

FIRST NOTICE

Workshop to develop a Strategy for Global Agricultural Monitoring in the framework of Group on Earth Observations (GEO) 16-18 July, FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

Dear Colleague,

You are invited to attend a Workshop to develop a Strategy for Global Agricultural Monitoring in the framework of Group on Earth Observations (GEO) on 16-18 July at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Rome, Italy.

Following the Integrated Global Observations of Land (IGOL) Global Agricultural Monitoring Workshop held at the FAO in March 2006, GEO asked this Ad hoc group to formulate the strategy for GEO Task AG-07-03 – development of an operation agricultural monitoring system; as a contribution to GEO Task AG-06-01 – development of a 10 year strategy for agriculture.

The 2006 Workshop recognized different Agricultural Monitoring needs for:

- Early Warning / Food Security;
- Annual National-level Agricultural Monitoring (statistical and satellite based);
- The Information and Capacity-Building needs of Developing Countries.

These needs will be further defined as operational requirements for a 10-year agricultural monitoring strategy.

Our intention is to develop a strategy and suggest concrete steps and activities that are needed for system implementation. The international organizing committee is developing a draft agenda and we will keep you posted. To avoid any duplication of effort we will be working closely with the new GEOSS Task on Agricultural Risk Management AG-07-02 being led by WMO.

We would very much appreciate your attendance and input to this international initiative. Please mark your calendars and indicate your availability by e-mailing Reuben Sessa at Reuben.Sessa@fao.org.

We hope that you will be able to attend and apologies for the short notice.

Best wishes,

Jeff Tschirley
FAO

Chris Justice
IGOL Ag Group

Michael Rast
GEO Secretariat