

A Discussion of Steps Being Taken to Develop Climate Decision Support Tools in the Canadian Agricultural Sector by Agriculture Canada

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The National Agroclimate Information Service (NAIS) of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Prairie Farm Rehabilitation and Environment Branch, was created in 2004 to support and address climate issues and impact on agriculture at a national scale. There are two units within NAIS: the Climate Monitoring and Forecasting Unit and the Climate Decision Support and Adaptation Unit. The two units support departmental efforts to monitor, adapt to, and where possible mitigate drought and other extreme events impacts as well as improve the profitability and sustainability of the agricultural sector.

As NAIS matures it is expanding its efforts to support producers' and other decision makers in the agriculture sector via the development of watershed and farm level decision support tools. Recent examples of this include its efforts to assess end user's needs, refine a methodology for assessing watershed economic and physical vulnerability and adaptation options to extreme climate events and a developing capacity to assess the potential impact of climate change as well as seasonal decision support tools.

The presentation will discuss end user needs identification results, current responses related to information provision, anticipated projects related to crop production, and how the organization hopes to leverage knowledge gained in other regions of the world and Canada to improve climate sensitive decision support in the Canadian agricultural context.

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