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Elise Golan Selected As Director Of Sustainable Development

WASHINGTON, October 17, 2011 – U.S. Department of Agriculture Chief Economist Joseph Glauber today announced the selection of Elise Golan as the Director of Sustainable Development.

As Director of Sustainable Development, Golan provides leadership in planning, coordinating, analyzing and reviewing the Department's various policies, programs and activities that impact and relate to sustainable agricultural, natural resource, and community development including food security; identifies significant gaps and the need for new areas of work; provides liaison with and support to the executive branch, members of Congress, and the various constituency groups of the Department. In addition, the Director leads the USDA Council on Sustainable Development, an interagency coordination mechanism comprised of senior staff from all Departmental agencies having a programmatic role in sustainable development.

Prior to joining the Office of the Chief Economist, Golan served as the Associate Director of the Food Economics Division at the Economic Research Service (ERS), USDA. Her research has spanned a wide range of sustainability issues, including land tenure and sustainable land management in the Sahel and West Africa; rice-straw burning and sustainable land management in California; regional and U.S. food-system modeling; food labeling and market development; food access, affordability, and security; and the distributional consequences of food policy.

Before joining ERS, Golan did consulting work for, among others, the World Bank, the International Labour Organization, and the California Department of Finance. She served as a senior staff economist on the President's Council of Economic Advisers from 1998-99. Golan received her Ph.D. in agricultural economics from the University of California at Berkeley and completed a post-doctorate fellowship focusing on environmental economics at the University of Haifa, Israel. She did her undergraduate studies in economics at the University of Washington, Seattle.

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