



# Partnerships and Solutions for Agriculture and Natural Resources



**JUNE 10-13, 2008**

**TradeWinds Island Resorts**

**St. Pete Beach, Florida, USA**

**[www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/CIMR](http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/CIMR)**



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## Introduction

Agricultural and natural resource managers need climate information at the regional and local levels to address short- and long-term challenges posed by variable and changing climate. Risks posed by climate variability include hurricanes, drought, floods, freezes, heat stress, and wild fires. Risks posed by climate change, include changes in the frequency and intensity of extreme events, rising sea levels, and agricultural emissions of greenhouse gases. In addition to risks, climate change offers new economic opportunities for agricultural and natural resource managers, such as bio-fuel production and carbon sequestration.

Because of the complex interplay between agricultural and natural resource vulnerabilities, risks, and opportunities, solutions will depend on integrated research, teaching, and extension programs, with decision-makers and other stakeholders included as partners in these programs. We will need new educational curricula, new research programs, and new communications tools to provide information that decision makers can use to manage risks and benefit from new opportunities.

## Objectives

To help us prepare for these challenges, CIMR will address three objectives:

- To provide a forum for climate professionals and agricultural and natural resource managers to share knowledge, experiences, and ideas.
- To identify priorities and plan strategies for future climate research, education, and outreach that will enable universities, agencies, and organizations to provide climate information for decision makers in agriculture and natural resource management.
- To explore opportunities and needs for developing climate information and decision support systems, as well as how to downscale and apply global climate information at both regional and local levels.

## Expected Outcomes

Participants will:

- Gain greater insight into climate variability at different time-scales.
- Explore potential applications of climate information at local and regional scales.
- Develop strategies to meet future needs of agriculture and natural resource managers for climate information.
- Establish networks and partnerships with other participants.
- Formulate recommendations from breakout discussions to be disseminated to appropriate administrators, agencies, and other decision makers.

Recommendations from break-out sessions will focus on:

- Identification of risks and vulnerabilities of agriculture and natural resources to climate extremes and climate change.
- Solutions for managing risks at regional and local scales.
- Opportunities to integrate research, teaching, and extension to find solutions for managing climate risks.
- Priorities for research, teaching, and extension programs needed to meet stakeholder needs for climate information over the next 20 to 30 years.
- Protocols to bridge from global climate change to regional and local risks and vulnerabilities.

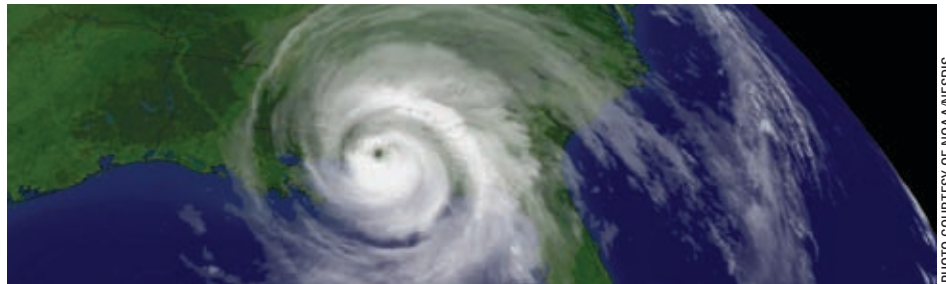


PHOTO COURTESY OF NOAA/NESDIS

## Who Should Participate?

Anyone concerned with or interested in the applications of climate information at local and regional levels to manage risks to agriculture and natural resources, including:

- Research, teaching, and extension faculty, administrators, staff, and students, including those participating in Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments Centers (RISAs), climate centers, and others involved with improving the use of climate information for agriculture and natural resource management.
- Representatives from federal, state, and local agencies conducting climate research or offering climate services, such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), US Department of Agriculture (USDA), state departments of environmental protection, state departments of agriculture, and water management districts.
- Non-governmental and private-voluntary organizations (NGOs and PVOs) such as Federation of Southern Cooperatives,



PHOTO COURTESY OF USDA NRCS

A farmer, a NRCS Outreach Coordinator, & FAMU, Farm Management Specialist, confer on conservation techniques.

Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (SAWG), and others.

- Intermediaries or representatives of potential climate information users from the private sector, for example, state Farm Bureaus, crop consultants, commodity associations, producer organizations, environmental consulting firms, agricultural and natural resources media, and others.

## Program Structure

The CIMR Symposium will provide participants with a unique opportunity to collectively identify issues facing agriculture and natural resource managers related to climate variability and to define research, teaching, and extension needs to address these issues. Thus the overall theme “Partnerships and Solutions for Agriculture and Natural Resources” will be developed throughout plenary sessions, breakout groups, and poster sessions.

**Plenary Sessions** — Invited experts from around the world will address the following topics:

- State of knowledge on climate variability and climate change at seasonal, decadal, and multi-decadal time scales
- Impacts of climate variability and climate change on agriculture and natural resources
- Stakeholder needs for climate information related to agriculture and natural resources
- Success stories: Integrated approaches that combine research, extension, and education in the application of climate information
- Extension and application of climate information for agriculture and natural resources
- Short- and long-term needs and opportunities for education to ensure the effective use of climate information by decision makers

**Breakout Sessions** — Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in facilitated discussion groups on the following topics:

- Topic 1: Identifying stakeholder needs for climate information
- Topic 2: Setting priorities for integrated research programs
- Topic 3: Extension and application of climate information
- Topic 4: Curriculum development to improve climate literacy

**Poster Sessions** — Poster sessions are planned to stimulate discussion on the above topics. Refer to the “Call for Poster Abstracts” section for information on volunteering to present a poster.

The symposium is designed to encourage a variety of interaction with Q&A, topical discussion periods, and networking functions. Invited presentations and volunteer poster abstracts will be published on CD-ROM to be distributed at the meeting. Summaries of recommendations developed during the symposium will be posted on the website following the symposium.



Scientists from the Southeast Climate Consortium prepare climate and agricultural outlooks.



Pine Forests (2002)

## Call for Poster Abstracts

- Individuals who wish to present their work on any aspect of climate information for managing risks to agriculture and natural resources are encouraged to submit an abstract for consideration as a poster presentation. Poster presentations will provide a valuable format for dialogue outside the plenary and breakout sessions, and thus will be a significant component of this symposium.
- Posters selected from abstract submissions will be displayed during a formal poster session and reception with authors available for discussion. Poster abstracts will also be published in the electronic book of abstracts on CD-ROM. If you wish to present a poster, submit an abstract for review no later than February 1, 2008. Abstracts **MUST** be submitted on-line via the symposium website.
- Student poster authors will be eligible to compete for “Best Poster” awards based on the quality of the abstract, poster, and discussion. Poster presenter winners will be announced during the closing session on Friday morning.

Please note that poster presenters must register for the symposium.

## Registration Information

Register at the symposium website: [www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/CIMR](http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/CIMR)

Registration fees for the CIMR Symposium follow:

<b>Fees:</b> (All figures are in US dollars)	<b>Early by March 14, 2008</b>	<b>Regular by April 28, 2008</b>	<b>Late/Onsite after April 28, 2008</b>
Symposium Attendee	US \$325	US \$375	US \$425
Student Attendee	US \$200	US \$225 (if available)	US \$425
Guest (ages 12 & above)	US \$130	US \$150	Not applicable

### Symposium Attendee Registration Fee

Symposium attendee registration includes full participation in the symposium, a customized pad holder with registration materials, and one electronic book of abstracts on CD-ROM. It also includes morning refreshments and networking boxed lunch period Wednesday and Thursday, daily refreshments breaks, and all scheduled networking poster receptions.

### Student Attendee Registration Fee

A limited number of symposium registrations have been made available at a reduced fee for university students. Students who take advantage of this offer will be entitled to full symposium participation including all materials. Registration is limited and will be on a first-come, first-served basis. A photocopy of a valid student ID must accompany student registration forms in order to receive the student fee. After registering, please FAX a copy of your student ID to 1-352-392-9734 Attn: CIMR

### Guest Registration Fee

Guests accompanying symposium attendees may register for the boxed lunch Wednesday and Thursday and the scheduled networking poster receptions. Guest registration does not include

symposium meeting participation or materials and is not for use by co-workers.

### Refund Policy

Requests for refunds will be honored if a written notification of cancellation is received by the Office of Conferences & Institutes IFAS, University of Florida by Monday, May 19, 2008. A processing fee of \$90.00 will be deducted from all symposium registration refunds. A processing fee of \$30.00 will be deducted from all guest fees. No refunds will be honored for cancellations after Monday, May 19, 2008.

### Special Needs

Special needs (such as visual, hearing, or walking impairments) of registered attendees can be reasonably accommodated if they contact the Office of Conferences & Institutes at least 10 working days prior to the symposium. We can be reached by phone at 1-352-392-5930, by fax at 1-352-392-9734, or by email at [mstage@ufl.edu](mailto:mstage@ufl.edu). If calling from within the State of Florida, the office can be reached through a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) at 1-800-955-8771.

## Accommodations & Location

### TradeWinds Island Grand Resort

5500 Gulf Boulevard | St. Pete Beach, Florida 33706  
Reservations: 1-800-808-9833 (USA and Canada)  
1-727-367-6461 (outside the USA and Canada)  
Website: [www.tradewindsresort.com](http://www.tradewindsresort.com)

The symposium will be held at the TradeWinds Island Grand Resort located on the island of St. Pete Beach, Florida. Awarded the Florida green lodging certificate, the resort will comfortably accommodate all CIMR sessions and events. It is also a classic, AAA four-diamond, family-friendly resort offering a colorful mix of relaxation, fun and recreation that is ideal for incorporating a family vacation.

### Guest Room Rate and Information

Sleeping rooms have been contracted at the Tradewinds Island Grand Resort for CIMR attendees at various reduced rates. Visit the symposium website for the reduced rates and guest room information at [www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/CIMR](http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/CIMR)

The reservation deadline is April 28, 2008. Please be aware the rooms may fill before the discounted rate deadline, so we urge you to begin travel preparations now and make your reservation as soon as possible.

## Further Information

### Program Information

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### Meeting Information

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