

## Social Impact Fund

### **How can we help Delmarva non-profit organizations foster innovations in agriculture?**

Because of the juxtaposition of water and farmland, Agriculture and the Environment are intertwined. Agriculture and the Environment are in a delicate balance. Changes in the agricultural management practices lead to changes in the environment. While regulating or working to change nutrient management practices to solve environmental challenges, success comes when there is evidence, that can be verified, in the environment, resulting from improvements in the body of clean water, related to such management practices in the agriculture sector..

The EDEN Project in collaboration with Discover Bank has developed a New Concept – A Non-Profit Fund to impact agriculture and the environment that is sustainable. This Social Impact Fund is innovatively decreasing the risks for institutional capital investors who invest in technology innovations and practices that support the agricultural sector.

In turn, projects which have potential to create significant and effective impact on water quality and on-farm practices are selected for success. This enables often overlooked, promising technological advances in the agricultural sector to get the capital investments required, but not readily attained in the current climate. The Social Impact Fund assesses how the technology meets certain benchmarks in project outcomes. The Funding is then considered either a loan with ROI, or a grant based on agreed upon criteria.