



HEALTHY SOILS INCENTIVES PROGRAM

Geetika Joshi, PhD
Senior Environmental Scientist

CALIFORNIA BIORESOURCES ALLIANCE
NOVEMBER 1, 2016
SACRAMENTO, CA

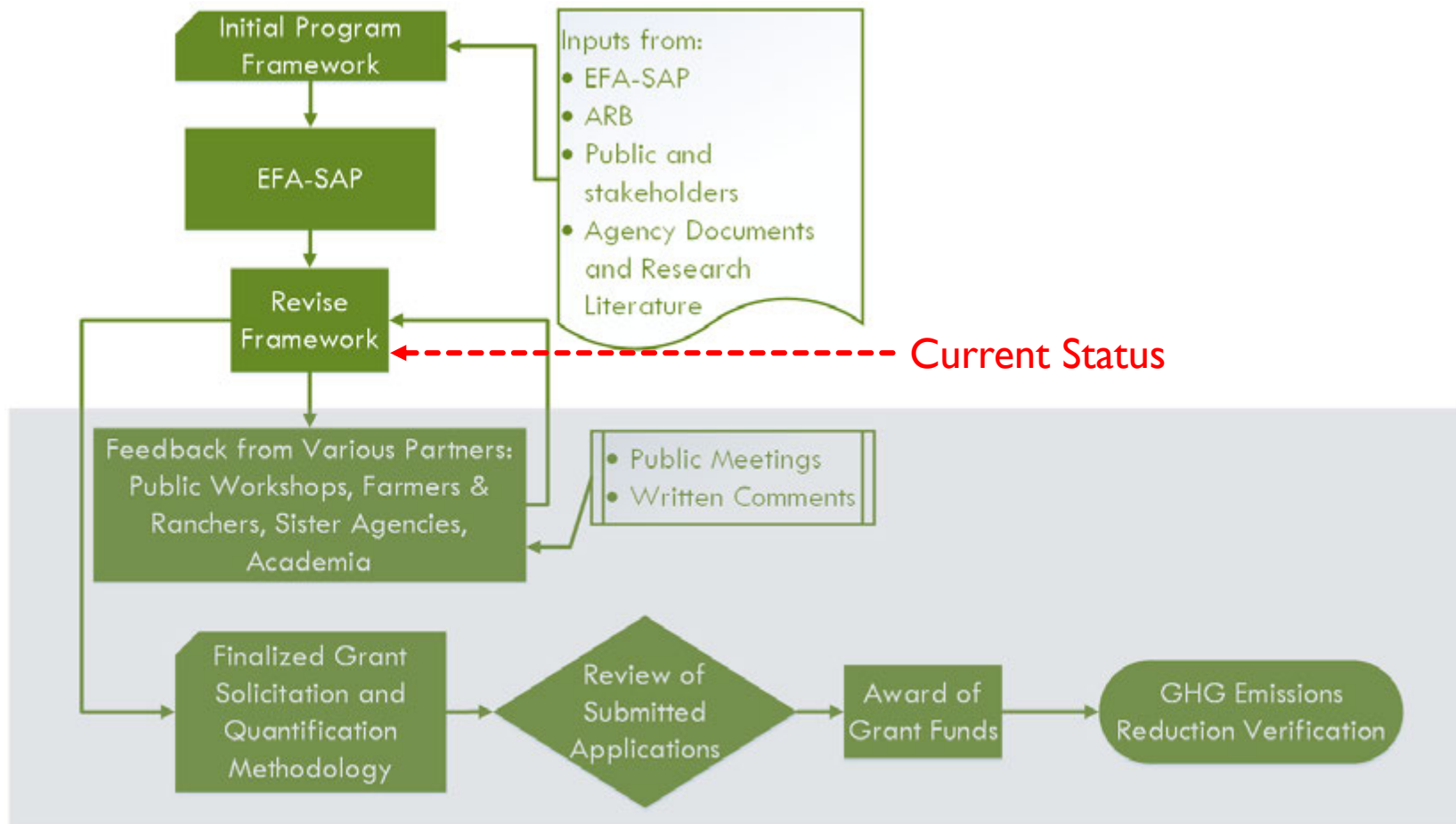
PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Objective & Funding
- Program Development Process
- Draft program framework including:
 - Eligibility
 - Potential management practices for incentives program and GHG reduction quantification methodology
 - Application information and co-benefits
 - Tentative timeline
 - Demonstration projects

OBJECTIVE AND FUNDING

- *Objective:* To build soil carbon and reduce agricultural GHG emissions through incentives and demonstration projects.
- CDFA appropriated \$7.5 million in FY 2016-17 to develop and administer a new incentive and demonstration program on the CA Healthy Soils Initiative from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT PROCESS



FRAMEWORK PROPOSED FOR DISCUSSION: INCENTIVES PROGRAM - ELIGIBILITY

- Eligibility: California farmers and ranchers.
- Projects must be located in CA and result in GHG reductions from agricultural practices for a specified time period, quantifiable using a method determined by ARB.
- Projects funded under this solicitation to use one or more of the eligible **USDA-NRCS Conservation Practice Standards** identified in the grant solicitation, and/or compost application.
- An agricultural operation to only submit one application using a unique tax identification number per round of funding to allow wide distribution of funds.

MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TENTATIVELY CONSIDERED FOR INCENTIVES

- Improved Fertilizer Management (590a)
- Mulching (484)
- Cropland Compost Application (Not an NRCS Practice)
- Grassland Compost Application (Not an NRCS Practice)
- Herbaceous Cover:
 - Herbaceous Wind Barriers (603)
 - Vegetative Barriers (601)
 - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
 - Contour Buffer Strips (332)
 - Field Border (386)
 - Filter Strip (393)
- Woody Cover:
 - Windbreak/ shelterbelt establishment/renovation (380)
 - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
 - Hedgerow Planting (422)
 - Silvopasture (381)

QUANTIFICATION METHODOLOGY FOR GHG EMISSION REDUCTIONS

- Per SB 862, the California Air Resources Board (ARB) is required to develop quantification methods for agencies receiving Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) appropriations.
- ARB, in collaboration with CDFA, is evaluating COMET-Planner, published research, assessment reports and other possible approaches to develop a quantification methodology for the Healthy Soils Incentives Program.

FRAMEWORK PROPOSED FOR DISCUSSION: INCENTIVES PROGRAM – APPLICATION

- Applicant would provide information including but not limited to:
 - Description of the proposed project.
 - Estimation of greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions according to an ARB approved methodology developed in consultation with CDFA:
 - Include baseline estimates and supporting documentation
 - Specify the life of the project and how GHG emission reductions will continue to occur over the required timeframe.
- In finalized grant solicitations, CDFA and ARB will provide additional guidance for ongoing tracking and reporting of net GHG benefits from project activities.

FRAMEWORK PROPOSED FOR DISCUSSION: INCENTIVES PROGRAM – CO-BENEFITS

- CDFA will generate a list of co-benefits to be given additional consideration during application review.
- Benefits to disadvantaged communities (DACs) – based on ARB guidance.

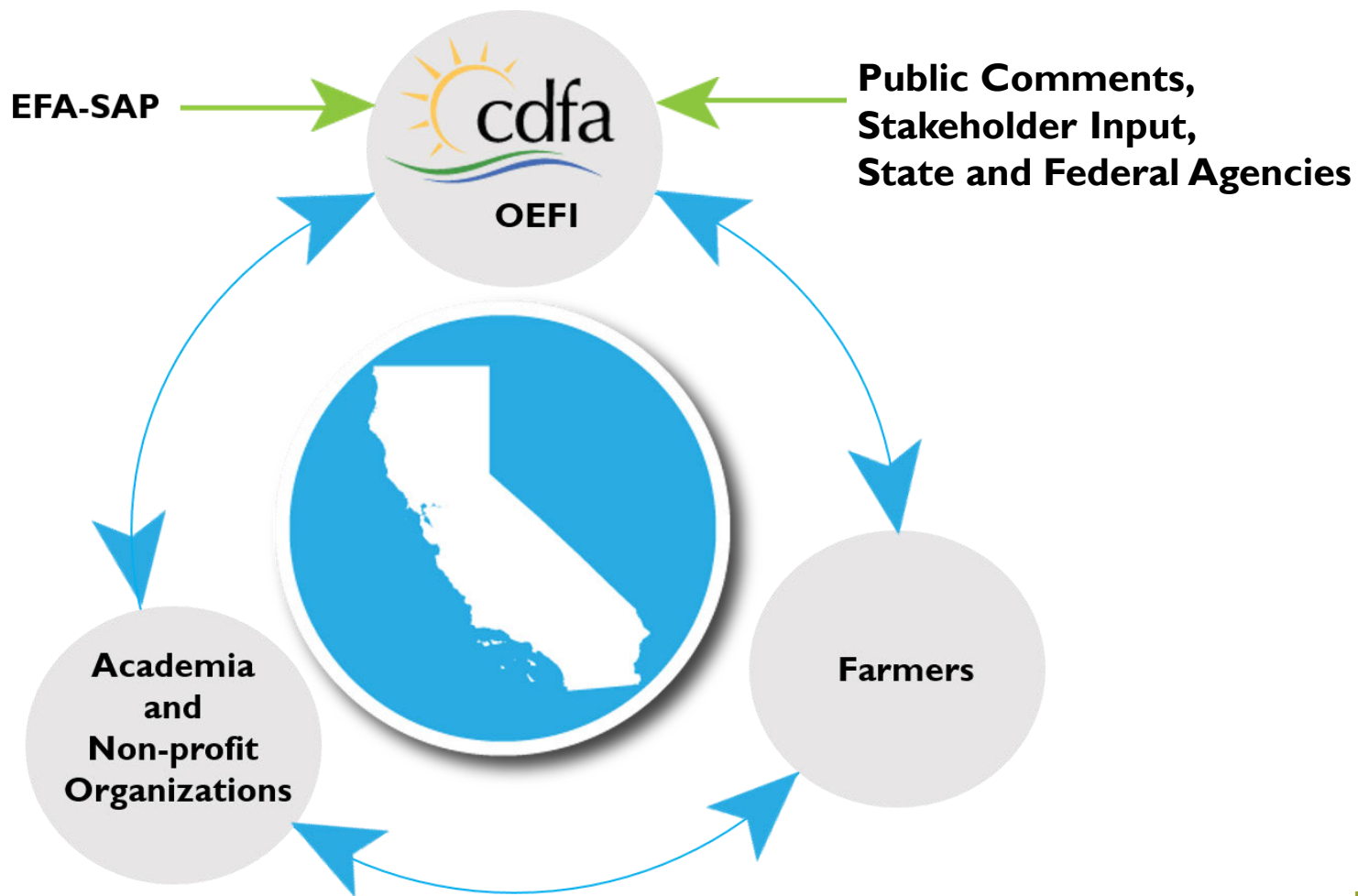
FRAMEWORK PROPOSED FOR DISCUSSION: INCENTIVES PROGRAM – TENTATIVE TIMELINE

ITEM	ESTIMATED DATES
Program framework development, including Quantification Methodology	September 2016 – January 2017
Public stakeholder meetings for program design feedback (EFA-SAP) and finalize application guidelines	January – May 2017
Grant solicitation released and grant application workshops	May 2017
Applications proposals due	June 2017
Proposal evaluation (Technical Review)	June – September 2017
Announce grant awardees	September 2017
Project implementation to begin	October 2017

FRAMEWORK PROPOSED FOR DISCUSSION: DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

- **Objective:** Provide funding for projects that achieve net GHG benefits from soil carbon sequestration or GHG emissions reduction in the field.
- **Eligibility:**
 - Projects *must* have field/on-farm component with quantifiable GHG emission reductions.
 - Partnerships:
 - Ag Operations/Industry Groups + Academia and/or Non-profit organizations and/or RCDs
 - Ag Operations/Industry Groups + Non-profit organizations/RCDs
 - Academia + Non-profit organizations/RCDs
 - Outreach and education component (e.g. Field Day).
 - In finalized grant solicitations, CDFA and ARB will provide additional guidance for ongoing tracking and reporting of net GHG benefits from project activities.

PARTNERSHIPS FOR SOIL HEALTH



PROGRAM CONTACTS

Geetika Joshi, Ph.D.

Senior Environmental Scientist

Geetika.Joshi@cdfa.ca.gov

Amrith Gunasekara. Ph.D.

Science Advisor to CDFA Secretary

Manager, Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation

Amrith.Gunasekara@cdfa.ca.gov