



MEDIA ADVISORY

New U.N. Report Features Agriculture's Climate Perils and Solutions

On August 8, 2019, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is expected to release a major report, entitled [*Climate Change and Land*](#), offering a comprehensive view of climate change impacts, adaptation and mitigation—all within the land sector.

It will address the role of land in driving global warming and highlight opportunities to reduce emissions from deforestation and agriculture. Importantly, the report will spotlight the promise of carbon sequestration, where farmers and ranchers can play an important role in drawing carbon back down out of the atmosphere and storing it in our forests and soils.

In California, farmers and ranchers are grappling with the impacts of climate change in the form of exacerbated water scarcity challenges, unpredictable and extreme weather events and temperatures, historically devastating wildfires, and shifting pest and disease patterns.

Increasingly, California farmers are also stepping up with strategies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and store carbon in soil and plants—many of which also enhance their resilience, save them money, and improve the health and wellbeing of their families and communities. Here are some examples:

- Three years ago, Alan Sano and Jesse Sanchez at Sano Farms in Firebaugh fallowed 10 percent of their land due to drought. They have since doubled down on improving soil health so the land retains more water, acting like a sponge, while also improving soil carbon storage.
- More than 10,000 acres of grazing land burned at Magruder Ranch in Mendocino County during two successive wildfires in 2017 and 2018. Rancher Kyle Farmer says “With proper grazing management, ranchers can influence the intensity, timing and frequency of fire, and safeguard our communities and climate at the same time.”
- After surviving the landslides following a devastating wildfire in 2017, Ed Seaman at Santa Barbara Blueberries planted native shrubs and trees on sloped land above their well and cropland to stabilize the hillside and encourage water penetration into the aquifer.

As climate change adds risk to many already-struggling producers, these practices can make the difference between turning a profit or going into debt.

California farmers are uniquely positioned to be part of the solution. Importantly, the state offers a [*suite of Climate Smart Agriculture programs*](#) and has provided more than \$350 million in funding to accelerate the use of practices with climate benefits. Hundreds of farmers on thousands of acres are blazing the trail, demonstrating the most economical and effective methods for contributing climate solutions while remaining viable in the face of a rapidly changing climate. Also, the legislature is poised to pass a bill ([*AB 409*](#)) that would establish a competitive grant program to fund farmer-centered climate adaptation tools and trainings.

“The stakes are high for agriculture and our food system,” says Renata Brillinger at the California Climate and Agriculture Network. “Policymakers have an important role to play in providing resources to farmers to incentivize increased carbon drawdown while preserving food production and biodiversity.”

More Details on the IPCC report:

Please see here for more details on the report, including instructions for media registration for the August 8th press conference: <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/srccl/>.

California Resources on Climate Change and Agriculture:

The [California Climate and Agriculture Network](#) (CalCAN) is a coalition of the state’s leading sustainable agriculture and farmer allies. Since 2009, CalCAN has cultivated farmer leadership to face the challenges of climate change and to serve as the sustainable agriculture voice on climate change policy in California.

Please refer to a recent CalCAN publication for background on climate resilience:

[Cultivating Climate Resilience in Farming: Ensuring California Farms & Ranches Thrive in the Face of Climate Change](#)

For more information and introductions to farmer climate leaders, please contact Renata@calclimateag.org or (707) 329-6374.