



Technical Assistance for State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program Applicants



Since 2014, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has provided grants to the agricultural community through the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP). The purpose of SWEEP is to provide financial assistance to farms to implement irrigation systems that conserve water and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. SWEEP projects help farms adapt to climate change impacts by achieving improved water and energy efficiency, thereby maintaining productive farms with less resource inputs.

In 2016, in an effort to increase access to SWEEP funds to farms of all resource and economic levels, CDFA received funding from the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA NRCS) to support technical assistance workshops for SWEEP applicants throughout California. Through this strategy, CDFA was able to maintain the competitive nature of the SWEEP program and also enhance opportunities for farmers to receive application assistance. As a result, for the 2016 SWEEP solicitation, 23 application assistance workshops were held, reaching over 200 workshop attendees in four languages (English, Spanish, Hmong, and Punjabi). This technical assistance strategy has now become an integral part of the SWEEP program. Funding from both USDA NRCS and from the Strategic Growth Council allowed CDFA to provide funding to technical assistance providers during the 2017 SWEEP solicitation. Eleven technical assistance providers held 24 workshops throughout California, reaching 270 people with application assistance. CDFA aims to implement similar technical assistance programs for its other climate smart agriculture incentive programs such as the Healthy Soils Incentive Program. Regional technical assistance professionals are vital to future climate change adaptation because they help to bring conservation technologies and practices to farms.



Image provided by the California Department of food and Agriculture.

For more information about Safeguarding California and Climate Change Adaptation efforts in California, visit <http://resources.ca.gov/climate/safeguarding/>