

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD

December 2024

EMPLOYEE: Yared Kebede
UNIT: Monitoring and Implementation - ILRP
TITLE: Environmental Scientist
SUPERVISOR/TITLE: Petra Lee, Senior Environmental Scientist

Yared is receiving this award for his outstanding accomplishments in the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. Yared is an all-around excellent employee. He's willing to do whatever is asked of him and is always learning new things that he applies to his work! In the last year or so, in addition to his regular work, he's helped with at least 10 different Pesticide Evaluation Protocols (PEPs), assisted with groundwater reviews, helped with several data analyses including comparing two watersheds, and more!

Notably, Yared developed an internal Irrigation Nitrogen Management Plan (INMP) GIS Dashboard (Dashboard), which was very ambitious and has been very helpful to ILRP staff. After proposing the idea to his management, he sorted millions of lines of data which were then used to develop the Dashboard.

Yared's dashboard has been useful to staff in preparing for on-farm inspections, assessing members' accuracy in their INMP reporting, and monitoring whether member-reported data is included in the dataset. Using this dashboard, staff can easily compare members' applied nitrogen values to their coalition averages and sort the data by crop type and township-range, as well as a number of different features. Staff can get a quick ballpark figure for what levels of applied Nitrogen to expect and can advise the member what is average for their coalition, local area, and crop.

For example, staff reviewed a member's INMP summary report where the member inaccurately recorded nitrogen added data for wine grapes. Checking the Dashboard, staff was quickly able to find that the average in the grower's coalition was half of what the grower posted, and they helped the grower correct the problem. Staff could also see that the members' township-range had no data, indicating likely issues with the submitted information. This helped staff get the member back on track to correct reporting.

Yared has been very helpful in teaching staff how to use the Dashboard, making it easy to search for useful data by address, coalition, township-range, and crop type.

Thank you Yared for all your dedication and thoughtfulness to the program!