Region 6 SFIREG Report submitted by Leslie Smith, Texas Department of Agriculture

On May 2-3, 2018, Region 6 met in Stillwater, Oklahoma for the Region 6 EPA/States/Tribal/CES Fall meeting. A Pre-SFIREG session was held in conjunction with this meeting. Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and the Cherokee Nation were represented at the May meeting. The topics of concern that Region 6 requested to be presented at the December 2017 SFIREG meeting are below.

Dicamba
Arkansas is reviewing the complaint investigation reports they received during the 2017 growing season. Through May 3, they had received only two complaints for 2018.

CPARD
What is the status?

Federal certification requirements – state plans
All the states are concerned as to what the requirements will be for the state plans. Even though they are not due until 2020, we do not know the format or the level of detail that will be required. Some of the states may have to have revisions to statutes and/or regulations before they can develop the state plan. States at least need a checklist or an example to ensure that all plans are uniform across the country. This will also assist the reviewers. There is also concern about the state plans going through and being reviewed by the Regions then going to HQ (OPP); without clear guidance for submission it is feared that what the Region office says is okay may not be okay at HQ.

Work plans
Some areas of the work plan narrative template seem duplicative or extremely similar in what information is requested. In addition, the states need training, detailed instructions or examples as to what/how the regional office wants the narrative sections written. The 5700 forms are not a problem.

Budgets for grants
If the grant amount will change, whether due to federal budget approvals or other circumstances, the states/tribes need to be notified as soon as possible to make necessary spending adjustments.