

Agricultural Technical Adviser Focus Group Survey

Experiences and Priorities in a Changing Delta

This Survey asks for your perspectives on key questions related to adaptation for Delta agricultural systems. The questions were informed by discussions in stakeholder meetings hosted by the Delta Stewardship Council and CDFA in January 2022 as part of the *Delta Adapts* planning process (more at <https://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-plan/climate-change>).

This is an opportunity to supply full responses to key questions and to participate in priority ranking for possible adaptation scenario development.

Anyone can respond, even if you did not participate in the first Ag Tech Focus Group meeting.

You may skip any survey questions if you are unable or uncomfortable answering. We expect the survey to take 15-20 minutes and we ask for your responses by Friday, March 11, 2022.

Thank you very much for contributing your time to help form the *Delta Adapts* vision!

1. Which area of the Delta do you think your answers will best represent? (Check all that apply.)

- All
- Northern
- Central
- Southern
- Suisun Marsh

2. Which organization or interest do you represent?

- Delta farm manager

- Delta landowner
- UCCE
- RCD
- Farm Bureau
- Ag Commissioner
- Local government
- State agency
- Commodity group
- Industry Association
- Reclamation District
- Water Agency
- USDA NRCS
- NGO
- Other

3. How would you describe your role? (Check all that apply.)

- Farmer
- Rancher
- Dairy
- Technical Advisor
- Industry Representative
- Researcher
- Government or Irrigation District

Other

4. Which system do you work in? (Check all that apply.)

Ranching

Dairy

Row crops

Vegetables

Viticulture

Other perennials

Other

5. Have YOU experienced or observed any of the following resource challenges in the last 10 years? (Check all that apply.)

Decline in levee stability or maintenance

Seepage from levees

High groundwater table affecting production

Salinity in irrigation water

Irregular water supply (quantity or timing)

Stagnant water issues such as aquatic weeds

Subsidence

Soil quality declines

6. Which of the following climate and water challenges are you, or those you represent, already experiencing (focus on last 10 years)? (Check all that apply.)

- Increasing salinity
- Less regular water supply (quantity or timing)
- Loss of chill hours
- Increased high temperatures
- Flooding
- Pest Changes
- Erratic or Extreme Weather
- Other

7. How concerned are you, or those you represent, about the following climate and resource challenges in the future?

	Not at all concerned	Slightly concerned	Somewhat concerned	Moderately concerned	Extremely concerned
Increasing Salinity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Less regular Water Supply	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Loss of Chill Hours	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increased High Temperatures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Flooding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pest Changes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Erratic or Extreme Weather	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

residual areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Electric pumping to replace diesel	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Microirrigation to conserve water	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Purchased Organic Amendments like compost or mulch	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Composting on-farm or manure drying	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cover cropping or conservation cover	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Permanent plantings like hedgerows	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Stubble grazing by livestock	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Whole orchard recycling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reduced tillage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Crop rotation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Flooding or wetting against subsidence	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conversion to rice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Focus on Future Adaptation Strategies

Please develop answers for as many adaptation strategies as you wish to discuss. We will sort the answers if you choose to discuss more than one in the same text box.

11. Which Climate-Smart Ag practice(s) (such as those above) seem to have high potential for growth in the area you represent?

Enter your answer

12. Do(es) the practice(s) seem financially viable over the long term? Multiple answers will be sorted by us.

Enter your answer

13. Would the practice(s) benefit from financial support to encourage adoption? If so, what kind? (incentives, tax breaks, loans, conservation easement payments, etc.)

Enter your answer

14. Do(es) the practice(s) need technical support, training, or computational tools? Please specify?

Enter your answer

15. Do(es) the practice(s) need more promotion, education, or other awareness building in order to grow?

Enter your answer

16. What knowledge or research appears to be missing to support the practice(s)?

Enter your answer

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Focus on Public Programs, including CDFA incentives

We would now like to ask your opinions on the CDFA climate smart agriculture incentive programs and other public opportunities. We seek your input on how programs may be leveraged to best serve Delta climate adaptation goals.

17. How familiar are you with the CDFA CSA programs?

- I have received CDFA CSA incentives
- I have applied or helped others apply for the incentives
- I have some knowledge, or have considered applying
- I have no familiarity

18. How do you think an existing or potential CDFA CSA incentive could better serve Delta adaptation goals?

Enter your answer

19. Are there public agencies that could support agricultural adaptation better than they are doing now? How?

Enter your answer

20. How would you like to see different government agencies, academia, or the private sector strengthen their collaboration to support agricultural adaptation?

Enter your answer

21. This final question is about potential adaptation strategies to sustain a resilient Delta agricultural sector. How important do you think each strategy is?

	Unsure	Not at all important	Not very important	Somewhat important	Very important
Make higher assessments to RD members to build up levees.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Build agri-tourism and cultural attractions.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Encourage crop switching to rice and flood-tolerant crops.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Encourage crop switching to drought-tolerant crops.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Encourage crop switching to salinity- tolerant crops.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Encourage crop switching to heat- tolerant crops.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Build opportunities for on-farm habitat or restoration (hedgerows, wildlife corridors, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Communicate to Statewide authorities the benefits of more levee investment.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Explore and promote practices that slow subsidence.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Using economic criteria, allow some areas to be flooded in exchange for long-term State commitment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

to remaining areas (e.g. levee cost compared to acreage protected).

Using ecosystem and water-management criteria, allow some areas to be flooded in exchange for long-term State commitment to remaining areas (e.g. high-value habitat).

Appropriately compensate landowners who lose levee protection.

Other

22. Other Resilient Delta Strategies, please specify:

Enter your answer

23. Given the predicted impacts of climate change in the Delta, what crop types do you think would be most resilient under changed conditions, and why?

Enter your answer

24. Can you provide the names of farmers or ranchers who might be willing to participate in a similar survey or in an interview? Would you be willing to help connect us with them? If yes, please provide your name.

Enter your answer

25. For follow-up: What is your name and email? Giving this information here means you are open to be contacted when we analyze results. Giving your contact here does not mean that you are granting permission to be quoted or cited publicly. If we seek to cite you later, we will request permission.

Enter your answer

26. Are there any further comments or things you would like us to consider?

Enter your answer

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