**Statement of Interest**

Solving agricultural issues at scale will require concerted creativity and collaboration. During my PhD in Crop Physiology, I took a class in the industrial engineering department called ‘Decision Analysis’. I had seen the teacher give a talk, and felt his approaches had potential for application in agriculture. I was discouraged from taking this course, being told it was out of the realm of agronomic work. I persisted, and now believe that course was one of the most useful of my career (I recently published my project from that course). While we certainly need domain experts, my own research interests are broadly centered around how to sustainably use our agricultural land and as such I have a lot to gain from cross-pollination of ideas across disciplines. This conference represents an exciting opportunity for me to engage with a diverse group of folks looking for creative solutions to wicked problems, including how to sustainably use land. This is a unique opportunity for me to make connections that will help lay a multi-disciplinary foundation for my professional network as I grow into an academic researcher.

**Prior training**

I have a broad training background. During my undergraduate degree in engineering I received extensive training on methods for solving complex problems and identifying gaps in knowledge. My senior project involved assessing the mechanical potential for corn starch to be used to make bioplastics and bio-based lubricants, demonstrating an early interest in the bioeconomy. I also spent several seasons working on farms, which provided me with an understanding of the infrastructure and policies that influence how agriculture is implemented in a given place. I have been trained as a field agronomist, as well as how to use the process-based crop model APSIM, which allows me to explore implications of agricultural production scenarios at scale. I have also been trained in decision analysis, which can be used to understand how policy changes impact farmer decision-making outcomes. Finally, I have recently been working with Life Cycle Analysis methodologies to understand the climate implications of growing irrigated alfalfa under various California policy scenarios. I have been a part of 17 peer-reviewed publications, demonstrating my ability to work with others, as well as to lead projects through to completion.