

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/

FARMERS ROSIE LEE AND CHA MOUA

Merced, Merced County
Award Amount: \$58,342



"It is smart to conserve. We need to save ground water to avoid digging deeper wells and draining out all of the water."

- Rosie Lee

Rosie Lee is a former preschool teacher who has been farming with her husband Cha Moua and her son on 19 acres in Merced since 2005. The family grows melons, eggplant, peppers, tomatoes and squash among other vegetables to sell at farmers markets. Rosie also shares her land with seven other families who grow food for personal use.

In 2019, Rosie received a SWEEP grant to convert her flood irrigation system to drip irrigation. The new system allows her to adjust the flow of water more precisely, conserving water and reducing weed pressure. She also installed a solar pump, which will lower her electricity bill and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Rosie's farm is an island of biodiverse food production in a sea of almond orchards. The SWEEP grant improved the efficiency of her farm and of each family's business so they can continue producing healthy fruits and vegetables while using less resources.

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.

