

Virtual Session Speakers



Dr. Donald A. Wilhite

Founding Director, United States National Drought Mitigation Center, Univ. of Nebraska

The rationale for national drought management plans and policies

Dr. Wilhite is the original author of the 10-step process to develop national drought plans and policies, now widely adopted by multiple international organizations and programs. In addition, Dr. Wilhite will be the overall coordinator of both components (virtual and in-person) of the SISSA workshop on national drought management plans and policies.



Dr. Roger S. Pulwarty

Senior Scientist, United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Building resilience: drought management in the context of climate variability and change adaptation programs and policies

Dr. Pulwarty is the Senior Scientist in the NOAA Physical Sciences Laboratory at the NOAA Office of Oceans and Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado. He was previously the Director of the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS). He has written extensively on climate science, risk management and information services in the U.S., Latin America and the Caribbean.



Dr. Robert Stefanski

Chief, Agricultural Meteorology Program, World Meteorological Organization

The three pillars of integrated drought management

Dr. Stefanski is Chief of the Agricultural Meteorology Program at the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) of the United Nations. He is co-leading the Integrated Drought Management Program, a collaborative effort between WMO and the Global Water Partnership.



Dr. Daniel Tsegai

Program Officer, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification: status and rationale. Progress to date in drought plans and policies in South America

Dr. Tsegai is a Program Officer for drought and water scarcity issues at the Secretariat of the UNCCD. He is involved in the development of the UNCCD-led Drought toolbox, and is leading the UNCCD's effort to foster development of national drought plans and policies in many parts of the world, including South America.



Dr. Mark Svoboda

Director, United States National Drought Mitigation Center, University of Nebraska

The US National Drought Mitigation Center: global/regional collaborations and services in support of national drought management policies

Dr. Mark Svoboda, climatologist, is the Director of the National Drought Mitigation Center. He has been with the NDMC since it was established in 1995, and he co-founded (in 1999) and authored the U.S. Drought Monitor for 17 years. Svoboda was recently selected as a member of both the UNCCD's Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) and Science Policy Interface (SPI) teams where he serves as a co-chair for the drought working group.

Steering and Supporting Institutions

Major funding for the SISSA workshop on national drought plans is being provided by the Regional Public Goods program of the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB). The institutions shown below (in alphabetical order) will partner with SISSA and the RCC-SSA to coordinate the workshop.

Workshop organizers and major funder



Regional Climate Center for southern South America

Steering and supporting institutions



Euroclima+ Program, funded by European Union through AECID



Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research



Organization of American States



United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification



United Nations World Meteorological Organization



US National Drought Mitigation Center



US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration