Agricultural Sustainability Institute at UC Davis

Solutions for a sustainable food system

UC Davis
No. 1 in the world for agricultural teaching and research
The sustainability of food and farming is everybody’s issue.

There are more than 38 million Californians, and we all need to eat.

There are 81,500 farms and ranches in California, and we all need them to thrive.

We’re working for all of you.

Solutions for a sustainable food system

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PROFITABILITY. HEALTHFUL FOOD ACCESS.
INCREASED FOOD PRODUCTION.
LAND AND WATER STEWARDSHIP.
INNOVATIVE LEADERSHIP. CLIMATE ACTION.
FAIR, SAFE WORKING CONDITIONS.
BEST-MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.
Everybody has a stake in seeing that our farms can produce wholesome foods for us today and for the generations that follow. That’s why the Agricultural Sustainability Institute at UC Davis is working toward a new, healthier food system for the 21st century.
Working in partnership toward a more sustainable food system

The Agricultural Sustainability Institute at UC Davis (ASI) brings together the expertise of more than 70 UC Davis faculty, staff, postdoctoral fellows, graduate student researchers and undergraduate student assistants to address big and emerging issues related to food and farming sustainability.

We partner with farmers, ranchers, agribusiness, nonprofits, policymakers and local communities to ensure that our research and teaching respond to the needs of the people of California and the world.

At the top agricultural college in the world, in the most agriculturally diverse state in the nation, ASI is working to create a more sustainable food system in several ways:

Education: We nurture the next generation of leaders in agriculture through an innovative new undergraduate major in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems, and we teach children and adults throughout various communities about food, nutrition and the environment.

Research: We work with partners throughout the state to ensure nutritious and accessible food, fertile soil, healthy communities and environments, and prosperous farms and ranches.

Outreach: We share our discoveries with many people and groups that can spur positive change.

Fred Bixby’s gift to UC Davis in 1955 to support “training in practical agriculture” was endowed in perpetuity and provides a stable resource base for the Student Farm, where students gain hands-on farming experience.

The Columbia Foundation and Clarence E. Heller Charitable Foundation supported the creation of the interdisciplinary new major in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems.

The estate gift from Constant and Tempest van Vlierden provides scholarships for students in the Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems major.
The role of philanthropy

The Agricultural Sustainability Institute at UC Davis has long partnered with philanthropic foundations, forward-thinking companies and concerned individuals to solve pressing problems and create a sustainable future for agriculture. Donors play an instrumental role in advancing discovery, innovation and change beyond what can be achieved by relying solely on campus funds and government grants. Philanthropic donations enable ASI to attract and support the best minds of today and tomorrow — faculty and students who are working across disciplines and solving the complex problems of an interconnected world.

We invite you to join this landmark effort.
The campaign to endow the institute

ASI is committed to partnering with visionary donors to build an endowment to set the agenda for sustainable agriculture and food systems.

By making an endowment gift, a donor:

- Provides academic “venture capital” so faculty can explore novel ways of creating a more sustainable future for agriculture
- Supports current and future generations of students interested in agriculture and food systems
- Enables research to be shared with a greater number of farmers and ranchers throughout California, the nation and the planet

We seek to raise $50 million. And, just as the strength of a farm is carried in its many crops and the people who plant and tend them, so must our endowment be grown one gift at a time.

Your gift can be directed toward the work of an ASI program of your choice, or can be used to benefit the institute overall. A gift of any size will help ensure that the work of ASI thrives today and into the future.

Endowments have lasting impact. Endowed funds are invested in perpetuity. Each year, a portion of the investment income is used to fund the purpose of the endowment, while the principal continues to grow. Through an endowment donation, you contribute to a sustainable future for ASI and food systems.

Campbell Soup Company created an endowment that supports sustainable agriculture research at the Russell Ranch Sustainable Agriculture Facility at UC Davis. Endowment proceeds have been used to fund undergraduates gaining experience by working at the farm.
UC Davis facts and distinctions

1st in the world for teaching and research in the area of agriculture and forestry, according to rankings released by QS World University Rankings (2013)

1st among 96 of “America’s Coolest Schools” Sierra (a publication of the Sierra Club) magazine’s sixth annual ranking of the greenest universities (2012)

Most published and cited U.S. research university in agricultural sciences, environment/ecology, and food science and nutrition (ISI Essential Science Indicators)

7th among public universities (The Best Colleges’ Top 50 Colleges and Universities in America for 2013)

7th among the 20 Best Colleges for Socially Conscious Students (2012)

8th among U.S. universities based on our contributions to society (Washington Monthly, 2011)

1906
Founded as the University Farm School

5,300
Campus acres — the largest UC campus

33,300
Students enrolled at UC Davis (fall 2012)

213,626
Living alumni with UC Davis degrees
Agricultural Sustainability Institute at UC Davis

- The first sustainable agriculture program in the nation at a land-grant university, the UC Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SAREP), established in 1986, is now part of ASI

- 80+ undergraduate students are enrolled in the newest major at UC Davis, Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems

- The only long-term study on the planet to look at irrigated Mediterranean agriculture at a commercial scale, at the Russell Ranch Sustainable Agriculture Facility at UC Davis

- 1,700+ elementary school children receive hands-on education in food, nutrition, agriculture and ecology at the UC Davis Student Farm each year

- $12 million+ is already endowed in perpetuity to support the people and programs of the Agricultural Sustainability Institute at UC Davis