

Project Title/Subject: Climate Smart Agriculture in the Caribbean
Project Type: Sub-Regional Project
NPA: Institute of International Education
Project Dates: 06/03/2024- 06/21/2024
Point of Contact: Carmelina Herrera, Program Officer
(619) 361 - 1047
carmelina@sandiegodiplomacy.org

Why San Diego:

The San Diego region ranks #1 greenest city in America , #9 U.S. Cleantech Innovation Hub, and #21 global startup ecosystem. San Diego is home to 70 miles of coastline with a wide variety of beaches and wildlife. It has been named a biodiversity hotspot with 1,500+ native plant species, including 368 rare species and 140 endangered species. The Mediterranean-like climate makes it an ideal place to grow agricultural crops and livestock products. More than 3 million people live in San Diego County, and more than 5,000 farmers call it home and make their living on 250,000 acres. The high cost of water and land make farming here expensive. San Diego farms have specialized in integrating agricultural activity and urban living, growing crops that optimize limited acres. The county far surpasses its fellow top producing counties in terms of average dollar value per acre with an agricultural production more valuable than other urbanized areas of California, such as San Francisco, Orange County, and Los Angeles combined. All-in-all, San Diego's diverse and comprehensive array of research institutions, initiatives, and organizations provide a rich landscape for discussing and implementing sustainable agricultural practices, making the city a hub for demonstrating the links between sustainability and economic and political stability.

Education Resources

University of California San Diego, Adaptation and Solutions

Adaptation and Solutions (ucsd.edu)

The University of California San Diego, Adaptation and Solutions program supports positive change in the future through social engagement and offers mitigation strategies for the current negative impacts of climate change. This research theme encompasses energy alternatives, infrastructure, engineering, urban planning, sustainable food production and green industry. In addition, sociologists, psychologists, artists and communications researchers focus on the social implications of adaptation. Their Sustainable Food initiatives focus on developing new renewable food sources, promoting food security and encouraging change in the world's agricultural systems to reduce emissions and protect land while sustaining growing populations.

Meeting Focus: Explore new renewable food sources and address how leading technology in environmental science and molecular biology can be used to address global sustainability

The Climate and Agriculture Program at the University of California Cooperative Extension San Diego County

Climate and Agriculture in San Diego County (ucanr.edu)

The Climate and Agriculture Program at the University of California Cooperative Extension San Diego County focuses on the policies, research, programs and strategies to manage the impacts of climate trends on agricultural production in San Diego County. They work to develop and extend management, funding and technical assistance resources to local farm and ranch operators to support sustainable agricultural production, while contributing to soil health, water and energy conservation. In addition, they actively advise and assist agricultural producers, policy makers, government agencies, researchers, educators, consultants and other public and private agricultural service providers.

Meeting Focus: Explore the impacts of climate trends on current agricultural practices in San Diego, and explore the extent to which local government organizations can go to assist agriculture-related communities across San Diego

Subtropical Fruit Crops Research & Education Initiative at The Climate and Agriculture Program at the University of California Cooperative Extension San Diego County

Subtropical Fruit Crops Research & Education (ucanr.edu)

The Subtropical Fruit Crops program works closely with growers (old and new) on a wide range of issues affecting mostly avocados and citrus. Sonia Rios has been the Area Subtropical Fruits Advisor for Riverside and San Diego County since 2014 and has conducted research to help growers with avocado and citrus. She has coordinated field trials for applying treatments including testing for herbicide resistance, pest management studies, evaluating new herbicides and insecticides in greenhouses, ditch banks, rangelands, orchards, vineyards, and non crop areas.

Meeting Focus: Examine new innovations and education when it comes to subtropical fruit crops that allow for resilience to pests, herbicides, and issues affecting mostly avocados and citrus crops

Local farms in San Diego County

Suzie's Farm

www.suziesfarm.com/

Suzie's Farm is an USDA-certified organic farm that grows a variety of seasonal fruits, vegetables, herbs, eggs and flowers year-round. They are engaged in the community through their CSA program, farmer's markets, providing produce to different local restaurants, educational programs, and more. The farm's principles of sustainable farming and commitment to quality are carried over by a community of farmers that continue to positively impact the San Diego community.

Meeting Focus: Examine sustainable farming practices and the benefits and challenges of organic farming methods; To learn about the farm-to-table process from the farming perspective

Go Green Agriculture – Pierre Sleiman

[Our Purpose — Go Green \(gogreenagriculture.com\)](http://Our Purpose — Go Green (gogreenagriculture.com))

Go Green Agriculture is a national farming company with a network of small farms that grow and sell produce locally. They are strongly recognized by consumers as synonymous with healthy, premium-quality and consistent. Pierre Sleiman was awarded the "Champion for Change" from the White House and the USDA. He is a member of the board of directors of the San Diego Farm Bureau and founder of Go Green Agriculture. Go Green Agriculture builds and operates high-tech greenhouses with the purpose of providing local communities with fresh, sustainable leafy greens by making food safer, higher-quality, sustainable, and accessible to all.

Meeting focus: Study the importance of a healthy food industry, and ways to market and sell this industry to communities

Archi's Acres – Colin Archipley

About Us – Archis Acres

Archi's Acres is a USDA certified HydroOrganic farming enterprise headquartered in Escondido California. It provides business ownership opportunities for veterans and creates a viable, sustainable, organic produce farming business using hydroponic technology. The enterprise seeks to continuously meet their two main objectives; creating a viable sustainable organic produce farming business, and developing a business that provides entrepreneur opportunities for veterans in sustainable organic agriculture. Archi's methods of crop production are not only highly efficient, they also maximize available natural resources, and capitalize on local sales distribution channels. They have partnered with the University of Minnesota Crookston to create a fully accredited agricultural certificate program. The six-week program is designed to introduce students from propagation to market, to include food safety and good agricultural practices.

Meeting focus: Analyze the methods used to bolster economic growth through a facilitation of the small business ownership process in the farming industry with an emphasis in sustainable crop production

Advocacy Organizations in Promoting Collaboration in The Agriculture Community

San Diego County Farm Bureau

The San Diego County Farm Bureau (sdfarmbureau.org)

The San Diego County Farm Bureau is a non-profit organization that seeks to foster San Diego agriculture through education, public relations, and public policy advocacy in order to promote the economic viability, sustainability, and community building of agriculture. There are 53 county Farm Bureaus in California. Established in 1914, the San Diego County Farm Bureau serves the needs of the San Diego agriculture community. It is the leading advocate for the farm community and works with elected officials, government agencies, educators, the public, and the media. In addition, it serves the county Farm Bureaus as the voice on state issues and works closely with representatives from the American Farm Bureau Federation on issues of national importance.

Meeting Focus: Explore advocacy for the farming community, and learn about member-financed farming projects

Imperial Valley Vegetable Growers Association

[Imperial Valley Vegetable Growers Assoc. \(ivvga.com\)](http://Imperial Valley Vegetable Growers Assoc. (ivvga.com))

The Imperial Valley Vegetable Growers Association is a non-profit, member driven organization dedicated to maintaining and improving the viability of the produce industry. They continually strive to represent the health and safety of their members and all of the residents of Imperial Valley. The association is actively involved in critical issues including labor, food safety, water rights, water conservation and use, environmental protection, and public education.

Meeting Focus: Explore the importance of advocacy organizations in promoting collaboration in the agriculture sector and creating synergy with the local community

Imperial County Farm Bureau

[Home | ICFB Website](#)

Imperial County Farm Bureau is a non-governmental, non-profit, voluntary membership organization whose purpose is to protect and promote agricultural interests in Imperial County as well as the state and nation. Through public relations, education and advocacy it supports the economic advancement of agriculture balanced with appropriate management of natural resources. Furthermore, they represent approximately 600 farmers, ranchers, landowners, business people, and residents of Imperial County. Farm Bureau strives to protect and improve the abilities of farmers and ranchers to provide a safe and reliable supply of food and fiber through responsible stewardship of natural resources.

Meeting focus: Examine the benefits and tactics of advocacy for agriculture at the state and national level

San Diego County Food Vision

[About Food Vision 2030 - San Diego County Food Vision 2030 \(sdfoodvision2030.org\)](#)

The San Diego County Food Vision works with three goals, ten objectives, and several strategies to inform planning, policy, program, and investment opportunities, to guide collective action toward a healthy, sustainable, and just food system over the next decade. They have created an inclusive process that engages the full community, including people who produce, prepare, distribute, serve, and eat food. Their goal is to build a shared vision—one that includes voices

from the public, private, and philanthropic sectors in addition to community members, particularly those most affected by current inequities in the food system.

Meeting Focus: Explore how the Vision has created a holistic process that includes comprehensive literature review, in-depth analyses, hundreds of interviews, several focus groups, and broad community engagement in order to transform the food system in San Diego County

San Diego Roots Sustainable Food Project

[San Diego Roots Sustainable Food Project |](#)

San Diego Roots Sustainable Food Project is a grassroots network of citizens, farmers, chefs, gardeners, teachers, and students working to encourage the growth and consumption of regional food. From farm to fork, the organization focuses awareness and work towards a more ecologically sound, economically viable, and socially just food system in San Diego. In addition through education and advocacy, the organization seeks to connect these farms with local eaters and to grow a vibrant local food economy that supports all.

Meeting Focus: Analyze how the SDRSFP has set up a supportive social network that engages members of the food community to encourage the growth and consumption of regional food

Resilient Roots

[Resilient Roots | Climate Science Alliance](#)

The mission of the Climate Science Alliance is to safeguard natural and human communities in the face of a changing climate. They do this through leading activities and creating partnerships which increase awareness of climate change impacts, promote solutions, and facilitate action. Resilient Roots has collaborated on more than a dozen science-focused projects, is partnered with over 400 organizations, and is engaged with over 20,000 community members.

Meeting Focus: Explore how Resilient Roots partners with other organizations and actors in the San Diego region to share skills, expertise, and knowledge in order to bridge the gap between research and application of boundary-spanning projects within the community

Innovation in Agriculture/Biotechnology

Cibus, LLC

[Cibus - Home - Driving Sustainable Agriculture](#)

Cibus, LLC generates environmentally-friendly crop traits for the agricultural community. Cibus, LLC works with partners from different sectors of the world's major crops for trait development

programs. Cibus's gene editing industry works without the use of transgenes or foreign DNA that are associated with GMO technologies. The company's goal is to help farmers tackle the challenges presented by the environment such as disease, weeds and pests in a more sustainable way with less chemicals, fuel and negative environmental impact. Additionally, Cibus, LLC applies the Rapid Trait Development System (RTDS) to create products that meet the needs of an expanding global population.

Meeting Focus: Discuss the development of products with environmentally-friendly traits for the global agricultural community

BIOCOM

www.biocom.org/

BIOCOM/San Diego's mission is to enhance and expand the business goals of their member partners through different opportunities in health, agriculture and energy. BIOCOM/San Diego promotes the growth of all sectors of the industry through creation of member value in the areas of public policy, agriculture, member services, education and business networking. BIOCOM/San Diego provides all of their members with the opportunity to connect and collaborate with the influential actors engaged in the different industries.

Meeting Focus: Discuss the association's focus on initiatives that position the region's life science industry competitively on the world stage, and on the development and delivery of innovative products that affect agricultural practices

University of California, San Diego – Division of Biological Sciences

www.biology.ucsd.edu/

The UC San Diego Division of Biological Sciences strives to enhance the basic knowledge of biological sciences by applying their research findings to promote health, the environment, and economic growth. The team of researchers has made breakthroughs to solve a number of issues including the protection of the world's food supply. The UC San Diego Division of Biological Sciences is committed to addressing global-issues that affect the environment, health and the economy by collaborating with like-minded research institutions.

Meeting Focus: Discuss biotechnology research, particularly on Plant Biology, with experts in plant molecular and cellular biology

Government Resources

Climate Smart Agriculture Programs under the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)

[Statewide Climate Smart Agriculture - Climate and Agriculture in San Diego County \(ucanr.edu\)](#)

CSA includes both on-farm and beyond the farm actions and incorporates technologies, policies, institutions and investment. In response, the Governor of California established three Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) programs that are aimed to: Increase farm productivity in a sustainable manner, support farming communities to adapt to climate change by building the resilience of agricultural livelihoods and ecosystems, and, wherever possible, and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Meeting Focus: Explore the CSA approach that involves different elements embedded in local contexts, and how it is crucial for the state of California to explore practices that can reduce the impact of climate change in the state as well as benefit local farmers and ranchers.

Agriculture, Weights, and Measures - San Diego County

[Agriculture, Weights and Measures \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](#)

The Agriculture, Weights, and Measures Department is responsible for a variety of agricultural concerns in San Diego County. This includes ensuring pesticides are used safely and investigating related illnesses, preventing the spread of pests that harm agriculture and the environment, and promoting the use of natural pest controls. In addition, they also verify produce is marked as organic, ensure vendors at farmers' markets grow what they sell, and verify that commercial weighing and measuring devices and price scanners are accurate.

Meeting Focus: Discuss how local government agencies work in tandem with state regulations related to agriculture to ensure sustainable foods are being produced that fall in line with Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) programs

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – Border Liaison Office, San Diego

[Environmental Topics | US EPA](#)

In October 1994, EPA established the Border Liaison Office in San Diego, California to support binational efforts that address environmental issues affecting U.S.-Mexico border communities. The mission of the Border Office is to advance the goals and objectives of the binational border environment program with Mexico and to leverage and collaborate with border stakeholders towards this mission. Among other tasks, the Border Office coordinates implementation of the binational U.S./Mexico Border Program, provides support to the Border 2020 Task Forces (currently there are 10 Task Forces), and facilitates dialogue and resolution of issues affecting border communities.

Meeting focus: Explore the goals of the Border 2020 initiative, particularly concerning energy efficiency, reducing air pollution, and improving access to clean water; Binational perspective

on environmental protection; To examine how food security is linked to environmental, energy and political security

**Home Hospitality can be offered for the group, as well as a volunteer activity (Saturdays only) **

San Diego Zoo

[San Diego Zoo | Home page](#)

Price: \$68-\$79 for one Adult Ticket

The 100-acre (40-hectare) Zoo is home to over 3,700 rare and endangered animals representing more than 650 species and subspecies, and a prominent botanical collection with more than 700,000 exotic plants. It is located just north of downtown San Diego in Balboa Park.

Harbor Cruise

[Flagship Cruises & Events | San Diego, California \(flagshipsd.com\)](#)

Price: Starting at \$24.75 for one Adult Ticket for one-hour tour

Their deluxe tour covers it all: Harbor and Shelter Islands, Point Loma, Cabrillo National Monument, North Island Naval Air Station, the Submarine Base, as well as the Coronado Bridge, and much more.

Balboa Park

[www.balboapark.org](#)

Home to 15 major museums, renowned performing arts venues, beautiful gardens and the San Diego Zoo, Balboa Park has an ever-changing calendar of museum exhibitions, plays, musicals, concerts, and classes—all in the beautiful and timeless setting of this must-see San Diego attraction.

Coronado

Consistently voted one of America's finest beaches by The Travel Channel, Coronado's beaches glisten year round due to the mineral Mica in the sand, while gentle waves caress the shoreline. From the shores of Silver Strand State Beach to the tip of the Coronado Municipal Beach, you'll find plenty of wide open sand, gentle waves and gorgeous views.

SeaWorld San Diego

[SeaWorld San Diego Theme Park - Aquarium, Zoo & Theme Park in California](#)

Price: Starting at \$71.99 for one single day Adult Ticket

Come celebrate the wonders of the sea at SeaWorld San Diego. Experience the Shamu show, One Ocean, and thrilling rides like Journey To Atlantis, Shipwreck Rapids and Wild Arctic. Feed and touch dolphins and get up-close to beluga whales, polar bears, sharks and penguins. Enjoy fascinating aquariums and exotic birds from around the world. Then dive into the world of sea turtles at the all-new Turtle Reef attraction.