



# 'Growing Resilience in US Rice Production' - Program Overview

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Amidst well documented flood & drought-driven production declines, depressed farm-gate prices, and export headwinds, the US rice market faces challenging market trends and forecast in 2025 and beyond. As a timely response to these issues, EcoHarvest proposes regenerative agriculture production as an economic relief & resilience solution for rice production systems.

Leveraging scientific guidance from ESMC's research arm and the technical expertise of Soil & Climate Initiative's Delta Regen Rice program team, EcoHarvest will design and deliver a scalable education, engagement & enrollment project framework that promotes the introduction of additional row crops (e.g. soybeans) into regenerative rice rotations as the centerpiece of a diversified financial model.

Based on field data from the South, continuous-flooded rice emits roughly ~2.2 t CO<sub>2</sub>e per acre per season, most of which is methane. Alternate wetting and drying (AWD) and related practices commonly reduce methane emissions by roughly ~40-65%, which translates to ~0.9-1.4 t CO<sub>2</sub>e avoided per acre per season. No till, direct seeded rice systems can save 15% of total water use. Currently, only ~50% of Louisiana farmers, and even fewer in the Mississippi Delta, use reduced tillage. Improved water management also reduces nutrient runoff, enhancing downstream water quality and lessening hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico.

The EcoHarvest 'Growing Resilience in US Rice Production' program proposes the adoption of regenerative practices such AWD, reduced tillage, residue and rotation management, and targeted nutrient use in Mississippi Delta-region conservation-derived rice systems to generate regenerative outcomes, including substantially reduced greenhouse gas emissions (mainly methane), water conservation, and delivery of water quality and biodiversity co-benefits. These outcomes will be generated and verified via EcoHarvest's MRV platform.

To plan for collaboration, reach out to Doug Adams, ESMC's Senior Manager of Partnerships, at [dadams@ecosystemservicesmarket.org](mailto:dadams@ecosystemservicesmarket.org).

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