

# Agriculture Task AG-06-07

**Presentation to the 7<sup>th</sup> GEO CBC meeting  
Tashkent, Uzbekistan  
3<sup>th</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

**by**

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# Agriculture Task AG- 06- 07

## Task Target;

Develop Training Modules for Agriculture

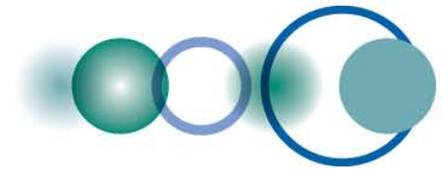
## Task Scope;

Initiate the design of training modules to demonstrate the usage of Earth observation data and products for the agricultural sectors in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Central and Eastern Europe, and in Small Island States.



# TASK AG- 06- 07 OBJECTIVES

- Review of the current state of the art capabilities to receive Earth Observation information and identify the best methods and media for distribution of materials developed in training modules.
- Review the characteristics of Earth Observations and their strengths and weaknesses in each of the identified agricultural sectors.
- Design and complete first training module to demonstrate EO utility.
- Disseminate training module according to the best methods and media identified in objective 1.



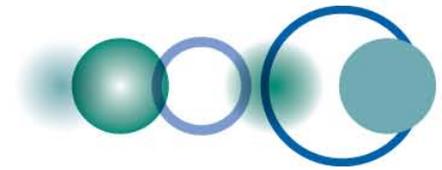
# Achievements to date

- ❑ Uganda became the Point of Contact for the Task
- ❑ A first list of priority activities has been established to initiate implementation of the task (Uganda)
- ❑ The work to be performed under this Task and Task components have been elaborated in further details by Dr. Kees de Bie (ITC).
- ❑ A network of international institutions and governmental bodies has been established
- ❑ Task objectives were presented to participants at the 2<sup>nd</sup> African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology (Uganda)



# Expected milestones for 2008

- Establish a task working committee
- Review training modules/materials already provided by ITC and develop a plan of action
- Organize regional task meetings:
  - Uganda, Africa
  - China, Asia
  - Slovenia, Eastern Europe
  - Argentina, Latin America
- Design and complete first training module to demonstrate EO utility



## Participation/Recommendations for additional participants

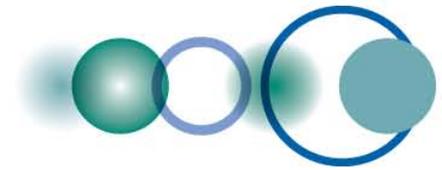
*Need to Include training institutions in developing countries;*

- University of Rajasthan, India
- University of Peradeniya, SRI LANKA
- African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education English (ARCSSTE-E), Ile Ife, Nigeria (has joined the African task team)
- African Institute for Capacity Development, Nairobi Kenya (the University of Nairobi has joined the team)
- Makerere University, Kampala Uganda



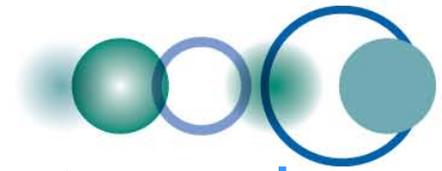
# Coordination points with other GEO work plan tasks

- CBC meetings continue to provide interaction with other work plan tasks
- GEO meetings including the Plenary, and other workshops
- Regional meetings, i.e. the 2<sup>nd</sup> African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology (RSA)
- GEO secretariat, Dr. Michael Rast remains a vital coordination focus for the task



## Potential risks that may impede completion of task

- Low commitment of task contributors
- Unavailability of a budget against some of the activities of the task
- The large scope of the task, may require selective regional attainment of outputs
- Lack of a time frame for task implementation.



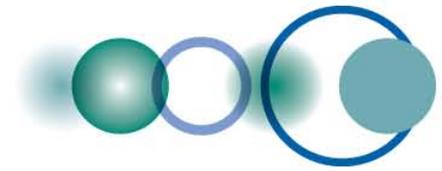
## Gaps that have been identified that need to be addressed independently

- Unavailability of GEO secretariat budgetary support in the attainment of specific task objectives
- No major contributor willing to contribute significant resources to the task; UN FAO and others should be encouraged to get more involved
- Lack of contributors in each of the regions for implementation of the task



# Potential Contributions to the CB portal /GEO Portal

- A data resource of modules for agriculture sectoral development
- An authoritative source of global, regional, sub regional data on agricultural development using EO
- An education point of interaction in sustainable agriculture education and development for developing countries.

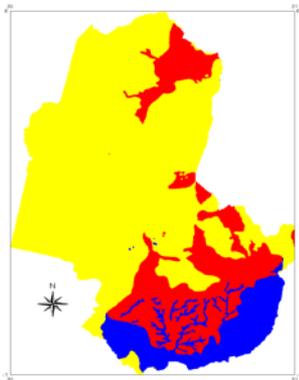


## Expected products

- An active task working committee established
- A complete training module demonstrating EO utility in the Agriculture sector developed
- Best fit methods and media including a plan of action for distribution of materials at regional levels established
- Training modules utilising EO in agriculture development made available.

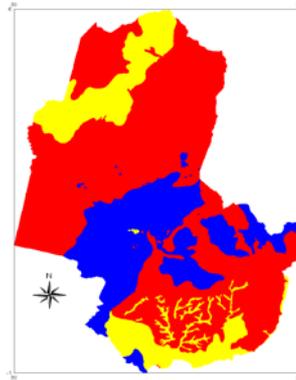


# E.g. Applications of EOs to parameterize soil quality



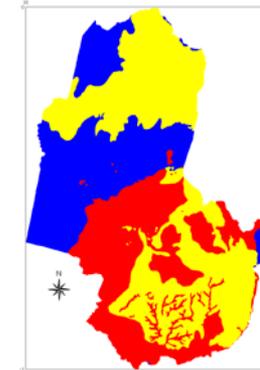
Lower pH unsuitable: Unsuitable  
 Ms: Moderately suitable  
 Vs: Very suitable

pH



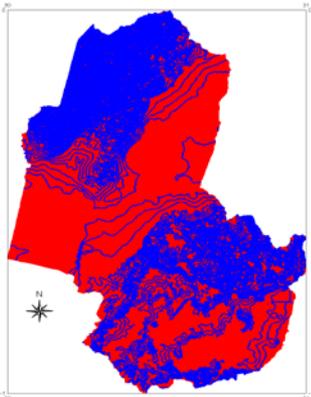
Ms: Unusable  
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 Vs: Very suitable

Soil depth



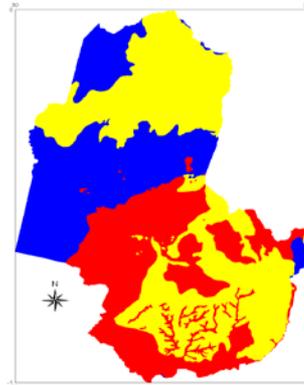
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 Vs: Very suitable

Texture

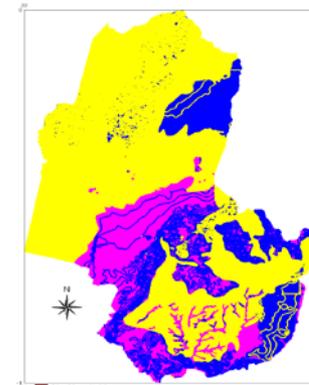


Vs: Very suitable  
 Ms: Moderately suitable  
 Ms: Unusable

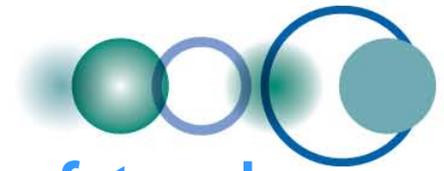
Water losses



Ms: Moderately suitable  
 Ms: Unusable  
 Vs: Very suitable



Ms: Unusable  
 Ms: Marginally suitable  
 Vs: Suitable  
 Vs: Very suitable



# Expected date of completion of task

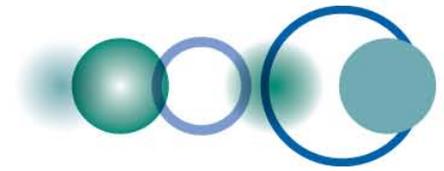
*With active participation of all stakeholders and more logistical support from GEO and other donors,*

The task should be completed by the first quarter (April) of 2009.



# Expectations of task lead from CBC

- Budgetary support for implementation of the task at regional levels
- Interest upon agencies and governmental bodies with funds to support task implementation (UN FAO, UNESCO, UN WFP, USAID)
- Continue both technical support by Michael Rast and coordination with the other tasks through CBC meetings (Imraan Saloojee).



**I look forward to listing you or  
your organization in the  
achievements of this task.**

**Thank you very much for your  
attention**