

Walter E. Baethgen



Walter E. Baethgen is Senior Research Scientist, Director of the Regional and Sectorial Research program in the IRI at The Earth Institute, Columbia University. During 2016-2017 he was also the Acting Director of the Agriculture and Food Security Center, also at Columbia University. He has established regional programs that aim to improve climate risk assessment and risk management in agriculture, health, water resources, and natural ecosystems. He acted as Distinguished Lead Scholar of the NEXUS Program (Fulbright Foundation) between 2011 and 2013. Before joining the IRI, Baethgen was a Senior Scientist in the Research and Development Division of IFDC (International Soil Fertility and Agricultural Development Center) where he worked mainly in Information and Decision Support Systems for the Agricultural Sector (1987-2003). He acted as a consultant for the IDB, the United Nations (UNDP, UNIDO, FAO, IAEA), the World Bank and the Inter-American Institute for Agricultural Cooperation. He has also acted as a consultant to governments and the private sector of several countries throughout Latin America. He was an author in IPCC's Second, Third and Fourth Assessment Reports and review editor for IPCC's special issue on Technology Transfer. He serves or has served as a member of scientific advisory committees of several international organizations including the CGIAR's Science Council, IAI, IGBP and WMO. He was also reviewer of several international research programs (NOAA, NASA, NSF, IAI, and German, Norwegian and Austrian governments). Baethgen obtained his PhD and M.Sc. degrees in Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and his B.Sc. in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Uruguay. He has over 200 publications to his credit.