



UC DAVIS

Graduate Program of Environmental Policy and Management

Practicum Proposal

Student name: [REDACTED]

Partnering Organization (PO): University of California Cooperative Extension, Climate Smart Agriculture

Project supervisor

- Name: [REDACTED]
- Title: [REDACTED]
- Email: [REDACTED]

Anticipated start and end date of the project: January 11, 2021 – June 10, 2021 (end date subject to change pending completion of project)

Agreement for student compensation (if any) for services rendered to the PO: \$7,000 stipend

Topline summary. In two lines summarize your intended experience (e.g., “I will ___ by working with ___ and focus on ___”):

I will be performing cost-benefit analyses regarding implementation of a climate smart agricultural practice (e.g. cover cropping) on at least three farms.

Project and partnering organization (PO) description

1. What is the mission of the PO in general?

The Climate Smart Agriculture program has deployed 10 climate smart educators among California’s agricultural communities. Supported by UC Agriculture and Natural Resources and California Department of Food and Agriculture, these educators aim to help farmers and ranchers improve soil health, irrigation practices and manure management. Implementation of these practices are funded by three-year grants through the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program, Healthy Soils Program and Alternative Manure Management Program.

2. What is the proposed project? What is/are the:

- a. motivation/need: evidence that the climate smart agriculture practices being implemented are economically viable.
- b. question(s) to be answered: what are the cost and benefits of implementing climate smart practices? How can this information be disseminated to farmers and policymakers?
- c. objectives: show farmers that costs and benefits of adopting a climate smart practice; inform policymakers of costs/benefits.



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3. What analytical/methodological approach will be taken (i.e. how will the questions and/or objectives be addressed)?

First, at least three farms (northern, central, and southern) that have received grants through the climate smart agriculture program and have kept detailed records will be identified. They will be surveyed to gather pertinent data. Using American Farmland Trust's partial budget analysis, direct costs and benefits to farmers from implementing a climate smart practice will be identified. The results will then be synthesized for presentation to both farmers and policymakers.

4. Name and describe the expected deliverables.

- 1) Three cost-benefit analysis case studies. As described above, these will be a resource for the PO going forward to help explain to farmers and policymakers the economic benefit or cost of implementation of climate smart agricultural practices.
- 2) Findings presentation for policymakers or regulatory agencies that will outline case studies and identify policy gaps.
- 3) A set of recommendations for the PO on how to better support farmers, climate mitigation strategies, and advocacy.

5. How does the project fit into the mission of the PO?

The project will hopefully yield an economic report that serves to advance their agenda of widespread adoption of climate smart agricultural practices. It will serve as a tool for both farmer implementation, securing more grant money, and pushing policy forward.

6. How will the project further your individual career objectives?

Coming into the program I wanted to take my previous career experience working in local agriculture and develop the skills and means to disseminate environmentally responsible agricultural practices. A project and PO like this directly connects me to a program that has backing from the CDFA and is explicitly focused on adoption of climate friendly practices. I hope to both gain valuable experience creating a cost/benefit analysis and tap into a network of people who have the backing to shape climate smart agricultural practices.