

Workshop: Technical Issues in Index Insurance

Date: October 7, 2008

Index-based financial risk-transfer mechanisms are being tested in the context of development and climate-change adaptation. These instruments show the capacity to dramatically reduce conditions of chronic underdevelopment by both enabling investment and reducing shocks in agricultural livelihoods. However, important issues have been raised, such as the potential for scaling up and the impact of climate change on index insurance. The workshop will bring together the research and implementation communities to discuss how state of the art research and technology can best serve development, today.

Workshop Format

Short discussion papers on each topic will be distributed to participants in advance, serving to inform and educate participants, orient discussion, and to help inform the Climate and Society publication. Feedback on the papers from participants is encouraged. The papers and related background papers will be made available on the IRI website in advance (iri.columbia.edu/CSP).

Ten topic areas have been identified for discussion (see below). Each has been allocated 35 minutes of time: 20 minutes for the presentation of the topic and 15 minutes for open discussion.

Presentations will be focused on providing the current state of the art of the technology, how it is or could be used to support the scaling up of index insurance, and identifying priority actions and research areas.

Workshop Agenda

9:00 – 9:15 Introduction (Dan Osgood)

9:15 – 4 pm Topics for Discussion
Chair: Molly Hellmuth

1. Contract Design (Coordinator: Dan Osgood)
2. Agricultural Systems Modeling (Coordinator: Jim Hansen)
3. Water Resources Applications (Coordinator: Upmanu Lall)
4. Rainfall Simulation (Coordinator: Kenny Shirley)
5. Seasonal Forecasts (Coordinator: Andy Robertson)

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

6. Spreading Risk Geographically (Coordinator: Marta Vicarelli)
7. Climate Change/decadal scale (Coordinator: Arthur Greene)
8. Remote Sensing – Vegetation (Coordinator: Pietro Ceccato)
9. Remote Sensing - Rainfall (Coordinator: Tufa Dinku)
10. Games for Communicating Complex Information (Coordinator: Tony Patt)

16:15 – 17:00

Discussion on the way forward

17:30 – 19:00

Reception

* Coffee break discretion of chair