IRI proposal to CLiMWAR-LAC

Drought monitoring & forecasting

The IRI has worked / is currently working on projects to improve the monitoring and/or forecasting of drought in Chile, Uruguay, Peru, and Jamaica. We are happy to coordinate around these efforts to the extent possible and would look forward to improve upon / transfer these methodologies to new locations moving forward.

The IRI recently installed its Data Library at Latin American Observatory for Extreme Events, which led to the development of the Datoteca, which includes seasonal forecast products for the region. This could be expanded to more specific drought products independently or in collaboration with other efforts.

The IRI is currently working to install the Data Library at the Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) in Cali, Colombia, with the goal of consolidating a range of information applicable to agricultural decision makers in Colombia, Guatemala and Honduras.

Evaluation of Socioeconomic Benefits

The IRI is eager to pursue work to evaluate, quantify and otherwise describe the socioeconomic benefits of climate information for societal decision making.

Recent efforts have included contributions to a WB-WMO-USAID book Valuing Weather & Climate: Economic Assessment of Meteorological & Hydrological Services. Colleagues from the University of Arizona also recently conducted an evaluation of the impact of drought forecast information co-developed by the IRI on agriculture in Jamaica. The IRI is in the process of developing a proposal to advance socioeconomic benefits analysis around a WFP project called FoodSecure.

We propose that the ClimWar-LAC might engage in this sort of analysis in order to further understand and explicate the role that climate information plays in improving our ability to manage and adapt.

Training of Caribbean water managers

After a several year project on climate and water conducted jointly with both the University of the West Indies and the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology, the IRI is eager to pursue work to train water managers in the region in hydrological modeling, as a practical way to introduce climate information into actual planning and decision making. This would run the gamut from very simple Excel-based models to more complex models (e.g., SWAT, WEAP, etc.).