California Farm Demonstration Network
Purpose: Increase adoption of economically viable resource conservation practices in California’s agricultural systems.

✓ grassroots
✓ locally-based
✓ voluntary
The Approach

1. Participatory learning, discovery, adoption of practices
2. Voluntary showcasing of innovative systems
3. Evaluations (monitoring, data collection, and analysis)
4. Discuss and communicate results and findings
5. Scale-up broader adoption of improved systems
The process...So far

• October 14, 2014 exploratory meeting between NRCS and CASI
• Series of conference calls and meetings
• Learning from other similar, successful efforts
• Early grassroots efforts of regional network hubs – Mendocino and Glenn Counties, East Stanislaus RCD
• Ongoing efforts of CASI showcased farms
• January 2017 conversation with core partner groups
• MOU signing May 5, 2017
SHOWCASING OF EXISTING EXPERIENCE

- focused on experienced farmers
- public sharing

EDUCATION, COMPILATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE, AND SHARING OF KNOWLEDGE

- development of content and information sharing activities

CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE DECISION TOOL GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT

FARM DEMONSTRATION EVALUATIONS

- implementation of conservation agriculture practices and systems by new wave of farmers
- showcasing of practical learning
- connecting people in productive local efforts

FARM DEMONSTRATION PERFORMANCE MONITORING

- development, testing, of performance-monitoring metrics

ONLINE DATA AND INFORMATION SHARING
OBJECTIVES OF THE NETWORK

The Network will showcase the implementation of conservation agriculture practices and systems by “early adopters” which can provide a pathway for adoption by new as well as experienced farmers.

Further, it will provide practical learning opportunities while at the same time fostering the formation of local connections.
There are examples of very successful efforts in other regions that are already working.
Partners in the process

**NRCS** - Tony Rolfes, Jim Komar, Carol Mandel, Rob Roy, Margaret Smither-Kopperl, Dennis Chessman, Erica Linquist, Joe Williams, Kabir Zahangir, Sid Davis, Robert Vlach, Wendy Krehbiel, Johnnie Siliznoff, Bob Fry, Genet Carstensens

**CASI** - Eric Kueneman, Judee Fisher, Ron Harben, Jerry Rossiter, Alan Wilcox, Monte Bottens

**CARCD** - Karen Buhr, Chris Gardener, Kristen Murphy, Jeff Borum, Kandi Manhart, Greg Baker

**UC** - Michelle Leinfelder-Miles, Betsy Karle, Marsha Campbell, Dan Munk, Gene Miyao, Deborah Giraud, Dani Lightle, Sat Khalsa, Rob Wilson, Brian Marsh, Will Horwath, Kate Scow, Howard Ferris, Randy Southard, Jeff Mitchell

**Farmers** - Jesse Sanchez, Tom Barcellos, Dino Giacomazzi, John Diener, Tom Willey, Alan Sano, Darrell Cordova, Michael Crowell, Steve Sammra, Rich Collins, John Teixeira, Scott Park, Russ Lester

**CDFA** - Ami Gunasekara, Karen Ross, Jenny Lester Moffitt