UCR URBAN AGRICULTURE CAFE PROJECT

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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,

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.

Commented [Office1]: Was this intended to be strictly for urban farming, or was it a separate idea that intersected urban farming?

Commented [dp2R1]: Yes you are right it should not be only for urban farming. If a student become an expert in hydroponic production systems, he can use this knowledge in a urban setting to increase food security there or 100 miles away in the middle of central valley to produce veggie by using 1/10 of the water compare to the traditional soil based method. Is important to be sustainable ….always keep in mind people, planet, profit…….

Commented [Office3]: I don't really remember discussing this in particular. I'm not sure what it would include. I recall discussing novel places in which to farm in urban settings, but I don't remember a discussion about distributing food. Maybe that's a good idea, though.

Commented [dp4R3]: In my opinion if you achieve or try to achieve all the above goals then directly (…give the produce from the UCR aquaponic farm labs to the student in need through the R'Pantry for example) or indirectly (Community member will learn how to produce food in his own backyard) the system will increase food security. So I meant both way.

Commented [Office5]: In addition to Farm Labs, we discussed a Farm School – I remember these as two different things that were related but would have different missions and different people involved. One would relate to innovation, the other to training. And at least the latter, if not both, would be in coordination with Cal Poly Pomona, which is ahead of us in this arena.

Commented [dp6R5]: Yes you are right, so I added UCR farm school in the list above….now we need just 5,000K to get all this done ;)>

Commented [Office7]: This is only part of what I remember as the educational goal. I remember talking about getting agriculture into the K-12 schools, perhaps by having farm plots at every school and incorporating farming and food directly into the curriculum, especially in middle school where the curriculum is somewhat more flexible. But this could be something that could be incorporated broadly into science, history, civics, language, etc classes, and would give students first-hand understanding of what food is, where it comes from, and what is involved in producing it.

Commented [dp8R7]: yes I like it.

Commented [dp9R7]:

2nd Breakout Session
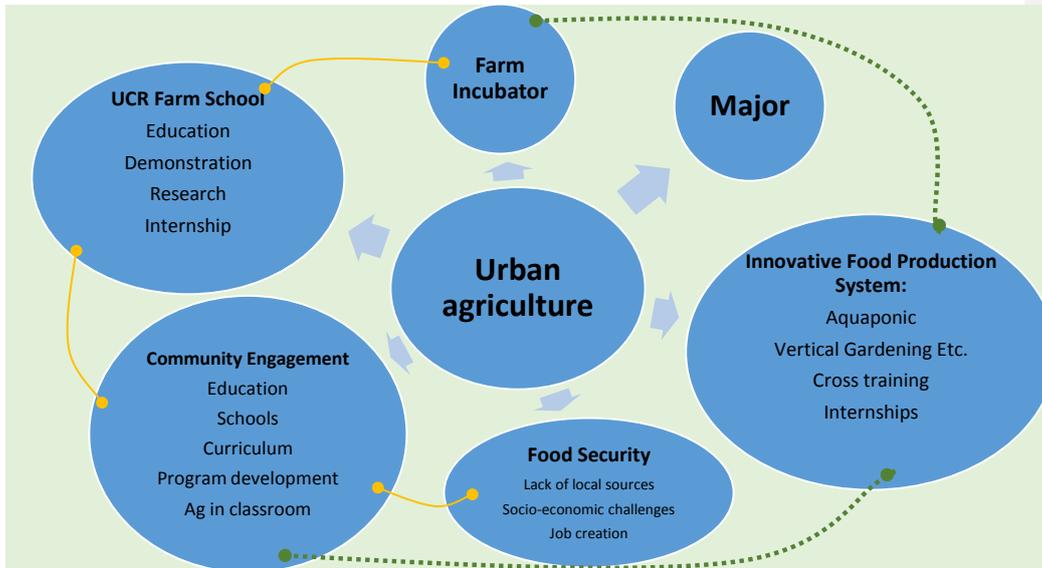
1st Breakout Session

- 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