



USDA Science Council
Subcommittee on International Issues

CHARTER

I. PURPOSE

Per the USDA Science Council Charter, the USDA Science Council facilitates and supports cross-Departmental coordination and collaboration among all USDA agencies. The Council advises the Secretary and the Chief Scientist on the priorities for USDA's science agenda, reflecting high priority issues impacting all aspects of United States food, agriculture, natural resources, energy and communities. This Science Council Subcommittee on International Issues (International Subcommittee) was created to further effect the Council's purpose and objectives as authorized in the USDA Science Council Charter, section VII.

II. OBJECTIVES

The USDA Science Council International Subcommittee will:

1. Support the Chief Scientist and the USDA Science Council in promoting inter-agency cooperation and collaboration on international agricultural science, technology, and innovation research in order to increase internal collaboration and cooperation and leverage the Department's resources.
2. Recommend to the Chief Scientist areas for internationally focused and/or collaborated agricultural science, technology, and innovation research that will support the Secretary and Administration priorities;
3. Disseminate and promote internationally focused and/or collaborated agricultural science, technology, and innovation research activities of USDA to ensure that the best science is made available for decision making;
4. Serve as the intermediary between the White House, Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Committee on Science and Technology Enterprise (CSTE), International Science and Technology Coordination (ISTC) Subcommittee and the USDA Science Council; and,
5. Conduct other science related duties as requested by the Secretary, the Chief Scientist or as decided by the Council.

III. SPONSORSHIP

The Office of the Chief Scientist will provide administrative support for the subcommittee. The subcommittee chair will prepare an agenda and keep records of the activities of the subcommittee. Members of the subcommittee will consist of USDA employees who serve without compensation beyond their regular salaries; thus, there will be no cost of operation.

IV. MEMBERSHIP

The Chair will be the Senior Advisor for International Affairs for the USDA Chief Scientist. This individual also serves as one of the USDA representatives to the NSTC/CSTE/ISTC thus facilitating II.1.4. of this Charter.

The subcommittee shall be comprised of (1) member from each USDA Mission Area and four staff offices. Each Mission Area representative may bring a representative from each agency that conducts and/or has legislative authority to conduct international agricultural science, technology, and innovation activities. These members are responsible for keeping their Science Council representative briefed on the activities of the subcommittee.

V. SUBCOMMITTEE OPERATIONS

The subcommittee will meet a minimum of four times per year and submit meeting minutes to the Council. If a member cannot attend a scheduled meeting, a replacement who is positioned to make decisions on behalf of the member may be sent.

Meeting notifications, agendas, and notes will be compiled by the subcommittee chair and distributed to all members. Meeting minutes will be compiled by the subcommittee chair and distributed to all members, the Science Council, and the USDA Intra-Departmental Coordination Committee on International Affairs¹.

The Subcommittee will develop recommendations to be presented to the Council on high priority international science issues.

This charter shall be evaluated and updated every two years or as members deem appropriate.

VI. DECISION-MAKING PROTOCOL

Recommendations of the subcommittee will be determined by consensus so long as 70% of the members are in attendance. If a member is absent, a designated representative from the same member organization may participate. Each member organization will have one vote/opinion.

VII. RELATIONSHIPS

The subcommittee advises the Science Council of the USDA.

The subcommittee will serve as the intermediary between the Science Council and the NSTC/CSTE/ISTC.

The subcommittee will serve as the intermediary between the Science Council and the USDA Intra-Departmental Coordination Committee on International Affairs.

Other scientific and/or international bodies from USDA or outside of USDA may be invited to make specific presentations and/or to describe their activities and relevant findings to the Science Council. This will serve to inform the subcommittee about international scientific activities.

VIII. SIGNATURE OF APPROVAL


SIGNATURE

04/02/2019
DATE

¹ https://www.ocio.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2012/DR1051-002_0.pdf