

CAFÉ Workshop

Saturday February 6, 2016

Orange Group

Project Theme: Impact of Globalization on Agricultural Sustainability & Food Security.

Issue: Increased Globalization of agricultural trade has heightened issues of Food Security, Agricultural Sustainability, Exotic Species, and Agricultural Plant Genetic Resources.

This research project will study the interconnection and effects globalization has created through increased introduction of exotic weeds, pests, and diseases, threats to plant genetic resources from agricultural expansion in areas of diversity, and economic pressure on specialty crops from foreign competition not subject to US environmental and food safety regulations. These global pressures will continue to challenge be agricultural sustainability in California.

Furthermore, the issue of Food Safety becomes increasingly critical with the impact of global agricultural trade. On a domestic level, the US government has proposed sweeping changes to current Food Safety guidelines. However, complicating the enforcement of these changes are additional standards that major food retailers and wholesalers impose on producers. These additional standards often are not based in science and have no regard to harmonization with current standards. An integrated approach from farm to trade to consumer is required, which considers science based approach to food safety.

UCR can facilitate these combined issues through interlinkage of departments and by utilizing the strengths of edible crops for which UCR is recognized and uniquely positioned as a leader. Examples are citrus, avocado, cowpea, and asparagus.

This systems approach will utilize departments of in microbiology, engineering, plant sciences, chemistry, economics, and public policy in developing solutions to these issues.