International Meeting on Food Security, Earth Observations and Agricultural Monitoring

Summary

Secure World Foundation (SWF), European Commission (EC) and the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Secretariat organized an international meeting under the banner "Food Security, Earth Observations and Agricultural Monitoring". The meeting was held on Thursday, November 21, 2013 at the Secure World Foundation premises, Rue de la Science 14B, 1040 Brussels.

The purpose of this meeting was to assess the situation regarding global observational facilities, models, and derived services needed to meet the demand in developed and developing countries regarding agricultural production monitoring. The workshop saw reports on the progress made in implementing Global and National Observation Systems in agricultural monitoring. The meeting ended with a fruitful discussion on the implementation plan necessary to put in place the GEOGLAM system, including the necessary resources to sustain it with attention to national capacity development and food security.

In the opening session (S1) M. Simpson, SWF Executive Director, and K. Vandenberghe, Director for Environment at the EC DG-RTD, welcomed the attendants and presented the goals of the meeting and Giampiero Genovese, Deputy Head of Unit from EC DG-AGRI gave a keynote speech entitled “A European Perspective on Food Security”.

The meeting had invited speakers from all over the world and attracted close to 100 attendants. The technical agenda was divided into five sessions as below.

S2. The GEO Global Agricultural Monitoring (GEOGLAM) Program (Moderator Michel Deshayes, GEO Secretariat)
The GEO Global Agricultural Monitoring Program: an introduction (J. Soares, GEO Sec)
GEOGLAM Global and EO Components: progress to date (C. Justice, UMD)
Research Component: JECAM progress to date (I. Jarvis, Agri-foodCanada)
Asia-Rice initiative: status of a regional initiative (S. Shin-Ichi, Jaxa)
The potential of the Copernicus Sentinels for Agriculture Monitoring (B. Koetz, ESA)

S3. Global and Regional initiatives/programs in food security monitoring (Moderator Dave Johnson, NASS)
Copernicus Global Land Programme (M. Massart, EC - ENTR)
MESA: Monitoring Environment and Security in Africa (M. Jambou, EC - DEVCO)
FEWSNet (J. Verdin USGS, USAID FEWSNet)
EC: SIGMA and AGRICAB (L. Bydekerke, VITO)
EC: MARS Forecasting (O. Leo, EC- JRC)
USDA forecasting on international crop production as part of the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report (J. Crutchfield, USDA)

S4. Overview of National agricultural monitoring activities (Moderator Michael Simpson, SWF)
Argentina (C. Di Bella, INTA, Argentina)
China (W. Bingfang, RADI, China)
Ukraine (N. Kussul, SRI, Ukraine)
Australia (K. Harlel, ABARES, Australia)
Canada (I. Jarvis, Agri-FoodCanada, Canada)
South Africa (T. Newby, CSIR, South Africa)
USA (D. Johnson, NASS, USA)
India (K.R. Manjunath, ISRO, India)
Russia (S. Bartalev, IKI, Russia)
An Africa perspective (T. Korme, RCMRD, Kenya)

S5. GEOGLAM Implementation (Moderator Chris Justice)

Progress on GEOGLAM Implementation and required resources (M. Deshayes, GEO Sec)
Session round table and open discussion

S6. Meeting conclusion and recommendations (Co-chairs Gilles Ollier, EC-RTD, and Joao Soares, GEO Secretariat)

The presentations made in the sessions are available at ftp://ftp.earthobservations.org/meetings/201311_swf_ec_geo_brussels/ and at http://swfound.org/events/2013/international-meeting-on-food-security,-earth-observations-and-agricultural-monitoring/ (reached by double clicking on the presentation's title)

The common understanding from the presentations made throughout the day was that the systems in place for Agricultural monitoring using Earth Observation and in situ data that are shared through GEOGLAM are developing and reaching maturity, at both Global and National levels.

It appeared clear that the EC-funded SIGMA project will generate deliverables that will directly feed into GEOGLAM needs, such as improved crop masks and crop calendars, as well as boosting the R&D and Capacity Enhancement components of GEOGLAM.

It was also clear that GEOGLAM will benefit from a better coordination by putting in place a sound governance model and for that it should be further discussed in the context of the new 10-year mandate of GEO, specifically in the development of its next 10-year implementation plan to be prepared after GEO-X and the Ministerial that will agree on the continuation of GEO beyond 2015. Specifically the recommendation by the EC chair is that the GEOGLAM team lays out what are the resources provided in-kind, what the national projects and international partnerships contributing to GEOGLAM activities and components, and what are the needs in terms of coordination and capacity enhancement.