

Farmer & Rancher Climate Leaders

State Water Efficiency & Enhancement Program Participants

SWEEP, administered by the California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA), provides grants to farmers and ranchers for irrigation management improvements that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save water.

More info is available on CDFA's website: www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/sweep/

TAC FARMS

Allensworth, Tulare County
Award Amount: \$39,854



"Before this farm was a ghost town. Now there is tons of life like diverse plants, bees and pollinators. And our neighbors and community members are noticing the difference and taking interest in what we're doing."

- Dennis Hutson

Dennis Hutson and brother-in-law Kayode Kadara farm 60 acres in Allensworth, north of Bakersfield, where they have been growing a variety of crops like oats, alfalfa, okra, leafy greens, black eyed peas and cantaloupe since 2007. These two farmers are passionate about growing sustainable food as a source of local economic development in their community.

Dennis and Kayode received a State Water Efficiency & Enhancement Program (SWEEP) grant in 2020. With those funds they transitioned to more efficient and precise irrigation using soil moisture sensors, a new pipe without leaks and a retrofitted pump. In less than a year, the farmers have already seen their water bill drop.

TAC Farm also received a Healthy Soils grant in 2020, which helped them carry out several integrated climate smart practices, including planting hedgerows and windbreaks and applying compost and cover crops across the farm on an annual basis. These practices improve soil organic matter, increase water retention, reduce wind erosion, and add biodiversity to the farm.

The California Climate & Agriculture Network (CalCAN) is a statewide coalition that advances state and federal policy to realize the powerful climate solutions offered by sustainable and organic agriculture.

