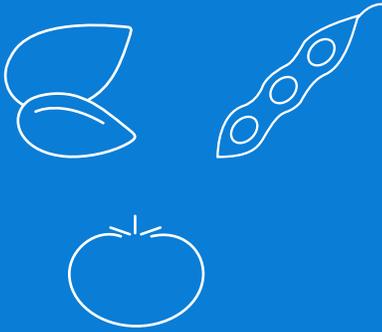


Ag Modernization Fund Case Study

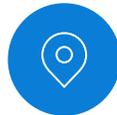
Collective Action for Water Stewardship in California Agriculture



GROWERS NAMES
Five Blue
Diamond Growers



PARTNERS
Keurig Dr Pepper
Gilead Sciences, Inc.
General Mills
CWRI
LimnoTech



LOCATIONS
Arbuckle, CA
Escalon, CA
Fresno, CA
Modesto, CA
Waterford, CA



CROPS
Processing Tomatoes
Lima Beans
Almonds



FARM SIZES
Each 11-95 Acres



Precision
Agriculture



/ Background

In 2024, the California Water Resilience Initiative (CWRI), in partnership with Netafim and LimnoTech, launched the first-of-its-kind Ag Modernization Fund. This innovative Fund was designed to break down barriers to collective action in agricultural water stewardship by pooling resources from multiple corporate partners to support multiple family farms. Unlike traditional one-to-one corporate-farm partnerships, the Fund's model enables broader, more scalable impact across California's water-stressed regions.

/ Goals and Opportunity

The Ag Modernization Fund was created to accelerate progress toward CWRI's ambitious goal: reduce, reuse, or restore one million acre-feet per year by 2030. By bringing together funding from Keurig Dr Pepper, Gilead Sciences, Inc., and General Mills, the Fund supported Blue Diamond Growers who were eager to modernize their irrigation systems but lacked the financial means to do so. The focus was on converting flood-irrigated acreage to efficient drip irrigation, maximizing water savings and resilience for both farms and communities.

/ Solutions

- **Collective Funding Model:** Three corporate partners contributed \$320,000, enabling support for five small family farms across California.
- **Technology & Reporting:** Netafim's **GrowSphere™** digital farming platform will track and report annual water use, ensuring transparency and accountability for all stakeholders.
- **Expert Evaluation:** LimnoTech provided a unified benefit summary for all participating companies, streamlining impact measurement and reporting.



The Ag Modernization Fund provides CWRI members with a unique opportunity to create meaningful sustainability impact and inspire others to join us. Our efforts will advance CWRI's vision through partnering with farmers, corporations, and other stakeholders to modernize agriculture through efficient irrigation techniques that save water and provide tangible co-benefits. It's a true win-win—delivering environmental benefits and economic resilience.

Ryan Spicer
Director of Sustainability, Keurig Dr Pepper



/ Impact & Results

- Farmers Supported: Five family farms, including woman-owned and first-generation operations, received funding to convert a total of 235 acres from flood to drip irrigation—exceeding the initial goal of 160 acres.
- Water Savings: The estimated annual reduction in water use is approximately 433 acre-feet or 141 million gallons - enough to fill 214 Olympic-sized swimming pools or supply the city of San Francisco for almost four days
- Community & Environmental Benefits: Projects were located in regions reliant on groundwater and in disadvantaged communities, amplifying the positive impact on local water resilience and agricultural sustainability.
- Future Vision: The Fund's first round closed in June 2025, with installations completed by year-end and crop plantings set for Spring 2026. The objective is to close 1–2 Funds each year going forward, expanding support to more farms and communities.

/ Why it Matters

The Ag Modernization Fund demonstrates the power of collective action in addressing California's water challenges. By pooling resources and expertise, corporate partners and family farms are working together to build a more sustainable, resilient future for agriculture and communities across the state. This model can be used to support collective action in watersheds nationwide.

/ Voices from the Field

“ The Ag Modernization Fund gave us the opportunity to collaborate with other companies and support multiple family farms across California, amplifying the impact of our efforts. By partnering with CWRI, we're not only making meaningful progress on our own water neutrality goal but also contributing to collective action that benefits shared water users and strengthens regional resilience. This project reflects our commitment to fostering a healthier world for both people and the planet.

Gilead Sciences, Inc.

“ The Ag Modernization Fund enabled us to improve our irrigation system, conserve water and provide opportunities for our family to join our farming operation. This collective approach is both a great opportunity for us, and also allows us to communicate with the non ag community about the efforts for modernization and conservation.

Lorraine Marsh, Sycamore Marsh Farm, Arbuckle, CA





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