

LBA Agricultural Synthesis

Progress Report

Brasilia

October 2006

Where we are

- We have a draft outline for an ambitious synthesis 27 chapter volume that is divided into 7 sections:
 - I. Introduction
 - II. Agriculture in the cerrado region (5 chaps.)
 - III. Agriculture in the forest region (5 chaps.)
 - IV. Scaling process-level studies to the region (3 chaps.)
 - V. Agriculture and the climate system
 - VI. Alternative futures – scenarios
 - VII. Best practices
 - VIII. Conclusions, perspectives and research needs

Timetable

- March 2006 Instructions to authors
- November 2006 First drafts due
- January 2007 Comments on draft to authors
- June 2007 Final drafts of chapters
- July 2007 Workshop to develop and draft final cross-cutting chapter
- October 2007 Book draft to publisher (Island Press)
- March 2008 Publication

What we want to accomplish at this meeting

- Select a way forward:
 - Continue to pursue our original plan of producing a book as outlined at last year's LBA meeting.
 - Recognize that the original plan is too ambitious and develop a less complex synthesis effort that would take one of several forms –
 - A less complex book with fewer authors and an emphasis on high-level synthesis
 - A set of papers in a special issue of a journal with an overall summary paper and a set of contributed papers, all with the goal of synthesis at some level
 - A single synthesis paper jointly authored by the LBA Agriculture Synthesis Team (much as was done in the VEMAP study (Global Biogeochemical Cycles. 9:407-437)).
- Identify author team(s), set a new timetable.