



Native community members participate in a soil health demo. Photo credit: Courtesy of Intertribal Agriculture Council, [www.indianag.org](http://www.indianag.org)

# Growing Value for Producers Through Increased Access to Markets for Climate Smart Commodities

## OVERVIEW OF PROJECT:

Winrock International was awarded a \$20 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities for a project focused on *Growing Value for Producers Through Increased Access to Markets for Climate-Smart Commodities*. This five-year award will support U.S. rice farmers and cattle ranchers in Arkansas and Missouri, and on Tribal Lands to increase adoption of climate-smart practices and capitalize on their climate value by certifying and monetizing results.

The project will develop and pilot a fully digital farmer-friendly registry system to issue and track producer-owned agricultural greenhouse gas (GHG) certificates based on climate smart practices. Farmers can monetize the certificates through commodity markets, enabling corporate buyers to advance supply chain climate claims. The project will offer financial and technical support to producers to adopt practices and participate in the market through sales of the certificates.

With a mission to empower the disadvantaged, increase economic opportunity and sustain natural resources, Winrock International implements a portfolio of more than 100 agriculture, environment, and social development projects in over 40 countries. Winrock International, including The Wallace Center and ACR, will implement this project in partnership with Riceland Foods, Intertribal Agriculture Council, and Arva Intelligence.

## OBJECTIVES:

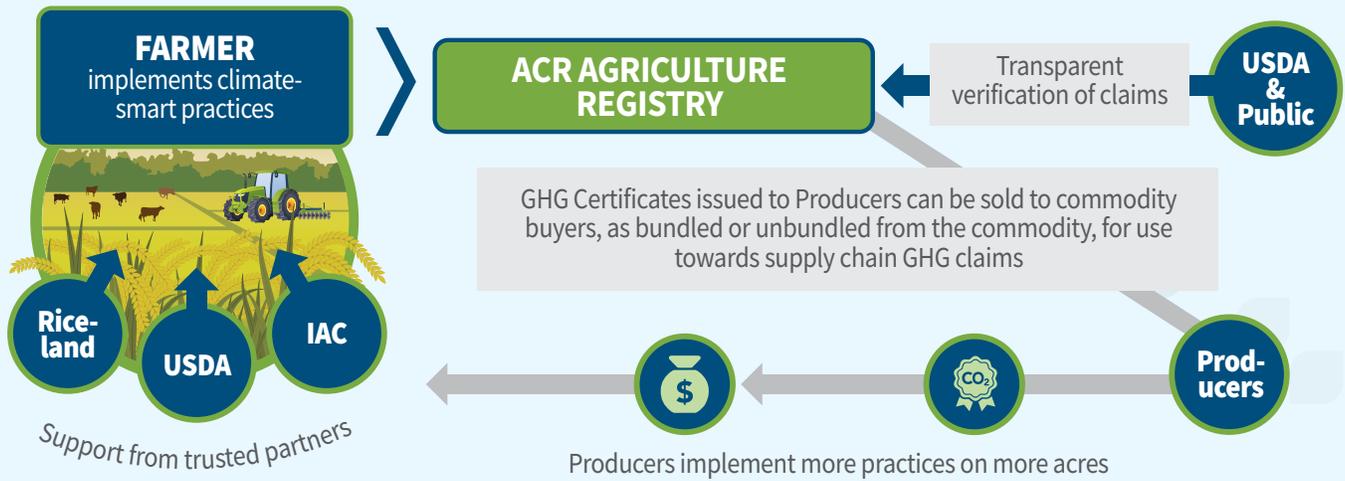
**Build capacity with agricultural nonprofit organizations, cooperatives, and private businesses** interacting with a range of producers, including underserved, to support adoption of climate-smart practices and interact with commodity buyers in the market.

**Generate producer-owned agricultural GHG Certificates** that are quantified, verified, issued and tracked on a fully digital agriculture registry platform, and that can be monetized by producers via commodity markets for corporate buyers to substantiate supply chain climate claims.

**Create a runway of financial and technical support** for producers to adopt practices and participate in the market through the sale of certificates.

**Maximize value to farmers** through producer-friendly automated and efficient GHG quantification, data collection, and verification processes that reduce transaction costs.

**Offer a nationally scalable model** for all producers, commodities, and practices across the U.S.



## ANTICIPATED IMPACTS AND BENEFITS (2023-2028):



**50,000 new acres** enrolled in climate smart practices with at least 10 new practice types adopted on new acres.



**150,000 MT CO<sub>2</sub>-e<sub>2</sub> in greenhouse gas benefits** issued as GHG certificates for agriculture practices in Arkansas and Missouri and rangeland practices on Tribal lands.



**\$6.5 million to producers** for adoption of climate smart practices and monetization of greenhouse gas certificates.



Adoption of new practices by at least **20 underserved producers** on 30,000 acres.



Hosting of at least **30 market engagement events**.



Launch of a **new GHG certificate model** that offers both integrity and scalability.

By developing and testing a new registry for the benefits of climate smart practices on agricultural and range lands, this project will work to develop a scalable model that can ultimately support farmers and ranchers across the United States.

## IMPLEMENTING ROLES:

**The Wallace Center at Winrock International** has extensive experience working with U.S. farmers and farming organizations on implementing conservation farming practices. Wallace Center will manage partner relationships, including with producers and Tribes.

**ACR at Winrock International**, the world's first GHG registry, is a globally recognized carbon crediting program with expertise in developing methodologies and operating registry systems. ACR will develop and manage the digital registry and issue and track the associated certificates.

**Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC)** works with over 570 Tribal Nations in all 50 states to create regenerative food economies in Indian Country. The IAC has become recognized as the most respected voice within the Indian community and government circles on agricultural policies and programs in Indian country.

**Riceland Foods**, the world's largest marketer of rice, is a producer-owned cooperative that provides marketing services for rice and soybeans grown by its 5,500 producer-members in Arkansas and Missouri. With a membership that includes diverse and historically underserved producers, Riceland has served local communities for over one hundred years.

**Arva Intelligence** is a technology B-corporation with an established producer-facing platform that leverages machine learning-based data analytics to help producers identify and implement regenerative practices. Arva's artificial intelligence modeling optimizes for efficiency, profitability, and the creation of nature-based environmental assets.

Visit our project page [here](#) or contact Project Lead Megan Wall ([megan.wall@winrock.org](mailto:megan.wall@winrock.org)) to learn more.