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New project focuses on sharing sustainability data

By [Tom Karst \(/users/tomkarst\)](#) May 08, 2015 | 3:19 pm EDT



The Stewardship Index for Specialty Crops has organized a project to help the produce supply chain collect and share data on farm input use.

The Supply Chain Stewardship Design Project's aim is to create a basis for supply chain systems to share performance metric data, according to a news release from the

group.

"Together we are coming up with guidelines for how to use this data with integrity and in ways that work for everyone along the entire supply chain," Jason Dye, project participant and senior manager for Foodbuy/Compass Group, said in the release. "As a buyer, I am thankful for having a process, and usage guidelines, that are so directly informed by the growers themselves."

The project, funded by a U.S. Department of Agriculture California Conservation Innovation grant, will work with California central coast lettuce growers during the 2015-16 season. The plan for the project is to provide best practices to the industry by the fall of 2016, according to the release.

Taylor Farms, D'Arrigo Bros. Produce, Church Brothers Produce, Western Growers Association, The Sustainability Consortium, PRO*ACT, Compass Group, Raley's, NRDC, Sustainable Conservation, NRCS and Central Coast RCD's will participate in the project, according to the release.

About the Author:



Tom Karst

Tom Karst is national editor for The Packer, covering issues of importance to the produce industry including immigration, farm policy and food safety. He began his career with Vance Publishing Corp., The Packer's parent company, in 1984 as one of the founding editors of ProNet, a pioneering electronic news service for the produce industry. Tom has also served as markets editor for The

Packer and editor of Global Produce magazine in his time at Vance Publishing, among other positions. Tom is also the main author of Fresh Talk, www.tinyurl.com/freshtalkblog, an industry blog that has been active since November 2006. Previous to Vance, Tom worked from 1982 to 1984 at Harris Electronic News, a farm videotext service based in Hutchinson, Kansas. Tom has a bachelor's degree in agricultural journalism from Kansas State University, Manhattan. He can be reached at tkarst@thepacker.com and 913-438-0769. Find Tom's Twitter account at www.twitter.com/tckarst.
