Rival of Teamsters to Get an A.F.L.-C.I.O. Charter

By LAWRENCE E. DAVIES Special to The New York Times

Two California farm labor groups announced a merger plan last week. The National Farm Workers Association of Cesar Chavez and the Agricultural Workers Congress of California, A.F.L.-C.I.O., have decided to merge, according to a joint statement.

The statement was announced by Mr. Chavez and principales of the A.W.C., who said the merger would create a new, larger and stronger labor organization for the benefit of workers on California farms.

The merger is expected to take effect early next year. The leaders of the two organizations said they had been working together for several months to make the merger possible.

The A.W.C., which is a Congress of Industrial Organizations (C.I.O.) affiliate, has about 52,000 members. The National Farm Workers Association, affiliated with the A.F.L., has about 50,000 members.

Mr. Chavez said the merger would allow the new organization to pool its resources and work more effectively to improve the conditions of farm workers.

He added that the new union would be able to negotiate contracts with larger companies and would have a stronger bargaining position.

The merger was announced at a press conference in Los Angeles, where the leaders of the two organizations met.

The new union will be known as the United Farm Workers of America. Its headquarters will be in San Francisco.