ORGANIZACION DE TRABAJADORES AGRICOLAS VALLE CENTRAL DE CALIFORNIA

December 11, 2010

University of California
Agricultural Sustainability Institute (ASI)
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (UC SAREP)
2010 Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Competitive Grants Program

To Whom It May Concern:

The Organizacion de Trabajadores Agricolas de California/California Farm Workers Organization, is a willing and enthusiastic supporter of the proposed project on assessing community heat stress risk in farm worker communities.

We will work as a partner in the project and will assist in outreach and creating contacts in the farm worker communities of San Joaquin County. We will work as contractors to CIRS.

I feel this is an important project for the following reasons: Farmworkers will be more protected and less risk by teching them the ways to stay free of heat and to speak up when they feel they need to be heard. By having more equipped housing they will be more safer because most of the time, they live in houses or mobile homes that do not have air conditioner and clean water. Teaching them how to be safe by washing their clothes right so they could be free of skin problems.

Farm worker communities are overlooked in the discussion of "sustainable" agriculture but are essential and awareness of this population needs to be raised. At this time the farmworker are not taking them into consideration because they are not in the discussion or projects, most of them not even speak Spanish and the communication between them becomes difficult because they need to learn Spanish first in order to learn English. it is very difficult because the luck of the English language and their legal status it is a barrel for them to succeed.

Sincerely,

Luis Magaña Coordinator

OTAC (Central Valley Farm Workers Organization)

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