

### **About the NADP**

*The NADP is National Research Support Project-3: A Long-term Monitoring Program in Support of Research on the Effects of Atmospheric Chemical Deposition. More than 250 sponsors support the NADP, including State Agricultural Experiment Stations; universities; private companies and other non-governmental organizations; Canadian government agencies; state, local, and tribal government organizations; and federal agencies, including the US Department of Agriculture-Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (under agreement no. 2008-03331).*

In 1977, State Agricultural Experiment Stations (SAES) organized a project, later titled NADP, to measure atmospheric deposition and study its effects on the environment. Sites in the NADP precipitation chemistry network began operations in 1978 with the goal of providing data on amounts, trends, and geographic distributions of acids, nutrients, and base cations in precipitation. The network grew rapidly in the early 1980s. Much of this expansion was funded by the National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program (NAPAP), established in 1981 to improve understanding of the causes and effects of acidic precipitation. Reflecting the federal NAPAP role in the NADP, the network name was changed to NADP/NTN. Today, the NADP is SAES National Research Support Project - 3. The network has more than 250 sites and is designated as a National Trends Network (NTN).

A second network, the Atmospheric Integrated Research Monitoring Network (AIRMoN), joined the NADP in 1992, and had seven sites at the end of 2007. While measuring the same chemicals as NTN, AIRMoN sampling occurs daily rather than weekly. These higher resolution samples enhance researchers' ability to evaluate how emissions affect precipitation chemistry using computer models that simulate pollutant transport, chemical transformations, and deposition by precipitation. This network also evaluates alternative sample collection and preservation methods.

The Mercury Deposition Network (MDN) joined the NADP in 1996, and had 112 sites at the end of 2007. All MDN samples are analyzed for total mercury, and some for the more toxic methyl mercury. Forty-eight states have advisories warning people to limit consumption of fish and wildlife from certain water bodies because of mercury contamination (see <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/fish>). Researchers use MDN data to evaluate the role of precipitation as a source of mercury in these water bodies.