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Enhancing Conservation Effects on Agricultural Landscapes: A Vision for the Future of CEAP

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Abstract Text:

The Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP), a multi-agency project led by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, was initiated in 2003. Many activities have been undertaken at watershed, regional, and national scales to address the original goal of CEAP, quantifying the effects of conservation practices. However, complex new challenges, such as biofuels production, drought, and climate change, will make the task of reducing risk to natural resources even more difficult. A vision for future opportunities for CEAP will be discussed. The vision will lead us toward developing the science base and translating that science into practice on the landscape to improve conservation effectiveness and address environmental goals. Coordinated research, assessment, and education will form the basis of a plan to meet future conservation and technology needs, helping us gain the most from conservation efforts to protect and enhance environmental quality.

Impact Statement:

This project has improved water resources by enhancing our understanding of the effectiveness of conservation practices at the watershed scale.