

ANNEX

1. An annual review will be held to discuss the crop classification and mensuration strategies employed, suggested modifications, and data and information required for the coming year. This will include sampling strategy for acreage and yield estimates of selected areas, and review of relevant research and introduction of new concepts.

2. The Canadian and United States participants will conduct independent area and yield analyses based on remotely sensed data from satellites and other platforms, meteorological stations, and ground test sites. By agreement, selected aspects of the programme may be co-ordinated to enable direct comparison of methods and results across various climatic cropping systems for selected agricultural areas.

3. Technical information related to crop production systems, historic crop estimates, climatic and weather information, procedural concepts, and research and technical reports which would normally be published and available upon request, will be freely exchanged among all the participants.

4. Each year, during the cropping season, there will be a prompt exchange of field data (ground truth information), aerial photographs and related information from selected test sites as mutually agreed.

5. No regular exchange of raw satellite data is anticipated. Supplementary raw satellite data will be exchanged when necessary for the joint programme and as mutually agreed.

6. Computer software, agromet modelling information, and other technical information and expertise will be exchanged on an equitable and mutually agreed basis.

7. The confidentiality of current acreage, yield, and production estimates arising from this programme will be maintained in accordance with current release regulations and practices of responsible crop reporting and marketing agencies of each country. In addition, each country will provide prior notification of the date or schedule of dates on which such estimates will be released for publication.

8. Apart from considerations in item 7, retrospective research results and technical reports will be freely available.