



# CALIFORNIA ALMOND SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

## TRACKING PROGRESS

In 2009, we established the California Almond Sustainability Program (CASP) to educate almond farmers and processors about best practices as well as gain insights about how they farm collectively. CASP functions through self-assessments in which participants answer questions about their practices across the spectrum of almond farming topics. This information provides data about how California almonds are grown and the adoption of best practices while highlighting opportunities for improvement.

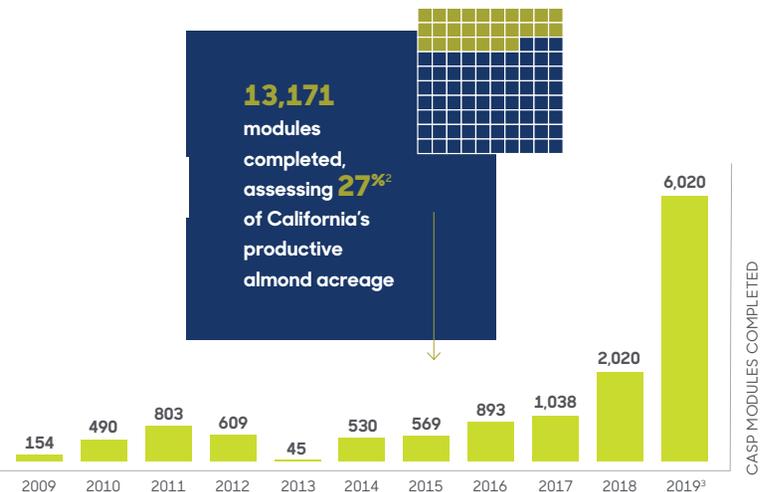
CASP also plays an important role in measuring progress toward the Almond Orchard 2025 Goals, providing baselines and metrics for many of those initiatives.

## LINKING BEYOND ALMONDS

In response to increasing questions from buyers and retailers about how almonds are grown, ABC launched the CASP Supply Chain Program this year, linking farmers' CASP assessments with their almond processor. This provides processors with aggregated sustainability information about how the almonds they handle are grown. Currently 10% of California's almond processors are utilizing the CASP Supply Chain Program.<sup>1</sup>

## GLOBALLY RECOGNIZED

Benchmarked gold-level equivalent against the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative Platform's Farm Sustainability Assessment (FSA), CASP provides a tool and common language to translate the practices relevant to growing almonds in California to general sustainable farming practices. Of the farms that have measured their individual practices against the FSA through CASP, 83% are silver-level equivalent or better, indicating top sustainability performance!<sup>2</sup>



## 9 SELF-ASSESSMENT MODULES

1. Irrigation management
2. Nutrient and soil management
3. Pest management
4. Air quality
5. Energy efficiency
6. Bee health and pollination
7. Financial management
8. Ecosystem management
9. Workplace and communities

## 2 CALCULATORS

1. Irrigation scheduling
2. Nitrogen budgeting

**1,310** schedules and budgets created, supporting on-farm decision-making

**2,031** farmers, field managers, applicators and others attended CASP events in 2020

## 39 WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

- Orchard workshops
- Individualized on-farm visits

### "Virtual Tailgates" and digital "Lunch and Learns"

Adapting to COVID-19, ABC staff and partner organizations went virtual. Given the great success of those events, CASP will be offering a mix of virtual and in-person events going forward to best meet participants' needs.

MEET MALLVINDER KAHAL  
ALMOND FARMER, MERCED, CA

"The big benefit for farmers is that CASP doesn't require them to go find this information. It provides farmers with the tools to learn about sustainability and ultimately grow almonds in a more sustainable way."



1. California Almond Sustainability Program, November 2020.  
2. 27% represents the amount of California almond acreage where one or more CASP self-assessment modules have been completed.  
3. Each assessment year begins November 1 for the year listed and ends October 31 of the following year, matching the annual almond crop cycle  
Document #2020CN0134 © 2020 Almond Board of California.