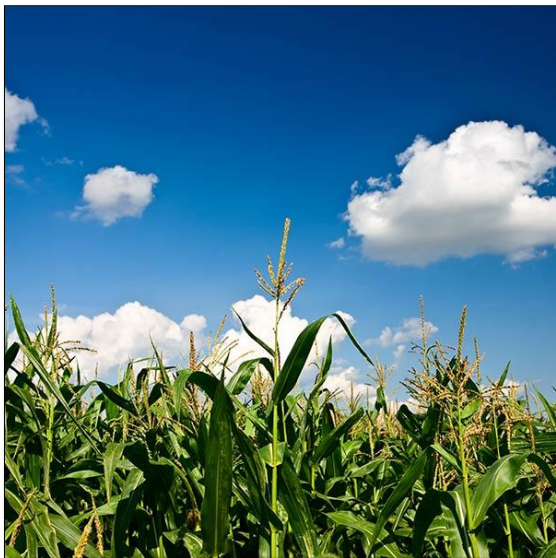


## Sustainable Agriculture Can Address Climate Change

For more than a decade, Environmental Defense Fund has partnered with farmers, ranchers, grower associations, agriculture supply chain companies and others to increase producers' resilience, boost productivity, benefit soil health and increase profits, while simultaneously reducing negative impacts to water quality, climate and the environment.



### The Challenge

Demand for water has outpaced supply, inefficient fertilizer use has contributed to air and water pollution, and 9.7 billion people will need food security by 2050 across the world.

Erratic and changing weather patterns are causing tremendous amounts of stress and financial hardship for farmers and ranchers. They need resources that will ensure that agriculture remains productive in the face of extreme and variable weather.

### The Opportunity

Environmentalists and farmers want the same thing, sustainable agriculture practices that preserve soil and water quality, while producing high crop yields.

America's farmers and agricultural industry can provide cost-effective solutions to address climate change and other environmental challenges if they have access to the right tools, resources and freedom to innovate. Farmers have demonstrated for decades that innovative practices can not only increase yield, but can also reduce emissions, store carbon and reduce losses that can harm the environment. Our goal at EDF is to help these successful efforts get to scale by unlocking new funding to expand awareness and access to proven practices and reduce barriers that often stand in the way of deploying new, more efficient, and climate-friendly production practices.

## The Solution

Sustainable practices that improve soil health not only help benefit the climate by reducing or sequestering greenhouse gas emissions; they also help improve the resilience and security of agricultural operations and the food supply chain while guaranteeing a continuous safe and affordable food source across America.

There are three immediate solutions to secure a sustainable agriculture future:

1. Federal policies, focused on the characteristics and needs of a specific region, that incentivize and scale adoption of farming practices that science shows can improve soil productivity, reduce emissions, protect water quality, increase yields, and strengthen farms' resilience to climate change and changing weather.
2. Streamline federal policies and unnecessary regulatory burdens that discourage innovation, and implement new policies that make farmers part of the solution and protect them from unfair cost increases.
3. Increase support for longer-term, systems-based research that advances the development of new commodity varieties and cropping systems to increase adaptation to changing regional climate patterns.



## The Role for Congress

- Provide government-backed insurance products that incentivize resilient farming practices.
- Provide tax incentives for farmers who adopt conservation Best Management Practices (BMPs) and other emission and runoff mitigation practices on farm.
- Maximize funding for production practices that reduce emissions and boost yield.
- Target increased funding for climate-resilient seed varietal development.
- Make greenhouse gas emissions reductions one of the priority funding allocations within existing federal farm programs.

For more information, please contact:

Callie Eideberg, [ceideberg@edf.org](mailto:ceideberg@edf.org)

Senior Policy Manager, Ecosystems Sustainable Agriculture