

## **Webinar Background – Farahani**

### **Comments provided to audience at the start of Webinar**

Good afternoon and thank you for attending our second webinar as part of our recent offering under ag water management educational webinar series.

It would be helpful for me to start by providing a brief background highlighting who the presenters are and how they are linked to Southeast Climate Consortium.

In my previous life at Clemson university from 2008-2011, I was a water management faculty with interests in irrigation and drainage as well as other pressing water issues such as drought and heat caused by climate change and climate variability and their impacts on water use, crop growth, and agriculture in general.

While at Clemson, I became aware of a group of scientists and specialists working together under an umbrella called the Southeast Climate Consortium (SECC).

The core group was based in Florida with co-operators across the Southeast USA. They were active in using advances in climate sciences, including improved capabilities to forecast seasonal climate variability and long-term climate change, to provide scientifically sound information and decision support tools to extension and producers for agricultural management.

One of their information delivery mechanisms was via online tools. A tool called AgroClimate was one of them. I also found out that the individual leading the AgroClimate activities at the University of Florida is my old classmate, Clyde Fraisse, from late 80s. So I contacted Clyde and the SECC executive committee and asked if I can participate in their activities on behalf of Clemson University.

At that time (2009), Agroclimate tools covered states of FL, GA, AL, and NC. I liked Agroclimate and what SECC was trying to do, and they welcomed the idea of including SC in the Agroclimate tool to cover all five southeastern states.

Working with Clyde and his team, we at Clemson secured long term climate and yield data for SC which were then used to produce Agroclimate tools for SC. It just happened that I left Clemson and Joined NRCS at the beginning of 2011.

While at NRCS, I came to realize that hardly anybody in NRCS including most clientele is aware of SECC or knows much about Agroclimate (even some NRCS folks in FL). So I invited Clyde to join me to introduce SECC and specifically Agroclimate to NRCS and that's the purpose of this webinar.

All that long introduction leads to our Outline for today: