



Glenda Humiston of UC ANR (left) and Karen Ross of CDFA sign a memorandum of understanding.

New Climate-Smart Agriculture Program

California Secretary of Agriculture Karen Ross and UC Agriculture and Natural Resources vice president Glenda Humiston signed a memorandum of understanding for a new partnership advancing climate-smart agriculture.

This partnership provides \$1.1 million for 10 UC Cooperative Extension community education specialists who are deployed to counties across the state. They are assisting and encouraging farmers to participate in programs aimed at increasing adoption of climate-smart practices.

"Agriculture is an important part of the climate solution," Ross said. "This funding enables us to partner with farmers to scale-up climate-smart agricultural practices." The new program is funded by California Climate Investments dollars through the Strategic Growth Council (SGC).

The partnership is focused on implementing on-farm solutions to improve soil health, nutrient management, irrigation management, on-farm

composting, and manure management. These are all climate-smart farming practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere, increase soil carbon sequestration, or increase resilience to drought and climate change.

The CDFA programs involved are the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program, the Healthy Soils Program, and the Alternative Manure Management Program.

"This joint effort reflects our commitment to extending research-supported solutions to our farming community so they have the information and tools they need to make climate-smart decisions," Humiston said. "It also demonstrates our shared goal of promoting new practices that are grounded in science."

The 10 new education specialists serve Mendocino, Glenn, Yolo, Merced, Fresno, Kern, Imperial, San Diego, Santa Cruz, Ventura, and surrounding counties as resources allow.

Three UCCE advisors are mentoring and assisting the educators: water quality and management advisor Laurent Ahiablame, based in San Diego County; area dairy advisor Betsy Karle, based in Glenn County; and irrigation and cotton advisor Dan Munk, based in Fresno County. In addition to working with the new educators, the UCCE advisors conduct research on farming and ranching practices that boost efficiency and protect the climate.

Doug Parker, director of the California Institute for Water Resources, is the UC ANR point of contact for this program. For more information, visit us at ucanr.edu/ClimateSmartAg.

New nutrient management publication series

The Nitrogen Management Training and Certification Program is a joint effort between the California Department of Food and Agriculture, UC Agriculture and Natural Resources, California Association of Pest Control Advisors, and the Regional Water Boards. The effort is coordinated by the California Institute for Water Resources and is aimed at helping growers to develop efficient nitrogen management practices.

The training program was developed and has been offered in an ongoing series of in-person training events since 2014. To further extend the important information developed for the training, the group also developed a series of science-based publications that are now available:

- Nitrogen Cycling and Management
- Irrigation and Nitrogen Management
- Nitrogen Management for Nut Crops
- Nitrogen Management for Deciduous Fruit and Grapes
- Nitrogen Management for Citrus and Avocado
- Nitrogen Management for Cool-Season Vegetables
- Nitrogen Management for Strawberry Production
- Nitrogen Management for Processing Tomato
- Nitrogen Management for Corn on California Dairies

For more information on the training and to download publications, visit:

ciwr.ucanr.edu/NitrogenManagement.



Doug Parker (L), director of the California Institute for Water Resources, and Terry Stark, former executive director of the California Association of Pest Control Advisers at the first nutrient management training event.

"A reliable supply of water for agricultural, urban, and environmental systems remains one of our biggest challenges. UC's California Institute for Water Resources is vital to integrating California's research, extension, and education programs to help mitigate the current problem and develop practical long-term solutions."

Secretary Karen Ross,
California Dept. of Food & Agriculture

New Strategic Plan



The California Institute for Water Resources recently completed a strategic plan. The planning committee members were both internal and external to the UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The committee was carefully selected to represent the diverse stakeholder interests of the institute.

Through a variety of inputs during an assessment phase, which included stakeholder surveys, committee members gathered information to help identify the strengths, opportunities, and challenges of the organization.

The final plan is a living document, which will be used as a flexible framework to develop annual priorities and evaluate progress over the coming years.

The Institute identified five strategic goals to focus on over the next five years:

- Foster and incubate research and extension focused on California's critical water challenges.
- Engage with and convene the water community to define and address California's water challenges.
- Enhance communication and engagement capacity and increase visibility.
- Strengthen the relationship between CIWR and UC ANR.
- Increase resources to better incubate research and engage the water community.

Meeting the objectives set forth in its strategic plan will increase the effectiveness of the Institute in helping California meet its future water challenges.

The complete plan is available at:
ucanr.edu/CIWRStrategicPlan.