



# Healthy Soils Program

CDFA OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL FARMING & INNOVATION

**Environmental Farming Act**

**Science Advisory Panel Meeting**

*May 11, 2023*

*Sacramento, CA*

Healthy Soils Program Team

# Outline

- 2023 Healthy Soils Block Grant Pilot Program – Solicitation
- 2023 Healthy Soils Demonstration Program - Updates

# Healthy Soils - Block Grant Pilot Program 2023 Solicitation

- Objective: To facilitate financial assistance to California agricultural operations through regional block grant administrators.
- Grant Application Period
  - April 19, 2023 – June 19, 2023, 5:00 pm PT
  - Assistance on program requirements and application process
    - CDFA conducted two online workshops
      - May 2, 2023 (92 attendees) and May 3, 2023 (64 attendees)
    - Qs & As planned for two rounds to be posted at program website

# Healthy Soils - Demonstration Program 2023 Solicitation

## Objectives

- Collect data and showcase conservation management practices that mitigate GHG emissions and increase soil health.
- Create a platform promoting widespread adoption of conservation management practices throughout the state.

## Proposed Solicitation Timeline

- June 29, 2023 – August 28, 2023

# Healthy Soils - Demonstration Program Updates (1)

## Project Type and Updates

Project Type	Practice Implementation Standards		Model Estimation for GHG Reduction Benefits from Practice Implementation		Maximum Funding Amount Per Project	
	<b>A</b>	Not available	Grant recipients to develop	Not available	Grant recipients to take measurements of on-farm GHG emissions	\$250,000 <i>(previous)</i>
						\$150,000 <i>(start from 2023)</i>

# Healthy Soils - Demonstration Program Updates (2)

## Proposed Changes (1)

- Eligible Practices for Demonstration Type A
  - **New** Re-Saturating Delta Peat Soils Through Rice Cultivation on Cropland  
Due to data gaps for modeling and validation on GHG emissions reduction benefits, more data collection is needed. CDFA and CARB presented the work at EFA-SAP Meeting on Dec 13, 2022.
- **New** Data Collection – soil water parameters: added for both Type A and B
  - Soil aggregate stability
  - Soil water infiltration
  - Soil water content
- **New** References for data collection and/or analysis
  - Appendix B: Methods/Devices Recommended for Measurements of Soil Water Parameters
  - Appendix C: References for Measurements of On-farm GHGs (CO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, CH<sub>4</sub>) Emissions.

# Healthy Soils - Demonstration Program Updates (3)

## Proposed Changes (2)

- Outreach Requirements Adjustments
  - Number of targeted outreach attendees: **reduced** from 120 to 80
  - Farmer/rancher attendees: **expanded** to include farm/ranch owners, their employees including certified crop advisors (CCAs), pest control advisors (PCAs), and other key farm advisors as applicable.
- Reporting Requirements Adjustments
  - **Removed** semi-annual progress reports and annual reports.
  - **Added** Quarterly project activities completion check-in.
    - Submitting outreach attendance documents as applicable
  - **New** Attending CDFA hosted annual online conference to present project deliverables and discuss related topics.
    - Summary of presented Demo projects for the conference proceedings to be published at program website.
  - **New** CDFA will compile technical reports for all closed projects and publish at the program website.

# Thank you! Questions?



**Contact us:**

[CDFA.HSP\\_Tech@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:CDFA.HSP_Tech@cdfa.ca.gov)

## **Healthy Soils Program Staff**

Guihua (Grace) Chen, Ph.D.  
Senior Environmental Scientist

Elizabeth Hessom, M.Sc.  
Senior Environmental Scientist

Nina Bingham, Ph.D.  
Environmental Scientist

Dana Yount  
Environmental Scientist

Ajay Sandhu, Ph.D.  
Senior Environmental Scientist