

University of California
Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Biennial Report

of the UC Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program

To the California State Legislature
In response to SB 872 (Chapter 1188, Statutes of 1986)

July 1997 to June 1999



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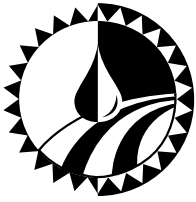
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Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program

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SAREP In A New Century

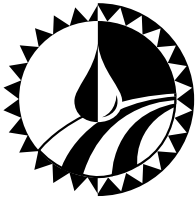
In 1986, the California Legislature requested the formation of SAREP to respond to statewide concerns about public research and education efforts toward the pressing problems of the sustainability of California agriculture. I am happy to report to you that in 1997-1999, the directives of the founding legislation outlined in our mission and goals statements on the previous page were carried out by SAREP in an exemplary fashion.

How will SAREP help lead the effort to increase the sustainability of California agriculture into the next millennium? Looking back over the last two years provides part of the answer; SAREP has awarded more than \$1.4 million in sustainable agriculture grants to both university and other applicants. Much of these funds went to support broad research and education partnerships within a particular region or commodity. For example, our Biologically Integrated Farming Systems program awards funds to farmers, farm advisors, and agricultural professionals to create strategic partnerships for agricultural chemical use reduction in winegrapes, walnuts, prunes, rice, citrus, strawberries, apples and other commodities. Our Community Development and Public Policy grants provide resources for food systems research and community-based initiatives that will lead to greater food security for urban residents and simultaneously forge stronger connections with local growers.

Never has the concept and practice of sustainable agriculture been more inclusive and broadly accepted. Sustainable agriculture has emerged as a conceptual tool with a clear research agenda for addressing the challenges confronting agriculture and food systems in California. I look forward to working with you to address the issues of agricultural sustainability in the new millennium and sharing with you, in this biennial report, program accomplishments to meet this challenge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean L. Swezey".

Sean L. Swezey, director



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