

WORKSHOP PANELIST INFORMATION

WORKSHOP TITLE:

Earth observations, agriculture, food systems and national security: A roadmap for US federal agencies

A virtual workshop held Monday, November 16 from 12:15 CST/1:15 EST – 3:00 PM CST/ 4:00 PM EST

Workshop Purpose: To review draft findings to be included in an assessment of the use of civilian earth observations for agriculture in the context of US national security. Opportunities will be identified for enhanced coordination and partnership among US federal agencies where civilian EO and derived products are important to analysis or to research on food security and food systems in the context of US national security. Specific recommendations will be collected from panelists and from workshop attendees via the chat function for inclusion in two reports that will be produced for use by the federal community focused on improving agricultural and food system security.

Background

In FY18, the US DOD was instructed to prepare “an assessment of DOD policies and operational plans for addressing the national security implications of global food system vulnerabilities.” The purpose of this invitation-only workshop, the fourth annual meeting on these topics, is to convene stakeholders for NASA’s civilian earth observations as they are used by the US Government for estimates related to agriculture and food systems in the US, globally and internationally. Two read-ahead work products will be shared in draft form for comment during the workshop. The first product is a “preliminary landscape map of stakeholders across the USG and their relationships to the topic of food security as it intersects with US national and global security concerns and equities.” The second is a draft that will summarize findings from surveys of NASA Earth Sciences Division mission partners who use and/or are interested in civilian earth observations for food security in the context of US national security. Directions for promising partnerships and cooperation across the USG for funding research and analysis based on civilian EO for agriculture and food system stability and security will be reviewed for actions in FY21 and FY22.

Workshop sponsors and partners (in kind and financial)

NASA

University of Illinois Center for Digital Agriculture/National Center for Supercomputing Applications

USDA National Institutes for Food and Agriculture

The Atlantic Council GeoTech Center

US Farmers and Ranchers in Action

Thomson Reuters Special Services

MITRE Corporation

Before November 16

Please register before day of workshop.

<https://forms.illinois.edu/sec/1903166091>

Invites with Webex link and other important information will be sent to each workshop registrant.

Audience Information

Approximately 100 people have been invited including federal colleagues from NASA, USDA, DOD, the IC including the Environmental Security Working Group, USAID/DOS, Commerce, Interior and DHS. Some invitees will be contributing to the workshop who are unable to actually attend the workshop so day-of numbers may be misleading.

November 16 Run of Program

We will be using Webex platform to ensure compatibility with USG systems. Link to workshop will be in the calendar invite you receive upon registration.

1230 ET/1130 CT Green Room Opens for Speaker/Panelist Tech Checks; Last minute check-ins.

Please log on NO LATER THAN 1215 CST/1315 EST

Thank you for your understanding that this will greatly smooth our workshop flow!

Day-of emergency phone numbers:

UI Conference Host Emergency Contact: Michael Miller 217-300-1073

Taryn Otto: 608-630-4387

If you'd like to do a tech check before the workshop, please call Michael Miller Monday morning and he'll take you through the details

Workshop will be recorded. All workshop attendees are present in their personal capacities.

Workshop content will not be personally attributed unless express written permission is obtained from the individual in question regarding a particular remark.

We are seeking actionable recommendations to be shared with workshop stakeholders including several USG agencies that fund scientific or technical research.

Monday, November 16, 2020 (ALL Times Eastern Standard)

1300 Assemble speakers/panelists in Green Room, check in

1330 Sharp

Brendan McGinty welcomes audience, introduces CDA and NCSA's interest in hosting this workshop, UI Center for Digital Agriculture Supply Chain Initiative, AI Farms and UI interest in the intersection of national security, agriculture and food systems

1340 Brad Doorn, NASA, Goals of this workshop

Establish the specific avenues through which the value of NASA earth imagery used in assessments of food and water are used by agencies charged with US national security equities. Establish a common operating picture of this space for the purpose of managing coordinated investments to mitigate major downside risk to US agriculture and food systems that impinge on national security equities.

1350-1355 Molly Jahn

Mechanics and terms of the workshop, opportunities for engagement and comment during and after the workshop. Workshop will be recorded but comments are made as individuals not for attribution or distribution.

Reminder regarding two work products prepared for this workshop.

1. 'Landscape maps' of stakeholders across the USG and their relationships to the topic of food security as it intersects with US national and global security concerns and equities.
2. Findings from surveys of NASA mission partners who use civilian EO for assessments of agriculture, food security, condition of food systems in the national security context.

1400-1500 EST Panel 1: Guiding research investments to fully leverage existing assets including civilian earth imagery toward food system security

1400-1405 Molly Jahn, Panel Moderator, introduces each panelist and introduces questions. Audience is welcomed to moderated chat function. Each panel member has 5 minutes to make one key point. We earnestly ask you to stick to the time so there is some time left for additional discussion. An audio signal will be given at 1 min.

We assert that there needs to be a near/real time system for monitoring US and global food systems in the context of US national and economic security.

1. What are the best ways to use civilian EO for this purpose?
2. Are there opportunities for cooperative or coordinated research investments to spur the development of these capabilities or products?
3. Is there a need for a public/private partnership to collect and curate real-time reflections of the US and global food systems for US national and economic security?

1405-1410	Chris Justice, Chief Scientist, NASA Harvest/U Maryland
1410-1415	Vince Breneman, Chief Geographer, Office of the Chief Economist, USDA
1415-1420	Megan O'Rourke, NPL, USDA National Institutes for Food and Agriculture
1420-1425	Paul Garvey, Chief Engineer, MITRE Corporation
1425-1430	Mark Flood, PM, I2O, DARPA
1430-1435	Megan Dailey UI Metropolitan Food and Environmental Systems

1500-1600 EST Panel 2: Architectures of Solutions

1500-1505 Peter Brooks, Panel Moderator, introduces panel and panelists, and moderated chat function for audience comment.

1. If we had, for example, 18 months to develop a standing capability to *detect* and *assess* the potential for food system shocks that would affect US national or economic security, what might the effort look like?
2. Do we have the right organizations, roles, responsibilities, authorities to use the information created above to respond to and mitigate the shocks? Identify important gaps.
3. What are key implementation steps?
4. How does the resulting organization operate?

1505-1510	Kevin Kephart, Director, Division of Agricultural Systems, NIFA
1510-1515	COL (USAF Ret) Mike Gremillion, Director, U AL Center for Global Water Security
1515-1520	Pete Richards, Senior Economist, USAID Policy and Planning Bureau/DOS
1520-1525	MAJ Matthew A. Rose 75 th Innovation Command, US Army
1525-1530	Sally Rockey, Executive Director, Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research
1530-1535	David Bray, Founding Director, GeoTech Center, Atlantic Council

1600 Workshop closes—Molly Jahn

1600-1700 Informal interactions via breakout rooms as mandated by attendees' interest.

Workshop output will be collected and compiled in two white papers that will be produced from this effort and made available to all workshop registrants who may be interested to see these products in draft form.

This is the fourth annual workshop on related topics. To see output from previous events, please visit www.jahnresearchgroup.net reports.