Getting Started with SOFEA

1. Refer to the Installation Manual to properly install SOFEA, Crystal Ball™ (CB) and the required directory structure.
2. SOFEA_ver1.0 contains a sample input data file that will run in approximately 15 minutes.
3. If CB prompts the user to "Enable Macros" then the user should click this button (ie. Enable macros).
4. SOFEA should open to the "PDF_Parameters" worksheet. If not, navigate to the "PDF_parameters" worksheet. Click on the "Run Township Simulation" button. SOFEA will begin generating agronomic input files (field sizes, field locations, application rates etc.) and will then begin running ISCST3.
5. When the model has completed running, an "Elapsed CPU Time" dialog box appears. Click 'OK' and wait for some additional post-processing, then the various output spreadsheets can be used.
6. The sample data contained within the SOFEA model on this CD is for township 01N 21W in Ventura County, CA. The Crystal Ball (CB) distributions for agronomic practices are based on CDMS data collected in Ventura County between 1999-2003. The weather data (1995-1999) is obtained from the California Irrigation Management and Information System (CIMIS).
7. The size of the simulation has been limited to 2 townships with 1,3-D use within a 9 township grid in order to keep the simulation time to less than 15-20 minutes (on an IBM ThinkPad, 1.5Ghz Intel Pentium M Processor, 768 MB RAM).
8. The purpose of the test file is to allow the user to determine quickly whether SOFEA is running. Once the sample SOFEA program has been successfully executed, the user can begin to change input parameters and run new scenarios. Upon completion of a new simulation, the user should rename the file using "Save As" in EXCEL. Output files can then be modified and copied to other programs for analysis. **Note** that when opening a renamed SOFEA file, it is necessary to "Disable Macro's" when prompted by EXCEL and CB.
9. Refer to the SOFEA User's Manual and Installation Guide for additional details.