

LESSONS FROM THE DRI DEWS EXERCISE

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Background

- ⦿ Was the product of collaboration with AAFC-AESB as part of their (Drought Preparedness Partnership) DPP exercise
- ⦿ There are two forms:
 - Tabletop exercise in a workshop setting:
 - Regina (Oct/08 and Mar/09), Winnipeg (Jan/10) and Edmonton (Apr/10)
 - Online Form
 - http://www.drinetwork.ca/dews/dews_form.php

What is the Drought Early Warning System (DEWS)?

- DEWS is a test bed for drought research products developed within DRI.
- Is a framework to facilitate dialogue between researchers and users.
- Is a discussion based exercise that uses 2002 as a target year for presenting research results.

Purpose of DEWS

- ◎ To facilitate dialogue between drought researchers and drought information users:
 - to improve understanding of products on the user side
 - to get an idea of what research is especially important or useful.
- ◎ Down the road this would mean:
 - that users would use the data properly and effectively
 - researchers would more effectively facilitate the development of better products.

What DEWS is not:

- ⦿ It is not an operational drought early warning system.
- ⦿ Most of the data products presented are not operational.
- ⦿ Still have large uncertainties and improvements that need to be made to products
 - The reason why there is research.
- ⦿ Motivation for the products is researching drought
 - not necessarily designed for operations or decision making

Results

- ⦿ All information tells a different part of the story and is useful
- ⦿ There is a need for scientifically robust indicators of drought specific to the region
- ⦿ Spatial resolution of most products needs to be enhanced for use at the farm gate level but suitable for policy levels
- ⦿ Need to develop relationships between observations/modelling results and impacts
- ⦿ Predictions are generally the most desired.
- ⦿ Users want a high level of accuracy to make use of products (>80%)

Follow On

- DEWS is a valuable exercise but in its current form has run its course
- Next Steps:
 - Dialogue needs to take place directly between the researcher and the users
 - Can use the template of DEWS to formalize this interaction