

North State-Redwood Coast Ag-Tech Alliance

**Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) Technical Assistance Provider (TAP) Training
and Regenerative Agriculture Farm Demonstration Network for Research &
Education**

Virtual Fencing Demonstration

Mobile Irrigation Lab

Ag-Tech Small Business TA Program

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Project Overview

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Project Introduction

The North State-Redwood Coast Ag-Tech Alliance advances sustainable agriculture by connecting regions to promote climate-smart practices, workforce development, and technology adoption, focusing on small farms facing climate and market challenges. Interconnected with statewide Ag-Tech Alliance.

2

Objectives and Key Deliverables

The project expands technical assistance providers, operates a farm demonstration network, showcases virtual fencing, delivers irrigation evaluations, and supports Ag-Tech small businesses to foster innovation and workforce capacity.

3

Expected Impact

The initiative strengthens the regional workforce, enhances agricultural sustainability, creates quality jobs for underrepresented groups, improves environmental outcomes, and drives economic growth through technology adoption.



Project Leadership – North State Planning & Development Collective

Partners: CSU, Chico Center for Regenerative Agriculture, UCANR Hopland Research and Extension Center, Siskiyou Economic Development Council, NorCal SBDC Network

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Project Lead Experience

- 30+ years of experience
- Inclusive economic development & GIS support
- Triple Bottom Line Focus: Economy, Environment, & Equity
- Builds regional capacity, resilient economies, & workforce pathways
- Strong rural partnership
- Long-term collaboration with Redwood Coast
- North State Jobs First Co-Convener and Fiscal Agent

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Relevant Experience & Expertise

- Manages complex economic development initiatives
- Expertise in rural and regional sectors like agriculture and technology
- Focus aligns with climate sustainability and innovation
- Supported by strong regional stakeholder partnerships
- Advanced GIS and economic analysis capabilities
- Manages 2 North State Broadband Consortia

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Roles and Responsibilities

- Oversight and coordination of alliance projects
- Financial and administrative management ensuring grant compliance
- Facilitation of stakeholder collaboration
- Leader in capacity building and workforce development
- Aligns projects with regional state, and industry goals

Regional Overview



Geographic Scope and Partnership The North State-Redwood Coast Ag-Tech

Alliance spans **14 counties**, integrating multiple Tribal and regional partners to promote sustainable, technology-driven agriculture.

Economic and Workforce Context

Agriculture and aquaculture generate over **\$4.5 billion annually**, supporting **20% of regional jobs** with a diverse workforce, while addressing climate, labor, and market challenges through equitable training and job creation.



Challenges, Opportunities, and Strategic Alignment

The region faces **climate impacts**, labor shortages, and resource **inefficiencies**, with opportunities in **regenerative practices**, **ag-tech workforce development**, and **innovative technologies** aligned with California's agricultural and climate goals.



California State Economic Blueprint Connection



Strategic Alignment with California's Economic Goals
The North State-Redwood Coast Ag-Tech Alliance supports **California's Working Lands & Water strategy** by advancing **Ag-Tech innovations** that enhance the **\$300 billion agriculture sector**, addressing climate resilience, labor shortages, and market competition.

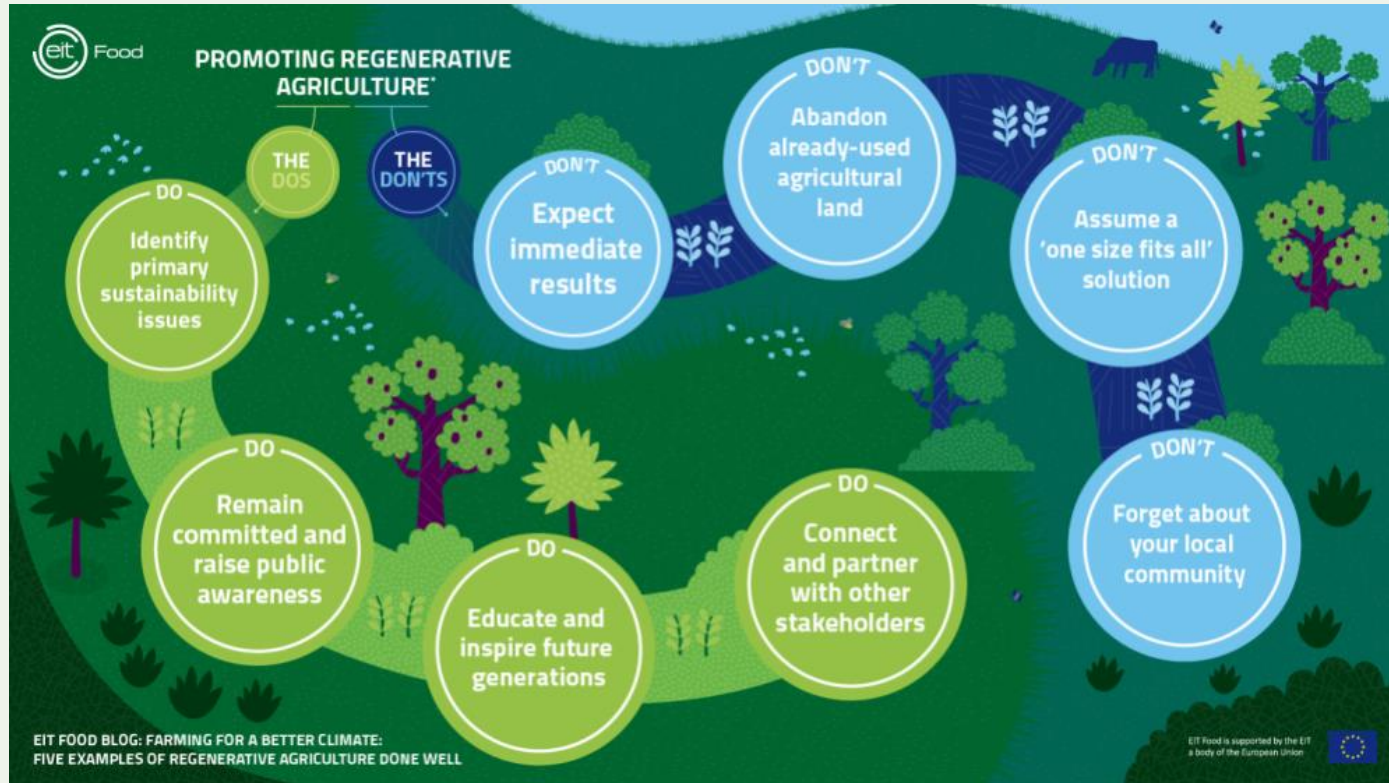


Economic Impact on Local Communities
The Ag-Tech Alliance drives **economic growth** in the North State and Redwood Coast regions by creating new jobs through Ag-Tech business development and workforce training, benefiting local agriculture and aquaculture industries that generate over **\$4.5 billion annually**.



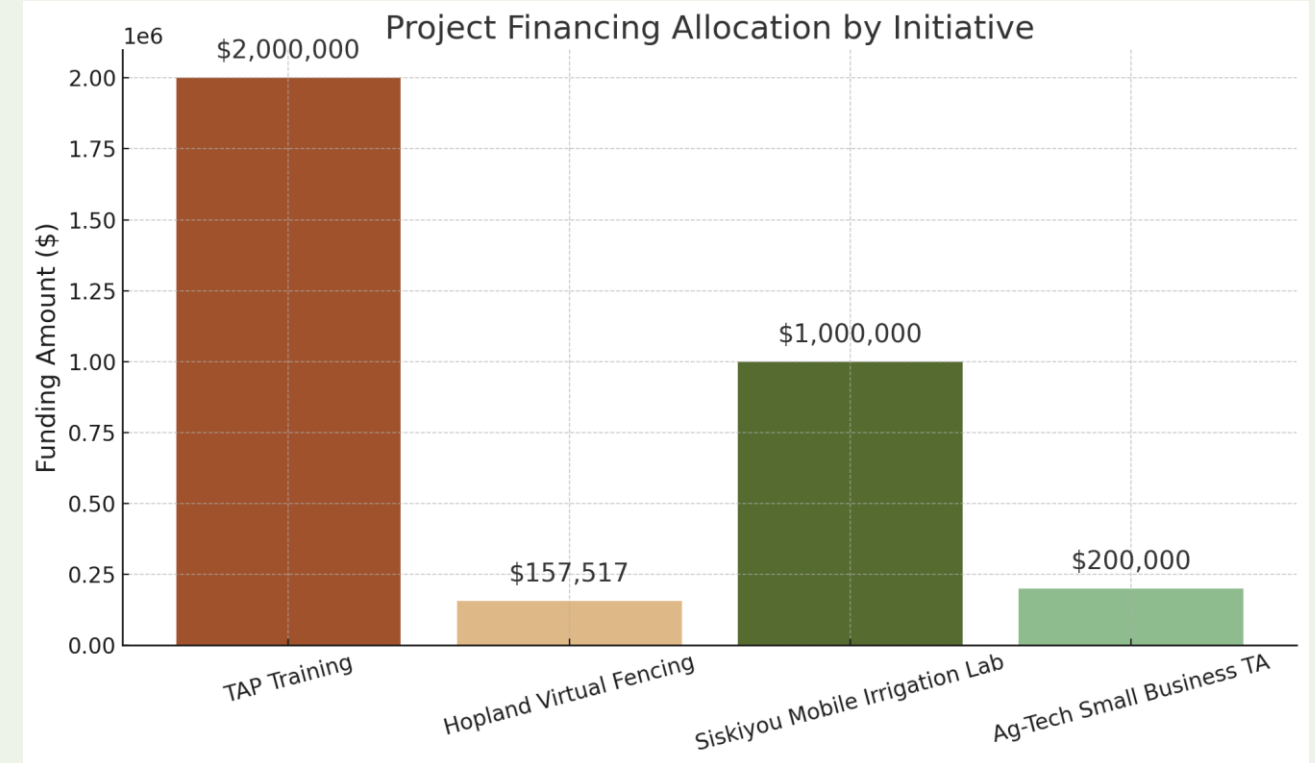
Integration and Long-Term Benefits
By aligning with statewide agricultural and climate policies, the Ag-Tech Alliance ensures **coordinated resource use and policy support**, fostering a resilient workforce and sustainable economy that positions California as a **global leader** in climate-smart agricultural technology.

Stakeholder Engagement



- Stakeholder Identification
- Engagement Strategies
- Communication & Feedback

Financing and Budget Management



Funding combines grants, tuition, donations, and partnerships to ensure sustainability. Budget oversight is managed by Chico State Enterprises with compliance to CSU and federal regulations, leveraging collaborative grant writing, cost-sharing, and rigorous monitoring to optimize resource use and project scalability.

Principal Risks & Mitigants

Category	Key Risks	Mitigation Strategies
Operational	• Recruitment gaps • Delays in rollout • Training inconsistency	• Partner with colleges/tribes • Phased rollouts • Standardized curriculum
Financial	• Unsustainable funding • High demo/tech costs • Capital access	• Diversify funding (grants, P3s) • Cost-sharing/in-kind • TA for grants/investors
Stakeholder	• Partner misalignment • Low producer buy-in • Tech-farmer gap	• MOUs, shared work plans • Early engagement, demos • Co-design with producers
Technical	• Adoption barriers • Equipment/connectivity issues • Data gaps	• Training/support, pilot models • Offline-capable tech • Standardized data methods

Risk Profile Summary

Impact Level: Medium to High across all categories

Likelihood: Medium for most risks, manageable with proactive strategies

Response Focus: Capacity-building, stakeholder engagement, funding diversity, data reliability

Next Steps/Key Milestones

Timeframe	Project #1: CSA TAP & Demo Network	Project #2: UC ANR Virtual Fencing	Project #3: Siskiyou Mobile Irrigation Lab	Project #4: Ag-Tech Small Business TA
Fall 2025	—Launch Fall TAP training program; start farm trials; TA begins	—Purchase tech equipment: collars, batteries, subscriptions	—Recruitment plan and outreach	—Develop training program; Outreach campaign launch
Winter 2025	—Continue classes and trainings; TA continues	—Program curriculum developed; eval; demo workshops	—Hire irrigation techs; Lab operational; first farm visits completed	—Ongoing outreach and marketing; strengthen Ag-Tech partner network
Spring 2026	—Spring TAP Courses; on farm and field trainings; TA continues	—Continuation of programs, evals, demos	—Training workshops and regional data reporting started	—Onboard entrepreneur cohorts; begin virtual trainings
Summer 2026	—Continued courses, trainings, demos; TA continues	—Mid-project report & producer feedback completed	—Ongoing trainings, labs and evaluations	—Continuation of trainings; TA; outreach to other regions
Fall 2026	—Launch TAP training program; farm trials; TA	—Best practices published; policy outreach initiated	—Pilot outcomes inform regional expansion	—Ongoing efforts
Winter 2026	—Case studies underway	—Continuation of programs, evals, demos	—Demonstration events; outreach and engagement ongoing	Investor event/funding showcase; impact report shared
Spring 2027	—Publish cost, emissions, soil health case studies	—Continuation of programs, evals, demos	—Outreach and engagement ongoing	—Ongoing efforts
Summer 2027	—Graduates enter workforce pipeline; Evaluations	—Evaluations	—Evaluations	—Evaluations

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