

# Considering Community in Agricultural Decision-Making

## Potential Benefits for Farmers and Agricultural Communities

This is an overview of key findings from a study exploring how and to what extent the broader community is considered in farming decisions. Interviews and surveys were conducted with agricultural stakeholders to gather information. This information provides valuable insights into the connections between individual farm operations and the well-being of the local community.



### COMMUNITY HEALTH

Some farmers expressed concerns over the potential consequences of using certain specific chemicals, like dicamba, on the local environment and the well-being of community members.

### RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



Certain farmers exemplify their environmental responsibility by actively reducing resource consumption, notably water. They understand the need to adopt practices that balance their farm's requirements with the sustainability of the broader community.



### LOCAL ECONOMY

Farmers stress how crucial it is to boost the local economy and support nearby businesses. They achieve this by sourcing their supplies and services locally and selling their products in local markets whenever they can. They recognize that their farming activities are a significant factor in the financial well-being of their local communities.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

Farmers understand how crucial it is to get involved in local groups and initiatives to help their communities thrive. For example, some farmers work to educate younger generations about agriculture and provide opportunities for them to get hands-on experience with farming activities.

## POTENTIAL BENEFITS FOR FARMERS



Engaging with the broader community can help farmers build a positive reputation and access new opportunities.

## FARMER WELL-BEING



Having strong ties with the community can positively impact the well-being of farmers by reducing feelings of isolation, improving farm profitability and economic security, and enhancing their overall quality of life.



## On the Right Path, But the Journey Continues!

Farmers are encouraged to seek support from local agricultural extension services, farmer networks, and community organizations as they embark on this journey. Together, we can cultivate a future where agriculture and community influence each other in more sustainable ways.

## Additional Resources

More resources on social sustainability in agriculture can be found on the SARE website:

<https://www.sare.org/social>

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