

Advances and challenges in drought early warning systems

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Abstract

The climate community has been actively engaged in bridging the gap between advances in climate science and the services required to improve adaptation to climate variability and change in different regions and socioeconomic sectors of the world. Drought monitoring, forecasting and management are key activities in this regard -- but experience shows that effectively embedding climate information, products and tools in the agricultural sector is still a major challenge in both, developing and developed countries. This presentation will discuss different aspects of that challenge based on the experiences of the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) of Columbia University and other institutions during the last 15 years. The discussion will include challenges found in the generation of climate knowledge in the scientific community, in the “translation” of scientific advances into knowledge that is relevant for the drought management sector, and in the institutional arrangements and the policy context in which climate knowledge needs to be embedded.