UCR URBAN AGRICULTURE CAFE PROJECT

Written by Deborah Pagliaccia

Group Members:

Amy Litt       amy.litt@ucr.edu
Joyce Jong     joycejong@gmail.com
Katia Silvera katias@ucr.edu
Deborah Pagliaccia deborahp@ucr.edu
Milt McGiffen  milt@ucr.edu
Fortino Morales Fortino.morales@ucr.edu
Gina Gonzales  ginagezelle@gmail.com
Bryan
All 10 UC campuses are charged with the task of helping to solve the global food crisis. A University of California Global Food Initiative was launched in 2014 to address one of the critical issues of our time: how to sustainably and nutritiously feed a world population expected to reach eight billion by 2025. Indeed, one of the main UC Global Food Initiative goals is to use the power of UC research and extension to help individuals and communities to access safe, affordable and nutritious food while sustaining our natural resources. UC Riverside can help lead this effort by exploring modern farming methods to achieve a comprehensive food security infrastructure.

UCR has the potential to be an incubator for innovative sustainable local food production systems (Vertical farming, rooftop gardening, hydroponic, aquaponics, high-tech indoor, micro farming, permaculture, biodynamic) and sustainable farming experts (Crop Management Consultant, Land Use Manager, Precision Agriculture Specialist, Organic Agriculture Entrepreneur, Renewable Energy Crop Producer, Restoration Forester, Seed Producer, Food Justice Advocates), and thus develop an urban farming model system for future generations. The innovative food production systems will also become a platform for the UC research and extension specialists to get involved and to develop science-based information and tools necessary for productive and economically sustainable urban cropping systems.

The overall goal of the project is to develop a comprehensive program that will:

1) Promote the creation of a new farm educational centre (Farm School & Farm Labs) at UCR,

2) Support an existing major (Sustainability studies at CHASS) and the creation of a new major in Urban Agriculture.

3) Stimulate public engagement in the community and learning garden centres in Riverside, Ventura, and San Bernardino Counties.

4) Stimulate entrepreneurial ventures in innovative & more sustainable food production systems, and

5) Establish alternative food outlets and thus increase food security.

Through educational curriculum and outreach programs such as cross training and internships associated with the various sites (UCR farm school, UCR farm labs, UCR R'Garden, UCR Botanic Garden, Riverside Communities gardens and Schools), UCR students & Riverside community residents will become engaged in solving real-world problems, gain practical experience (working along professional urban farmers and UCR farm educators) and skills to critically analyse current food systems in order to offer alternative more sustainable food system models, and most importantly grow into leaders in the local food system. K-12 educational programs, including farm gardens at local schools, will be designed in conjunction with teachers and administrators to give students at all levels, but particularly targeting middle school, classroom and hands-on exposure to issues related to food and agriculture through activities that are compatible with state and federal standards.
1st Breakout Session

- Hydroponics as platform for food justice project (Deborah)
- Food production, education, alternative food production
- Case Study Riverside Greenbelt local food production system (Milt)
- Farm incubators (younger & new recruits)
- Urban Agriculture/ Indoor/ rooftop (what kind of crops will grow best indoors, etc.)
- Hands-on Student Farming
- Food availability in food desert
- Repurpose urban structure to grow supply
- Research in the Community. Community Engagement—How to do that?
- Identify & understand socio-economic status + access to food, how to close gaps
- Proximity to food source → farmer’s market
- Addressing the income
- What the community wants?
- Create job + food growing in low-income neighbourhoods
- Knowledge Gap
- Education programs for Middle School. University Heights middle school