

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE

CLIMATE RESILIENCE STRATEGY FOR CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE

Listening Sessions – Winter 2025



Objectives

- Public input to build an inclusive strategy that represents the needs of the agricultural community
- Feedback on:
 - Proposed Strategy Framework
 - Topic Areas
 - Equity Outcomes
- Input from these sessions will be incorporated into the draft that will be open for public comment in Summer 2025



Agenda

- Introductions
- Context and Purpose of Strategy
- Overview of Climate Strategy
- Equity Outcomes
- Next Steps



CDFA Staff

- Virginia Jameson, Deputy Secretary for Climate and Working Lands
- Dr. Nina Bingham, Senior Environmental Scientist



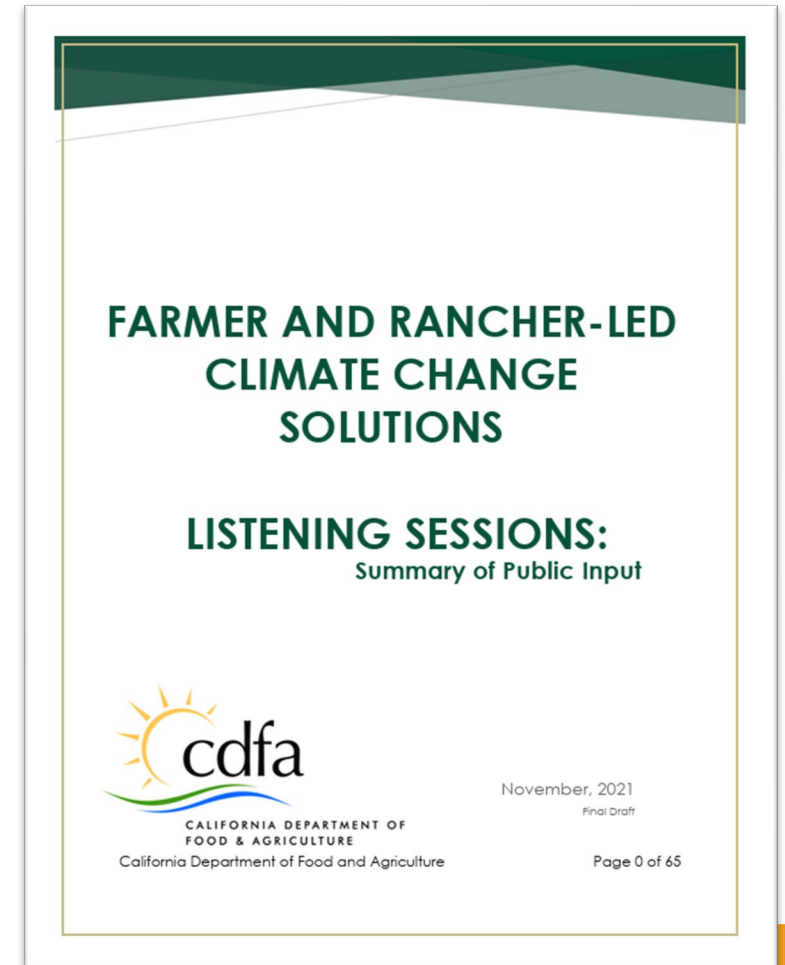
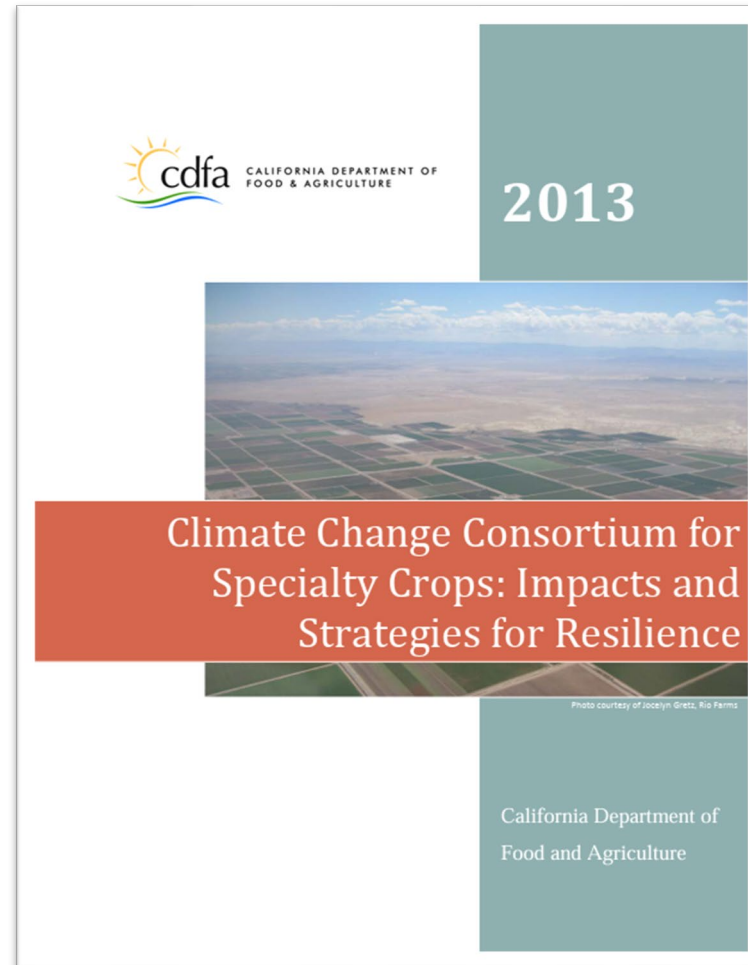
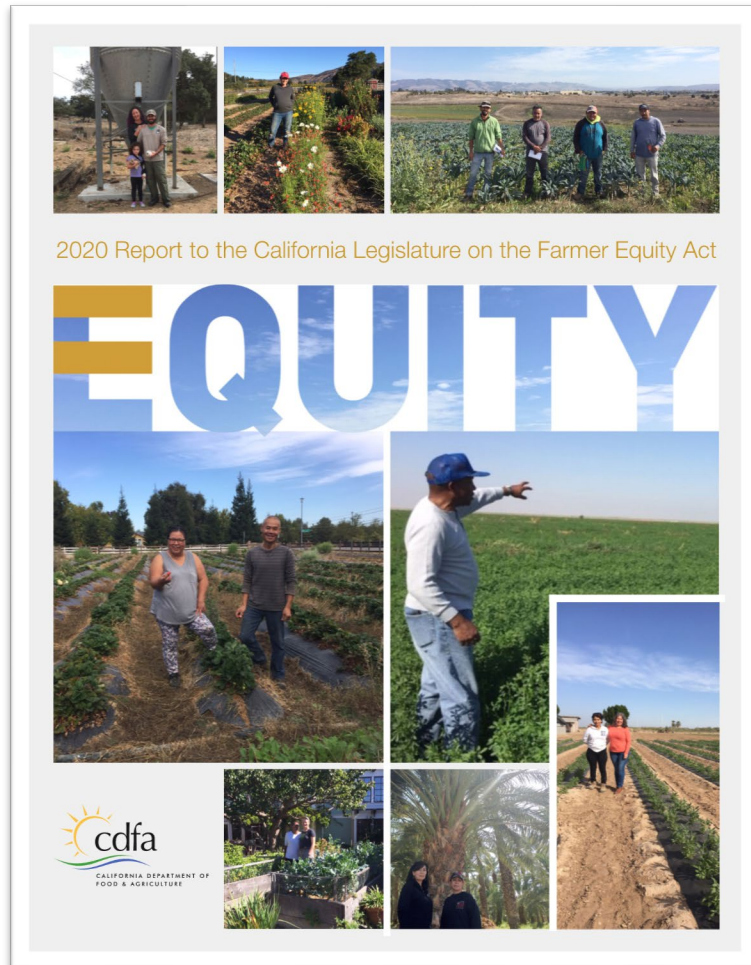
Background

Why create a Climate Resilience Strategy?



- Ag Vision For the Next Decade
- Number one Priority: **Foster climate-smart, resilient, and regenerative food systems.**
- This strategy brings together:
 - Previous targeted input
 - Opportunity for new and additional input to create a comprehensive strategy for achieving the Ag Vision priority and building resilience in agriculture

Previous Feedback on Climate & Equity Topics



What is the goal of the Climate Resilience Strategy?

Present a comprehensive picture of challenges, actions, and work needed to build climate resilience for California Agriculture

Covers water, energy, natural resources, animal and human health, economy and workforce, greenhouse gas emission measuring and tracking, and more!



What is the Climate Resilience Strategy?



Be representative of the needs of the agricultural community



Embed equity and inclusivity



Reflect previous conversations and reports

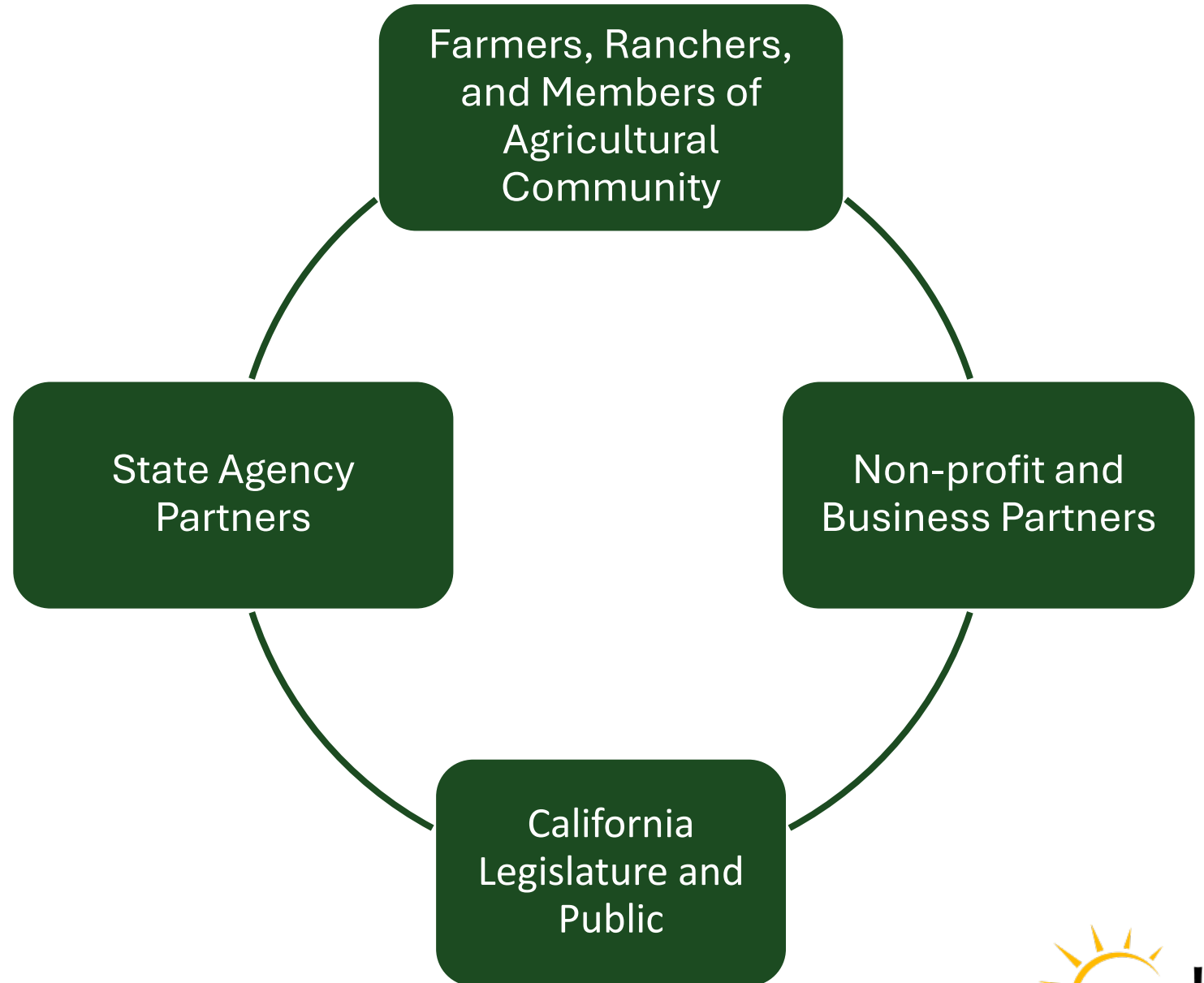


Incorporate state-wide actions and planning

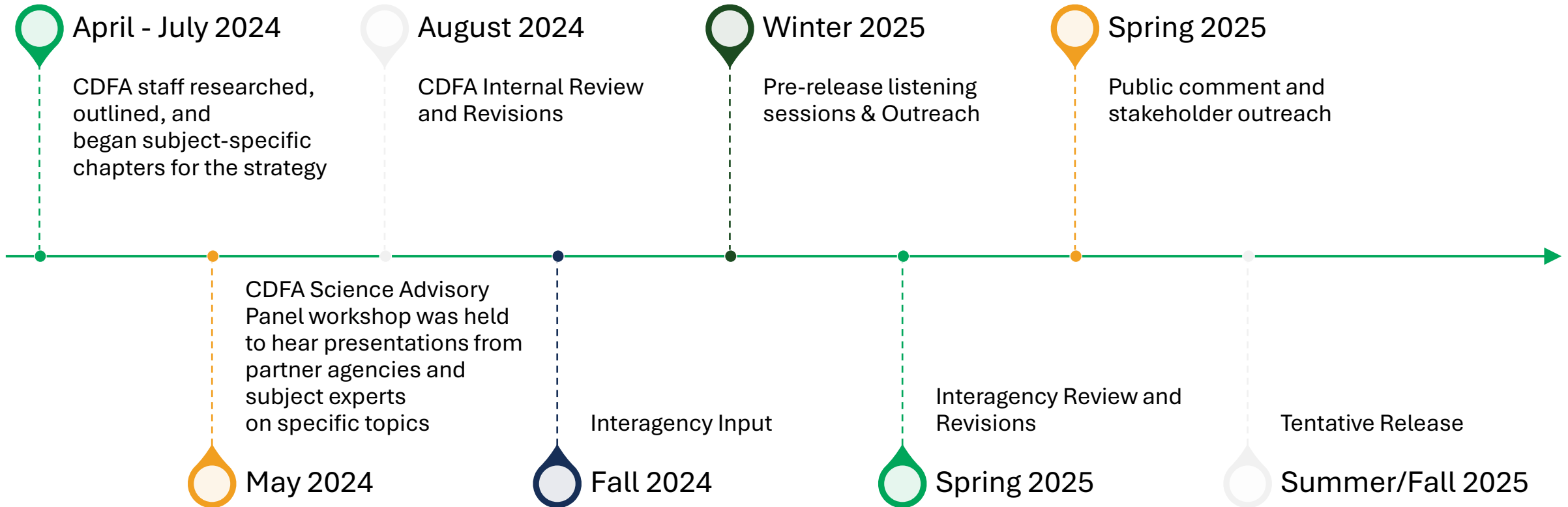


Provides a pathway for building resilience in agriculture

Primary Audiences



Resilience Strategy Timeline





Context and Purpose

California Agriculture

Geography and **innovative growers** make our state the most profitable agricultural economy in the nation

Over **400 crops**, supplying 1/3 of the nation's vegetables and 3/4 of its fruits and nuts

\$59 billion in sales in 2022, 11% of U.S. agricultural sales

Specialty crops thrive in California

90% of farms are **small, family-owned** and 62% are under 50 acres

67% of California farms earn less than \$150,000 annually

Climate Change in California

- Generally means warming temperatures and less predictable, more variable precipitation
 - Extreme weather events
 - Weather whiplash
- Hazards include:
 - Drought
 - Extreme Heat
 - Extreme Storms
 - Flooding
 - Sea Level Rise
 - Decreased Snowpack
 - Wildfire
 - Rising Temperatures



Citrus orchard growing a cover crop funded by the Healthy Soils Program

These climate hazards cause



Increased pest pressure



Stress on plants, animals, and people



Less water availability



Soil, water, and air quality degradation



Higher energy demands

Threats to Agricultural Industry

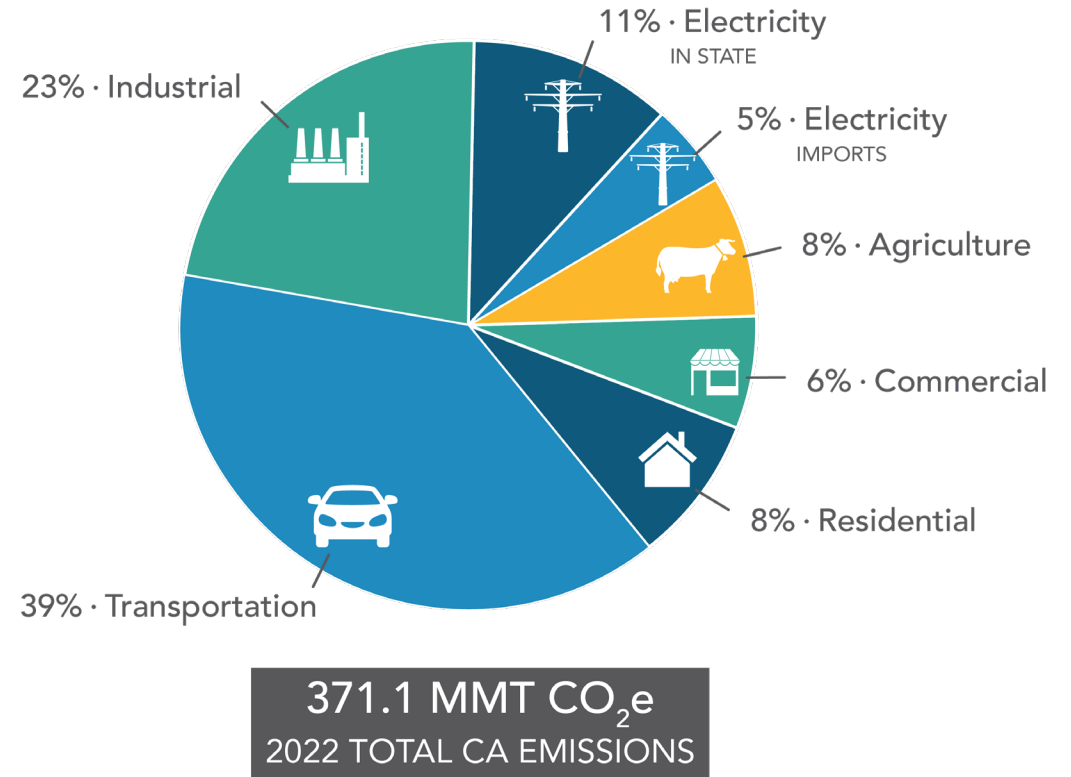
- Negative animal and human health effects, including mortality
- Lower yields
- Product and crop losses
- High production costs
- Agricultural land conversion



https://news.northeastern.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Tulare-Lake_1400.jpg?resize=1100,733

State Action on Climate Change

- AB 1279 and AB 32: Carbon Neutrality by 2045
- SB 1383: Reduce methane emission 40% below 2013 levels by 2030
- AB 1757: Nature-Based Solutions Targets





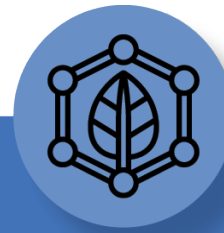
Overview of Strategy

Climate Resilience Strategy Framework



Support a Thriving and Resilient Food Sector

- Support a Thriving and Sustainable Farm Economy
- Ensure a Sustainable Water System
- Support Agricultural Workforce Wellbeing and Health
- Protect Animal Health
- Engage with Local, National, and International Partners
- Resilient Energy for Farming Operations



Protect Natural Systems Critical to Agriculture

- Conserve and Manage Productive Farmland
- Deploy Sustainable, Adaptable, and Integrated Pest Management
- Boost Biodiversity on Farm Lands



Encourage Resilient Agriculture Practices

- Enhance Agricultural Practices to Support Clean Air Communities
- Advance Climate-Smart and Healthy Soils Practices
- Improve Sustainability of Ranching and Rangeland Management
- Increase Dairy Farming Sustainability

Format of Each Chapter

Challenges: How this topic affects/is affected by climate change

Guiding Policies and Plans specific to the topic

Current Actions by the state

Opportunities for future actions

Case Studies

How the state is addressing equity for each topic area

1

Support a Thriving & Sustainable Farm Economy

Objective: Leverage technology, tools, and innovations to help transition the food system to be climate-smart and resilient

2

Ensure a Sustainable Water System

Objective: Foster sustainable use and reliable water access for ensuring a resilient food system.

3

Support Agricultural Workforce Health & Wellbeing

Objective: Improve the quality of life of farmworkers and foster a skilled food systems workforce

4

Protect Animal Health

Objective: Protect the health and welfare of our livestock and poultry from climate-related threats.

5

Engage with Local, National, and International Partners

Objective: Collaborate with other jurisdictions around science, tools, and technology for building resilience to climate change.

6

Advance Resilient Energy for Farming Operations

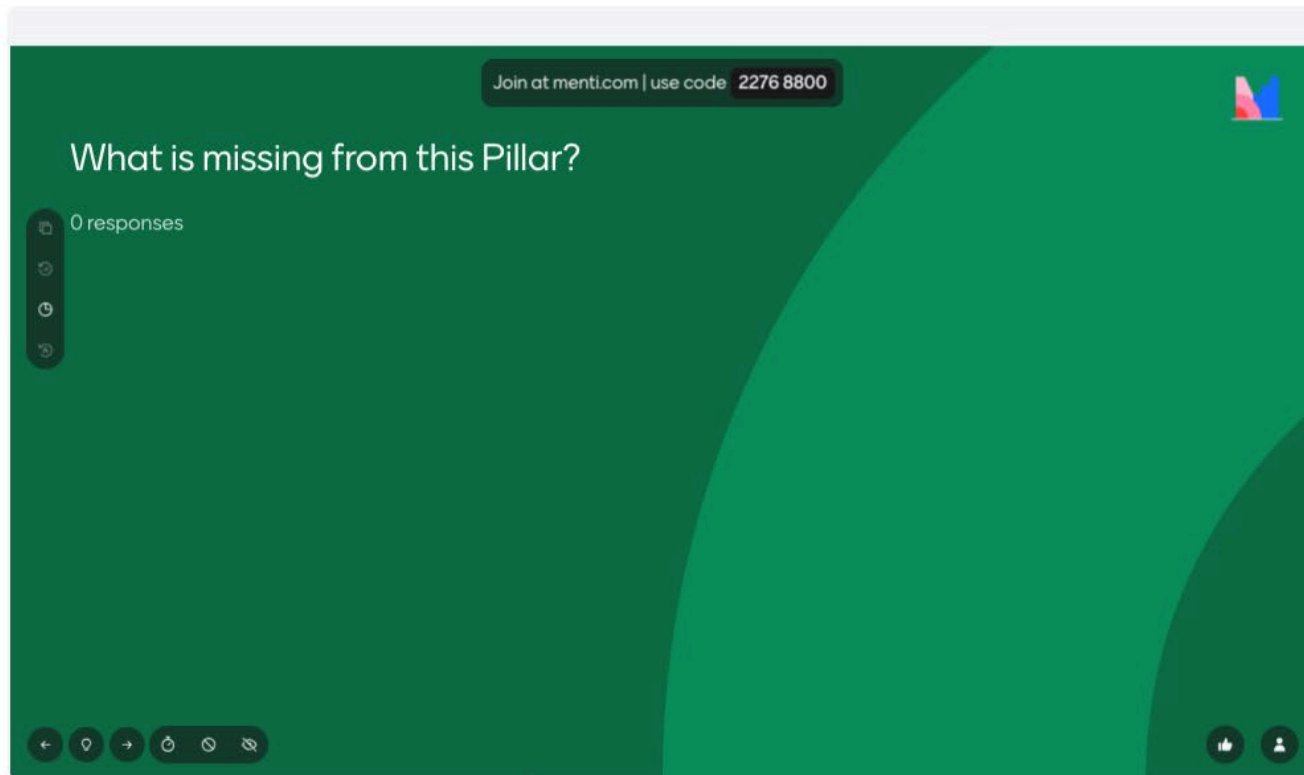
Objective: Increase energy efficiency and facilitate the use of reliable and clean energy for all agricultural operations.

After Pillar 1

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Show test responses ☐

Presenter screen



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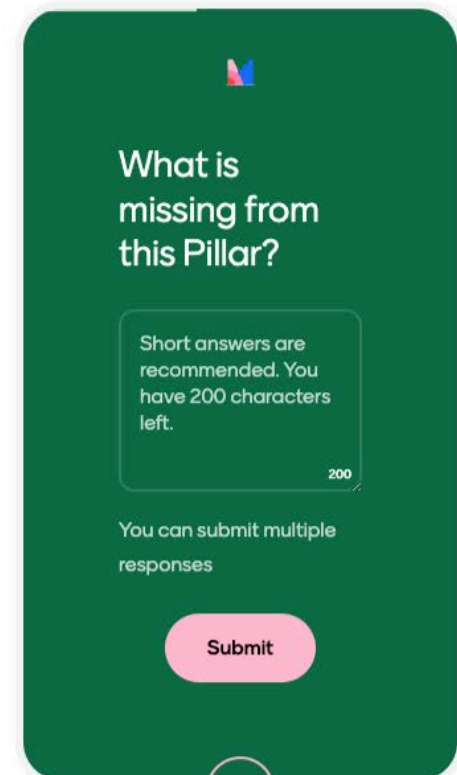
What is missing from this Pillar?

0 responses

Navigation icons: back, forward, search, refresh, close

Feedback icons: thumbs up, profile

Audience screen



What is missing from this Pillar?

Short answers are recommended. You have 200 characters left.

200

You can submit multiple responses

Submit

7

Conserve Productive Farmland

Objective: Protect farmland to support a thriving and diverse food system.

8

Deploy Sustainable, Adaptable, and Integrated Pest Management

Objective: Manage pests, plant diseases, and noxious weeds through sustainable and integrated pest management practices.

9

Boost Biodiversity on Farmlands

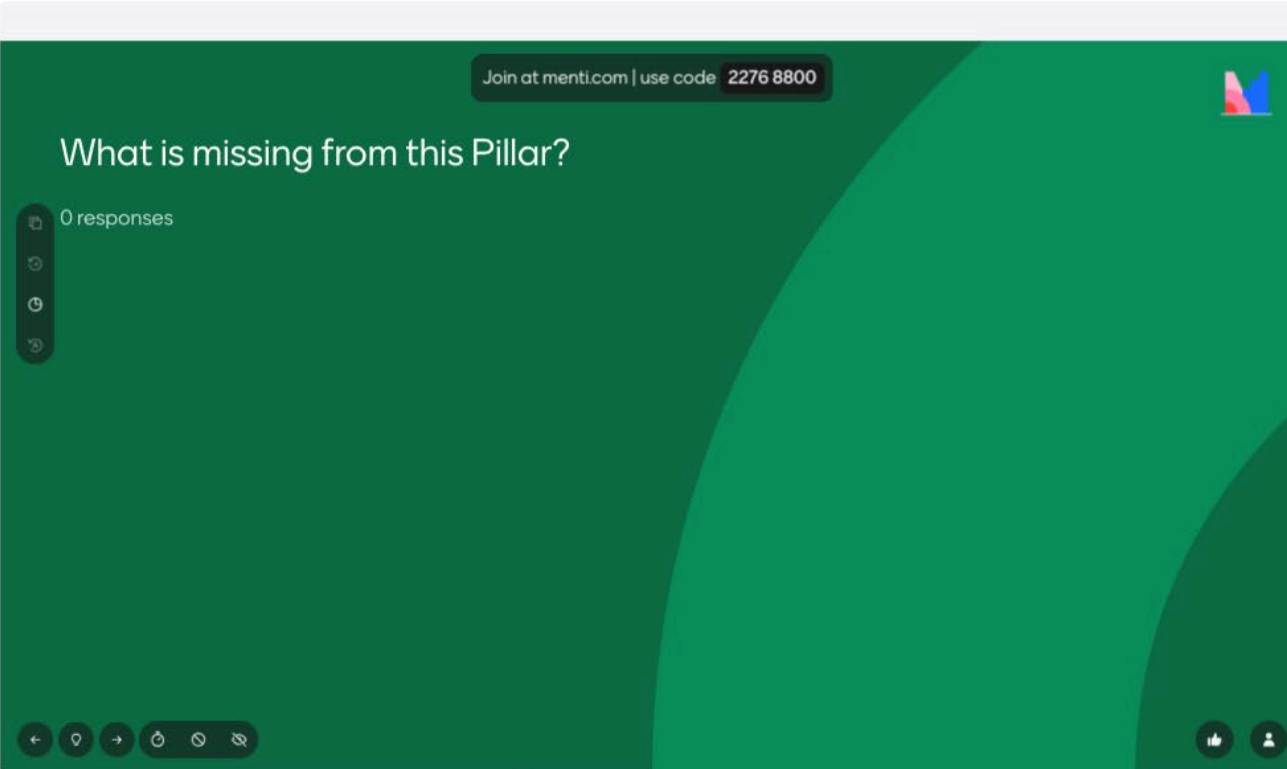
Objective: Facilitate agricultural operations and land management policies and practices which support above- and below-ground biodiversity.

After Pillar 2

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Show test responses ☐

Presenter screen

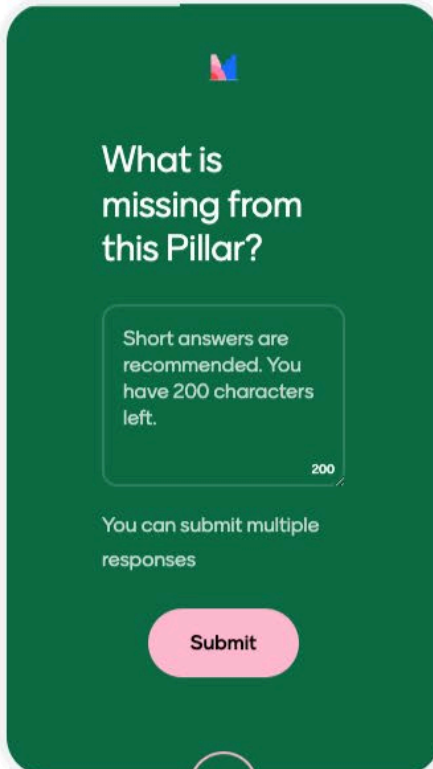
The presenter screen has a dark green background with a lighter green curved shape on the right. At the top right, it says "Join at menti.com | use code 2276 8800" next to a small logo. The main text in the center is "What is missing from this Pillar?". On the left side, there is a vertical toolbar with icons for a list, a refresh, a timer, and a settings gear. Below the question, it says "0 responses". At the bottom left, there is a navigation bar with icons for back, home, forward, and other controls. At the bottom right, there are icons for a thumbs up and a user profile.

Join at menti.com | use code 2276 8800

What is missing from this Pillar?

0 responses

Audience screen

The audience screen has a dark green background. At the top right is a small logo. The main text is "What is missing from this Pillar?". Below this is a text input area with a light green border. Inside the input area, it says "Short answers are recommended. You have 200 characters left." and "200" at the bottom right. Below the input area, it says "You can submit multiple responses". At the bottom, there is a pink rounded button labeled "Submit".

What is missing from this Pillar?

Short answers are recommended. You have 200 characters left.

200

You can submit multiple responses

Submit

10

Enhance Agricultural Practices to Support Clean Air Communities

Objective: Reduce air pollutants from agricultural operations and while ensuring health of workers and surrounding communities and meeting air quality standards.

11

Advance Climate-Smart & Healthy Soils Practices

Objective: Meet state nature-based solution climate targets by 2045 and support healthy and resilient soil ecosystems for growing food and fiber

12

Improve Sustainability of Ranching and Rangeland Management

Objective: Reduce emissions from ranching through grazing practices and methane mitigation practices to promote resilience of the rangelands through vegetation management.

13

Increase Dairy Farming Sustainability

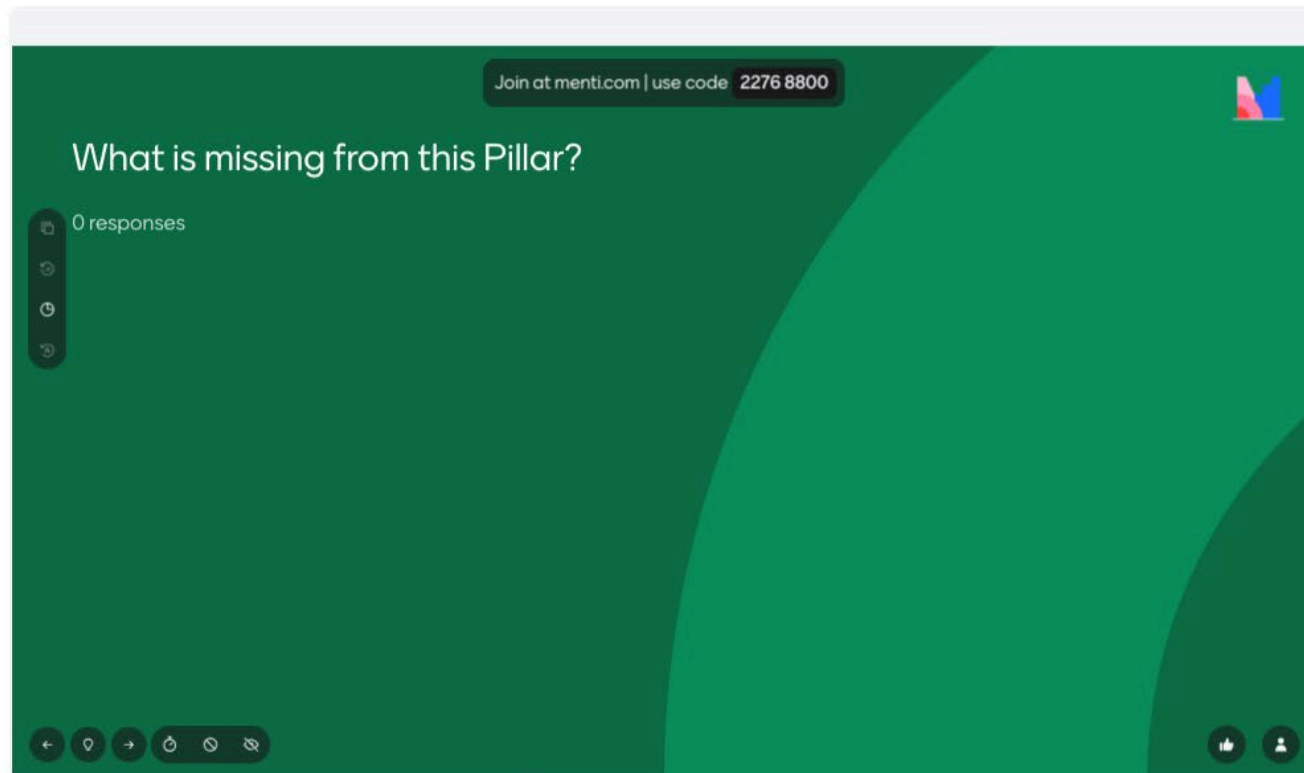
Objective: Foster a robust and environmentally friendly dairy industry and reduce methane emissions 40% per SB 1383.

After Pillar 3

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Show test responses ☐

Presenter screen



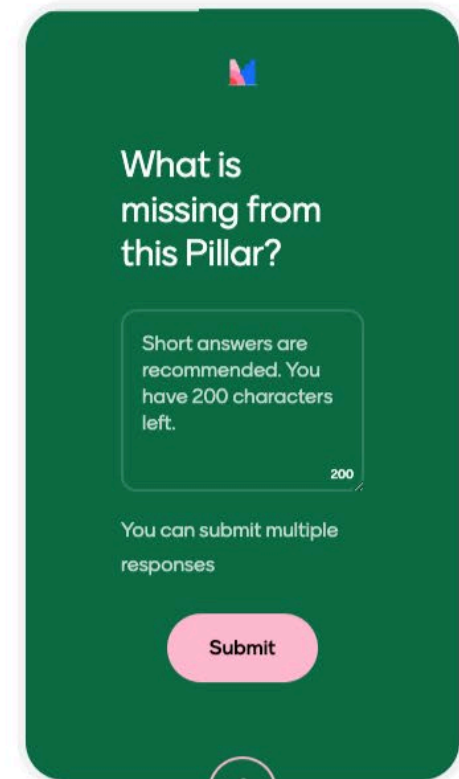
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What is missing from this Pillar?

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Navigation icons: back, forward, home, search, and others.

Audience screen



What is missing from this Pillar?

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You can submit multiple responses

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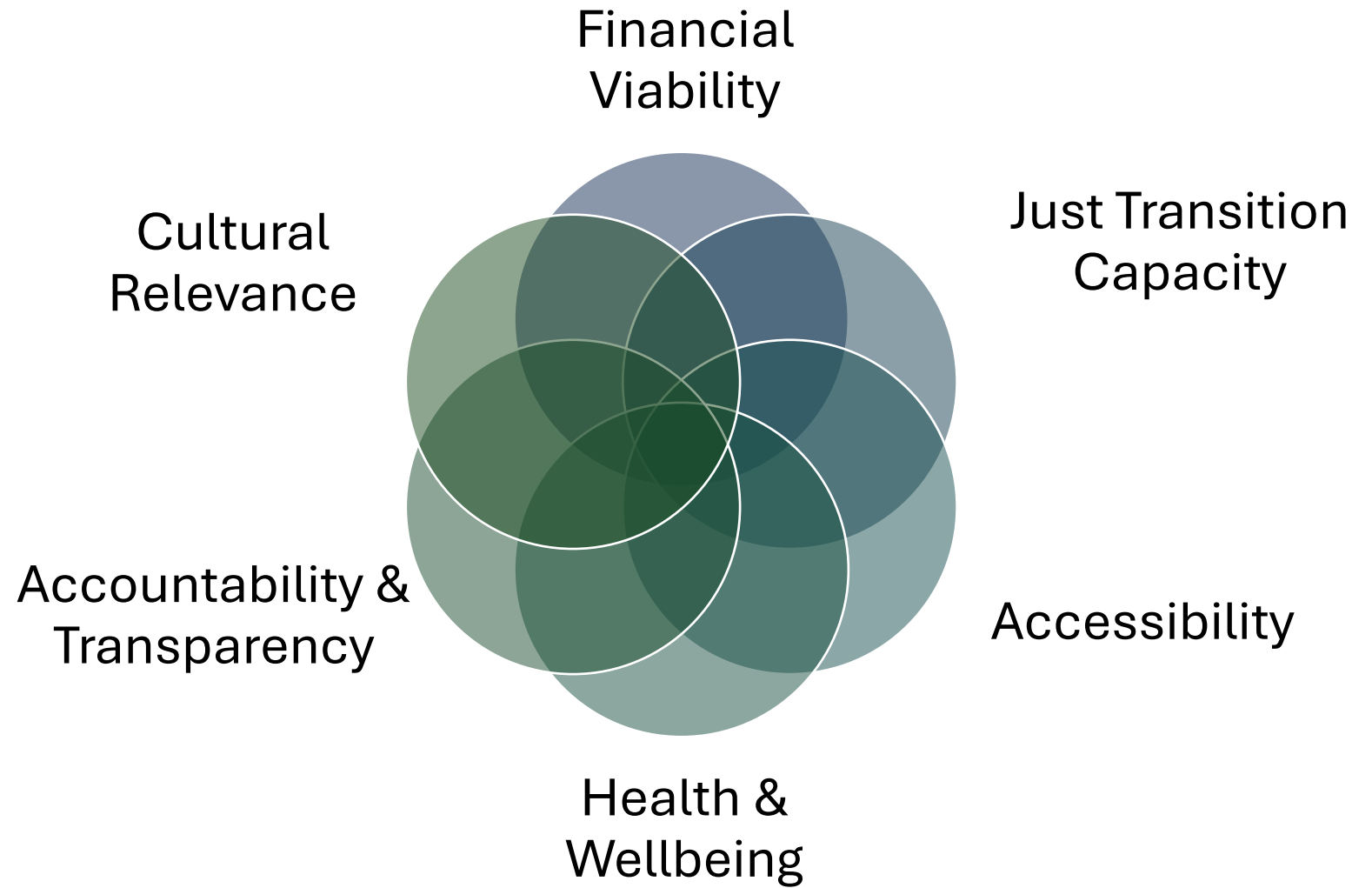
Equity Outcomes

Purpose

- Help evaluate and develop more equitable initiatives and policies for the California agriculture industry.
- Enable CDFA and other agencies to consider a consistent set of equity concepts and questions to guide plans, programs, and policy development and implementation.



Draft Equity Outcomes



Financial Viability

Objective: Secure inclusive initiative participation and financing for those who lease their land, who lack access to land, or who have been underserved by programs.

These farmers face financial challenges like:

- *Land tenure and shorter-term leases*
- *High-upfront funds for land purchasing and high cost of land leasing*
- *Difficultly participating in initiatives*

These farmers may require additional funding to achieve goals or may not have access to land to start.

Just Transition Capacity

Objective: Ensure that farmers and farmworkers who have been underserved by programs are able to take part in the transition to climate adaptive agricultural practices.

A just transition is one that helps workers transition to a climate-smart food system with high road jobs.

Upskilling and training farmers to participate in the shift to a low carbon economy, utilizing alternative and regenerative agricultural methods.

Accessibility

Objective: Ensure equitable access to initiatives, trainings, and resources.

- *Initiative design must center the needs of underserved farmers, as well as beginner farmers and under resourced farmers.*
 - *Considerations and flexibility around applications and participation*
- *Initiatives should be available and advertised sufficiently*
 - *Translate materials into key languages*
- *Planning and policy documents should be written in clear language that minimizes technical jargon*
- *Technical assistance should be provided by trusted partners*
- *Trainings should be in diversified locations to reach multiple audiences*

Health & Wellbeing

Objective: Protect and promote the health of farmworkers, especially as it relates to climate change impacts.

There are many health risks that farmers in the field face from the impacts of climate change, such as extreme heat, pesticides, wildfire smoke, dust and particulate matter, and airborne illness and allergens.

- *Center the wellbeing of farmworkers in the pursuit of equitable farm programs and policies*
- *Provide resources and care for undocumented workers*

Cultural Relevancy

Objective: Deliberately and respectfully honor cultural traditions and history to maintain cultural heritage from the past and present for the benefit of all generations.

Farming and ranching is a long-standing field, and many ethnic groups may have their own culturally specific practices and utilize traditional ecological knowledge in their practices.

- *Ensure that initiatives aimed at sustainable farming practices incorporate traditional ecological knowledge as available*
- *Support culturally relevant farming practices*

Accountability and Transparency

Objective: Ensure initiatives have clear and transparent tracking mechanisms to monitor long-term equitable implementation.

If initiatives aim to increase equity amongst farmers who need assistance but do not include mechanisms to hold agencies accountable, then these policies can lose their impact.

- *Agencies must ensure that equity actions are properly implemented*
- *Agencies should track and monitor their implementation*
- *Include transparent mechanisms to track the progress its benefits to farmers underserved by programs*

Live feedback for equity outcomes



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Show test responses ☐

Presenter screen

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How well do these objectives capture equity concerns?

Not Well

Very Well

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Audience screen

How well do these objectives capture equity concerns?

Skip

0

0 10

Not Well Very Well

Submit

The audience screen shows a green background with a white question. A 'Skip' button is at the top right. Below the question is a slider with a pink dot at 0. The slider is labeled 'Not Well' and 'Very Well'. At the bottom is a pink 'Submit' button.

Live feedback for equity outcomes part 2



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Show test responses ☐

Presenter screen

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What is missing? What other considerations should we include?

0 responses

Icons for navigation and actions: back, forward, search, and others.

Audience screen

What is missing? What other considerations should we include?

Short answers are recommended. You have 200 characters left.

200

You can submit multiple responses

Submit



Next Steps

Details for communicating

- Please scan the QR code to provide more thoughts and comments on the CDFA Climate Resilience Strategy
- The team will continue to solicit feedback from the general public, stakeholders, and tribes through Spring 2025
- For more information please visit our website www.cdfa.ca.gov/climate
- Or email at: climate@cdfa.ca.gov

