



## USDA SCIENCE COUNCIL

### REMOTE SENSING COORDINATION COMMITTEE CHARTER

#### I. PURPOSE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Science Council facilitates and supports cross-Department coordination and collaboration among all USDA agencies and administrative offices. The Council advises the USDA Secretary and Chief Scientist on the priorities for USDA's science agenda. The USDA Remote Sensing Coordination Committee (RSCC) under the Science Council will provide a basis for closer collaboration across agencies on Remote Sensing efforts and assure that efforts and investments are not being duplicated, strengths are leveraged, and USDA is pursuing all reasonable efforts in innovation in Remote Sensing for agriculture, natural resources, forestry, and food security.

#### II. OBJECTIVES

The USDA Remote Sensing Coordination Committee will:

- A. Establish, maintain, and enhance communication among Departmental agencies and administrative offices concerned with Remote Sensing.
- B. Identify, review, and coordinate Departmental Remote Sensing requirements and develop recommended programs to enable the Department, and the public, where applicable, to make efficient use of these data and technologies.
- C. Promote joint funding, cost sharing, and work sharing agreements within USDA, with other Federal, State, and Local agencies, non-governmental organizations, and with academic and research institutions to accomplish Departmental Remote Sensing objectives.
- D. Track USDA expenditures related to Remote Sensing and develop estimates describing the funding necessary to meet Departmental Remote Sensing requirements.
- E. Consolidate and disseminate information describing the Department's Remote Sensing activities and requirements to other government agencies, the academic community, and the public and private sectors, including the commercial satellite and image mapping community, government space and mapping agencies, and Congress.

- F. Coordinate RSCC activities with that of other internal and external working groups and committees concerned with Remote Sensing and related data and technologies to ensure that common information and data requirements are consistent and, where possible, complementary.
- G. Serve as a body to provide awareness of the benefits of Remote Sensing within the Department. Seek opportunities to better inform management and users about Remote Sensing capabilities.
- H. Form working groups of interested agencies and administrative offices to focus on specific Remote Sensing topics.
- I. Support broad USDA participation on the National Science and Technology Council Committees.
- J. Facilitate agency initiatives to develop performance indicators, best practices, and to leverage expertise between USDA agencies on Remote Sensing applications and best practices.

### III. SPONSORSHIP and MEMBERSHIP

The Committee will choose a chair and co-chair on a rotational basis. The Committee will have a delegated executive secretary to manage logistics.

The Committee chair will prepare an agenda and keep records of the activities of the Committee.

Members of the committee will consist of USDA scientists, analysts, representing research and operational agencies as appointed by the Administrator/Chief of each Agency. Members serve without compensation beyond their regular salaries; thus, there will be no cost of operation.

Member agencies shall include:

- A. Agricultural Research Service (ARS)
- B. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
- C. Economic Research Service (ERS)
- D. Farm Service Agency (FSA)
- E. Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)
- F. Forest Service (FS)
- G. National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

- H. National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)
- I. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- J. Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Coordination (OHSEC)
- K. Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO)
- L. Risk Management Agency (RMA)
- M. World Agricultural Outlook Board (WAOB)

#### IV. COMMITTEE OPERATIONS

Remote Sensing will meet bi-monthly or quarterly as needed.

The RSCC will develop recommendations to be presented to the Chief Scientist on high priority issues. Recommendations of the RSCC will be determined by consensus, with 70% of the members in attendance. If a member is absent, a designated representative from the same member organization may participate.

This charter shall be evaluated and updated every two years or as members deem appropriate.

#### V. DECISION-MAKING PROTOCOL

Recommendations of the subcommittee will be determined by consensus so long as 70% of the members are in attendance. If a member is absent, a designated representative from the same member organization may participate. Each member organization will have one vote/opinion.

#### VI. RELATIONSHIPS

The Committee advises the Science Council of the USDA.

The Committee will serve as the intermediary between the Science Council and the NSTC Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainability (CENRS)/U.S. Group on Earth Observations (USGEO) Sub-Committee.