



Defining Regenerative Agriculture

For State Policies and Programs

July 30, 2024 Work Group Meeting

Defining Regenerative Agriculture

For State Policies and Programs

Meeting Participation Guidelines

1. All perspectives are welcome! Please be respectful and inclusive.
2. Please silence your electronic devices. If you need to take a call, move to the lobby/outside.
3. Minimize distractions. Please take any side conversations outside.
4. Avoid “you” statements! Speak about your own experiences and perspectives.
5. If you’re joining us online, please keep yourself on “mute” until the public comment period at the end of the meeting.
6. You’re welcome to provide any comments via “chat” if you’re joining online. Although we won’t respond to questions/comments submitted via chat during the meeting, they will be entered into the meeting/comment record.

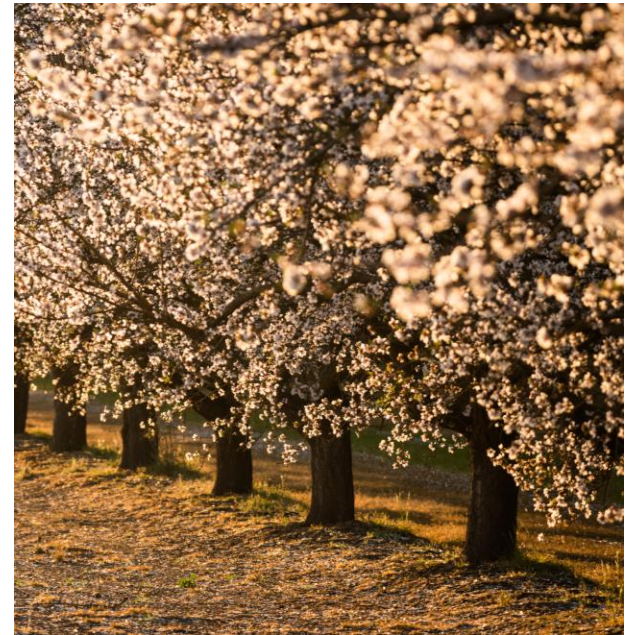


Defining Regenerative Agriculture

For State Policies and Programs

Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions
2. Regenerative Agriculture Definition Process Overview
3. Overview of Work Group Purpose, Structure, and Schedule
4. Recap of outcomes from May 24 Work Group Meeting #2
5. CDFA Working Draft Definition
6. BREAK
7. CDFA Working Draft Definition (Cont.)
8. PUBLIC COMMENT
9. Action Item Review and Next Steps
10. ADJOURNMENT

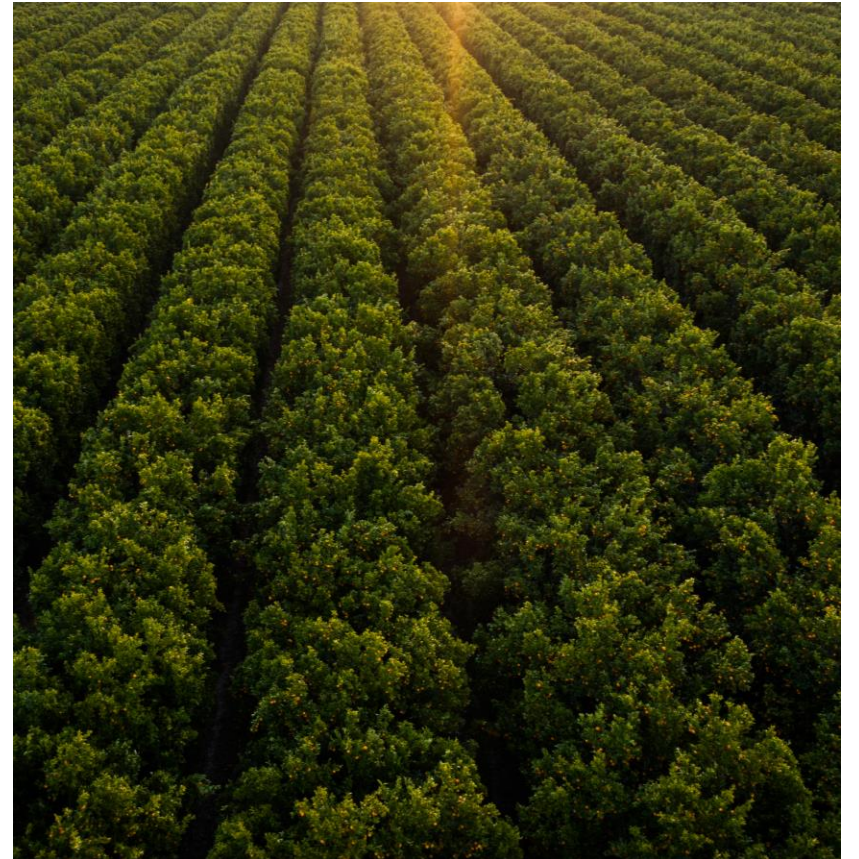


Defining Regenerative Agriculture

For State Policies and Programs

Regenerative Agriculture Definition Process Overview

- EFA SAP Framework Recommendation (Completed 2023)
- Public Listening Sessions (Dec 2023 – August 2024) – 5 Sessions
- Tribal Listening Sessions (April 2024)
- Tribal Consultation (Began April 2024, Ongoing)
- Work Group Meetings (2024) – 3 Meetings*
- Public Comment (2024, ongoing)
- Board Recommendation to CDFA (2024)



Defining Regenerative Agriculture

For State Policies and Programs

Recap of May 24 Work Group Meeting

- 14 member panel to provide expert input on the regenerative agriculture definition*
- Members provided overviews of existing regenerative agriculture definitions (ROC, NRDC, CSU Chico)
- CDFA presented initial definition of regenerative agriculture
- Work Group members provided feedback on the initial definition for refinement.
- Following the meeting, Work Group members and CDFA staff revised the definition for consideration at this meeting.



Regenerative Ag. Draft Definition - Updates

July 2024

RA Draft presented to Working Group

- “Regenerative agriculture,” is a climate-smart and outcome-based farming, ranching, and land stewardship approach that draws on traditions and innovations from indigenous, organic, sustainable, conservation and conventional agricultural production systems. Target outcomes for regenerative agriculture include: Producing food, fiber, and other products that meet market and sustenance needs; protection and promotion of soil health and biodiversity; restoration and maintenance of water resources; protection of air quality; sequestration and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; support for employment and a healthy food and agriculture workforce.
- Meeting the target outcomes will require process and practice customization and innovations appropriate for specific production and land stewardship systems. Practice selection is based on the best available science for that production system and the measurement of outcomes. Goals for specific state policies and programs will need to be customized to achieve economic, environmental, social, cultural, and human health outcomes.
- CDFA Staff met to draft a definition to present to Working Group
- Reviewed other existing Regenerative Ag. "definitions"
- Reviewed submitted Regenerative Ag. comments

Introduction Comments/Changes

“Regenerative agriculture,” **as defined for use by State of California policies and programs**, is a ~~climate-smart and outcome-based~~ farming, ranching, and land stewardship approach that draws on traditions and innovations from indigenous **and original land stewards of the land**, organic, ~~sustainable~~, conservation and conventional **climate-smart** agricultural production systems **that leads to target outcomes**. ~~Target outcomes for regenerative agriculture~~

Explanation of changes:

- Incorporated language directly into the definition that clarifies the intended use of the definition.
- Took out the term "sustainable" because it is a buzz word without a singular definition.
- Took out the term "conventional" following work group suggestions.
- Included wording that specifies that RA is outcome-based. This follows both work group and public comment feedback that argues that an outcome-based vs. practice-based definition decreases risk of greenwashing, focuses on end-goal, and allows for flexibility.
- Lena; Inclusion of "original land stewards of the land"

Target Outcome Comments/Changes

These outcomes include the Producing food, fiber, and other products that meet market and sustenance needs; protection and promotion of soil health and biodiversity; restoration and maintenance of water resources; protection of air quality; sequestration and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; **reduced reliance on synthetic and external inputs; protection of human health and rural communities; preservation of wildlife and animal welfare; protection of spiritual and cultural traditions;** support for employment and a healthy food and agriculture workforce **and minimization of negative impacts to other targets.**

- "Target outcomes":
 - Target outcome verbiage: Daniel - Likes the focus on outcomes and process/practice customization. Elizabeth - likes the outcomes focus but first one to produce food. Krystal - are these stand- alone outcomes or do they have to meet multiple? Favor on side of just meeting one at the start. Ra should meet one or more of these outcomes and first one doesn't reflect this. (targeted outcomes include...)
- "Producing Food, fiber and other products...":
 - Jeff - how is that perceived by all of ag when ag is focused on producing food and fiber. Some feed production of food and fiber is redundant. Not an RA outcome
- "Reduced reliance on synthetic and external inputs":
 - This outcome was added to specifically address the question of inputs and uses language the Daniel included in his suggested revisions for the definition. This language also builds on information from internal scientists at CDFA (OPCA) who commented that including the term "chemical" or "carcinogen" are too broad and would not be appropriate for this definition.
 - Additional feedback: Doria - missing an address of inputs. Daniel - supports and mentions to call out inputs as an outcome. Elizabeth - Agree to bring in ag input issue and how to address it. Jeff - needs to be directional – reducing reliance on inputs. Don't want something that has a known harmful impact and need to get away from that and have a destination that doesn't have these, not natural vs synthetic. Eric - Inputs – do not harm – we can't have regeneration occur when you are harming soil and inputs that affect a community negatively. how we need to learn from natural ecosystems despite our interference. Doria - **need** to name what we are moving away from otherwise they will persist. Important to not get so specific that we eliminate things that are common practice now. (ex: carcinogenic inputs). Doesn't mean someone can't be on trajectory towards fully RA but do want to name them

Target Outcome Comments/Changes

These outcomes include the ~~Producing food, fiber, and other products that meet market and sustenance needs;~~ protection and promotion of soil health and biodiversity; restoration and maintenance of water resources; protection of air quality; sequestration and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; **reduced reliance on synthetic and external inputs; protection of human health and rural communities; protection of wildlife and animal welfare; protection of spiritual and cultural traditions;** support for employment and a healthy food and agriculture workforce, **support of Native-led stewardship practices, and minimization of negative impacts to other targets.**

- 'Protection of human health':
 - Jeff - calling out at a high level protect human health. don't want to harm people or communities – can we go high level? Are there social, ecological, economic? There's things we don't want to happen at a human health level. Doria - Add human health to the outcomes. Bryce - Through healthy farming practices you can arrive at a regen. Place. The ends don't justify means, and not just an outcomes person, how you get there matters. Blake - Don't want to leave a loophole but understand responsible soil management makes health crops and people and communities.
- "Preservation of wildlife and animal welfare":
 - This outcome was added after receiving feedback to incorporate animal welfare. Elizabeth - ROC framework is a suite of practices for soil health, animal welfare, social fairness. Bryce - adding wildlife and animal welfare to list of accomplishments. Doria - Second Bryce's comment to include wildlife and animal welfare
- Lena: Inclusion of "support of Native-led stewardship practices"
- 'Minimization of negative impacts to other targets':
 - Impact: Sam: lean in direction of focusing that there are no/minimal impacts vs specifying practices. Elizabeth: No negative impacts. Eric - we can't have regeneration occur when you are harming soil and inputs that affect a community negatively

Conclusion Comments/Changes

Meeting the target outcomes will require **processes, practices, monitoring and innovation to be customized to specific systems, ecoregions, and local indigenous cultural regions.** ~~and practice customization and innovations appropriate for specific production and land stewardship systems.~~ Practice selection is based on the best available science, **including traditional ecological knowledge,** ~~for that production system and the measurement of outcomes.~~ Goals for specific state policies and programs will need to be customized to achieve economic, environmental, social, cultural, and human health outcomes.

Explanation of changes:

- Added clarification that while the definition defines target outcomes, practices will need to be developed, implemented, and monitored to meet outcomes.
- Included traditional ecological knowledge to ensure that cultural practices are captured by the definition.
- Lena: Addition of "ecoregion, and local Indigenous cultural regions"

Updated RA Draft for Working Group

“Regenerative agriculture,” as defined for use by State of California policies and programs, is a farming, ranching, and land stewardship approach that draws on traditions and innovations from Indigenous and original land stewards of the land, organic, conservation and climate-smart agricultural production systems that leads to target outcomes. Target outcomes for regenerative agriculture practices include the protection and promotion of soil health and biodiversity restoration and maintenance of water resources; protection of air quality; sequestration and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; reduced reliance on synthetic and external inputs; protection of spiritual and cultural traditions; protection of human health and rural communities; protection of wildlife and animal welfare; support for employment and a healthy food and agriculture workforce, support of Native-led stewardship practices, and minimization of negative impacts to other targets.

Meeting target regenerative outcomes will require processes, practices, monitoring and innovation to be customized to specific systems, ecoregions, and local Indigenous cultural regions. Practice selection is based on the best available science, including traditional ecological knowledge, for that production system. Goals for specific state policies and programs will need to be customized to achieve defined economic, environmental, social, cultural, and human health outcomes.

Defining Regenerative Agriculture

For State Policies and Programs

Discussion: Work Group Information Needs and Questions

- What are your initial reactions to the revised definition?
- What questions do you have for your fellow Work Group members?




Updated RA Draft for Working Group

“Regenerative agriculture,” as defined for use by State of California policies and programs, is a farming, ranching, and land stewardship approach that draws on traditions and innovations from Indigenous and original land stewards of the land, organic, conservation and climate-smart agricultural production systems that leads to target outcomes. Target outcomes for regenerative agriculture practices include the protection and promotion of soil health and biodiversity restoration and maintenance of water resources; protection of air quality; sequestration and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; reduced reliance on synthetic and external inputs; protection of spiritual and cultural traditions; protection of human health and rural communities; protection of wildlife and animal welfare; support for employment and a healthy food and agriculture workforce, support of Native-led stewardship practices, and minimization of negative impacts to other targets.

Meeting target regenerative outcomes will require processes, practices, monitoring and innovation to be customized to specific systems, ecoregions, and local Indigenous cultural regions. Practice selection is based on the best available science, including traditional ecological knowledge, for that production system. Goals for specific state policies and programs will need to be customized to achieve defined economic, environmental, social, cultural, and human health outcomes.

BREAK

Please Return At: [INSERT TIME]



Presentation of Revised Definition and Work Group Poll

*Virginia Jameson, Deputy Secretary,
CDFA*

Sam Magill

All Work Group Participants



REVISED RA Draft for Working Group

****NOTE: Revised definition to be inserted based on Working Group comments before break****

Defining Regenerative Agriculture

For State Policies and Programs

WORK GROUP POLL

1. I support the definition as written

2. I have some comments I would like to see addressed but would like it to move forward for Board consideration.

3. I have significant concerns about the definition that must be addressed before it moves forward for Board consideration.

4. I don't not support the definition and would like to provide an alternative definition for Board consideration.

Defining Regenerative Agriculture
For State Policies and Programs

PUBLIC COMMENT



Defining Regenerative Agriculture

For State Policies and Programs

THANK YOU!!!

- Public Comment Email: RegenerativeAg@cdfa.ca.gov
- Deputy Secretary Jameson: virginia.jameson@cdfa.ca.gov
- California State Board of Food and Agriculture Executive Director Josh Eddy: josh.eddy@cdfa.ca.gov
- Website: www.cdfa.ca.gov/RegenerativeAg/

