Research Service, Forest Service, Office of Energy Policy and New Uses, Colorado State University, and the Environmental Protection Agency, the CCPO publishes the *U.S. Agriculture and Forestry Greenhouse Gas Inventory*. CCPO provides support to other U.S. Government Agencies for the development of estimation tools, protocols, and reporting frameworks for the agriculture and forestry sectors. We continue to work with the NRCS and the USDA-FS to provide user-friendly guidance and tools for land managers to evaluate management practices.

### **Represent USDA to the U.S. Global Change Research Program**

The U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) integrates Federal research on climate change, as sponsored by thirteen Federal agencies and overseen by the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Council on Environmental Quality, the National Economic Council and the Office of Management and Budget. The CCPO Director serves as the USDA representative to the USGCRP. The CCPO Director coordinates the participation of USDA personnel in USGCRP Interagency Working Groups. In 2008, CCPO produced *The Effects of Climate Change on Agriculture, Land Resources, Water Resources, and Biodiversity in the U.S.*, which may be found at [http://www.usda.gov/oce/climate\\_change/sap\\_2007\\_FinalReport.htm](http://www.usda.gov/oce/climate_change/sap_2007_FinalReport.htm), and is contributing to and supporting the 2013 National Climate Assessment.

### **International Climate Change**

CCPO coordinates technical support on issues related to climate change, forestry, and agriculture for the Department of State, and represents the Department in bilateral and multilateral meetings, such as meetings held under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

### **USDA Global Change Task Force**

The Director of CCPO serves as the Chair of the USDA Global Change Task Force (GCTF), which includes representatives of twenty USDA agencies and offices. The GCTF works to coordinate Departmental activities and information related to climate change. The purpose of the group is to ensure that all USDA agencies with a responsibility for climate change are kept informed of Departmental and Administration priorities and are included in reviews, assessments, analyses, and communication efforts. The GCTF helps establish climate strategy for the USDA and integrate strategy into research and programs, focusing on impacts, adaptation, mitigation, and decision support.

For more information, please visit our website at [http://www.usda.gov/oce/climate\\_change/index.htm](http://www.usda.gov/oce/climate_change/index.htm), or contact William Hohenstein, CCPO Director at [whohenst@oce.usda.gov](mailto:whohenst@oce.usda.gov) or 202-720-6698.