

ACCO Climate Leadership Summit

November 8-9, 2010 | Hyattsville, Maryland

Marriott Inn & Conference Center, University of Maryland University College

(The nation's first LEED certified conference center)

ROUNDTABLE NOTES

Track 2: Adaptation

Session 2: Climate Impacts on Agriculture and Natural Resources

Moderator: A.G. Kawamura

Takeaways:

Adaptation modeling with agriculture isn't tracking as quickly as sea level rise, heat, etc. Companies haven't reached out to agriculture. There is an awareness of implications, but that awareness is not as high as other areas. People have a hard time connecting where their food is coming from, how much energy went into it. Communicating this is important.

Agricultural implications include invasive species, water availability, plant hardiness, the need for genetic modification, and land use change. We need to better communicate these serious implications and convey the gravity of the situation- the fragility of the global food system- to the public.

Most farmers aren't concerned with climate change. They feel that weather has always been an inherent risk, and they feel able to compete on a global basis because of their infrastructure investment. There is a level of resistance from farmers in trying to incorporate climate change into farm bills, as they do not see it as a concern.

Next Steps:

The next farm bill is 2 years away (2012). There may be an opportunity to collaborate with the agriculture sector in advance of this legislation.