



GUIDANCE FOR SESSION CHAIRS

There are six sessions running concurrently, starting Thursday (11/7) afternoon and all day Friday (11/8). The topical areas for each session are indicated in the program, and serve as general guidance based on research needs identified in a planning workshop held at the University of Tennessee in August 2017.

- (1) The objective is that each session will identify one or more thematic research program ideas (new research themes) that address critical environmental issues relevant to FEWS from a systems perspective. ***What are high-priority FEWS grand challenge research questions?***
- (2) New ***Research Program Ideas*** should be developed to a level that includes (A) a title of the program, (B) at least three principal science and engineering research objectives, and (C) a brief abstract highlighting the relevance and significance in addressing these major challenges for a long-term successful FEWS research and development program.
- (3) The session chairs will introduce plenary lecturers, who will start off each session to give the participants a FEWS perspective on the types of research activities important as system level components.
- (4) Following the plenary presentations, the session chairs will give session participants the opportunity to introduce her/his research area in a brief, no more than 3-slide, 5-minute overview, and highlight how her/his expertise contributes to meeting FEWS research challenges. It is important that each participant take ownership of the session by sharing any ideas or questions (there are no bad ideas or questions!).
- (5) Following the brief participant presentations (with or without slides), the Sessions Chairs should lead a discussion among the participants by asking for input on what they have heard, the major topics that were identified, what is needed to integrate teams, and how teams can productively pursue environmentally focused research from a FEWS perspective.
- (6) At the end of Thursday's session, all Session Chairs will meet to present a brief summary of key outcomes to Dr. Loeffler. Dr. Loeffler will consolidate these findings for a summary briefing for all symposium participants on Friday morning.
- (7) Following Dr. Loeffler's Friday summary, the morning sessions will re-convene and continue as on Thursday; however, participants will attend different sessions to broaden input and understanding of the spectrum of FEWS research.
- (8) The Friday afternoon sessions will re-convene as originally composed and will largely focus on discussion of the identified thematic research topics (new research themes). The outcomes of these discussions will be again summarized for Dr. Loeffler's compilation.
- (9) Saturday will be largely a working meeting with the FEWSTERN committee to assemble a working document describing the research FEWS grand challenges and the types of thematic research activities needed to deliver impactful solutions. This will also require the assembly of teams to pursue this research.