

"Wedges Against Global Hunger in 2050" Conference

January 24th & 25th, 2019
Barbara and Art Culver Center of the Arts



Feeding the Growing Population
Improving the Health of Our Planet

Reframing the Narrative



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About the Conference

“Reframing the Narrative”

For more than a decade, food policy experts have warned global food production must nearly double to adequately feed 2050's projected population of 9 to 10 billion. The assumptions of the warning extrapolate status quo dynamics: e.g., stable population growth rate, ca. 35% of food wasted, and increasing per-capita meat consumption. Thus, the situation is more complex than a simple demographic model with a potentially unsustainable solution. More recently, analyses of the world's agri-food systems suggest a more realistic and sustainable solution might be obtained through multidisciplinary coordinated interventions, that is, a "wedge" approach.

Clearly, the assumptions and narrative must be reframed. Diverse participants of the world's agri-food systems, including farmers, researchers and decision-makers, need to come together to accurately define long-term challenges and direct how to assemble the various solutions to create a sustainable food system that addresses humanity's food needs.

To that end, the "Wedges against Global Hunger in 2050" Conference brings together speakers and other participants from academics, NGOs, government, farming and other industry representing not only agricultural and natural sciences but also humanities, engineering, policy, and social sciences. Speakers will both deconstruct the issue and examine the broad array of potential diverse solutions, which, if properly aligned, should be superior to a single panacea. After a day and a half of presentations, breakout workshops will be devoted to crafting one or more realistic and sustainable solutions. The results will be presented and discussed in the final plenary session to identify actionable tasks. The conference will be synthesized in the closing keynote address.

To our knowledge, this conference is the first of its kind. The major product we anticipate from this effort is a new view of the crisis that discards the current view that indirectly pits population against sustainability. We anticipate a multidimensional set of integrated approaches to stimulate more convergent efforts to achieve global food security while modifying agri-food systems to act as agents to improve global environmental sustainability.

Vision, Interactive Activities and Student Engagement

The “Wedges Against Global Hunger in 2050” conference is structured to generate scholarly discourse through interactive engagement. To increase active audience participation and foster an ongoing two-way dialogue, we are 1) integrating real-time polls into the conference content through the Poll Everywhere platform, 2) live streaming the talks and polls via social media (Twitter and Facebook), 3) including an interactive real-time art project to visualize concepts from the talks and the breakout sessions, 4) producing short podcast interviews, and 5) breakout sessions.

UCR undergraduate, graduate students and post-doctoral researchers have played an important role in helping to design the interactive activities at this conference. Furthermore, they are a substantial fraction of conference participants and involved in executing some of the interactive activities.

In the following months, UCR students will use the knowledge acquired during the conference and the consensus solutions to plan and lead their own post-conference discussion series and related activities with partial funding by the University of California Global Food Initiative. The outcome from this conference and post conference student-led activities will help to optimize priorities on how to reach a sustainable food system.

With UCR as a locus for positive change, the outcome from this conference will set a solid foundation for research and educational outreach on food security and sustainability for years to come. Food systems are driven by the decisions people make, and those decisions can only be made properly when people are well-informed and open-minded.

The Menus of Change

Food choices have a tremendous impact on both human health and the health of our planet. Chefs and food service leaders have the power to reshape American diet by assuming larger and more pivotal roles in integrating key imperatives of taste, health, the environment, community, business, and economics. In collaboration with UCR Dining Services (<http://dining.ucr.edu/>) we incorporated the Menus of Change (<http://www.menusofchange.org/>) principles throughout the conference menu to offer meals that are not only delicious, but also nutritious and healthy, environmentally sustainable as well as socially responsible and ethical.

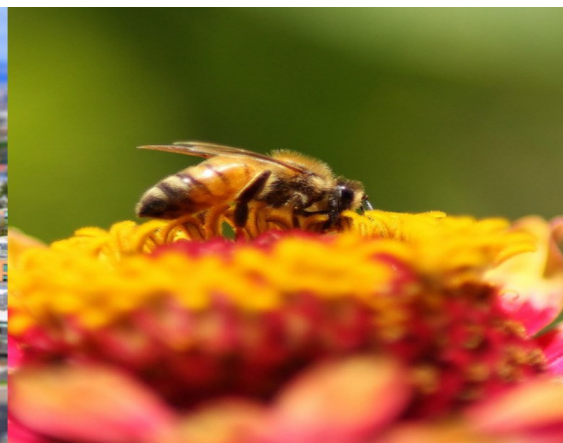
Program: Day 1 - Thursday 24th January 2019

8:00	Registration and Continental Breakfast
9:00 - 9:15	Welcome & Introduction Norman Ellstrand, Director, CAFÉ, and Distinguished Professor of Genetics, University of California, Riverside Richard Conlin, Conference facilitator
9:15-10:00	Keynote opening lecture Timothy D. Searchinger, Research Scholar and Lecturer, the Woodrow Wilson School of Science, Technology and Environmental Policy, Princeton University, and Senior Fellow at the World Resources Institute <i>"Creating a sustainable food future"</i>
10:00-12:25	Session 1: The Global Food System is More Than Production Meeting Hunger
10:00– 10:30	Robert Horsch , Deputy Director, Agricultural Research and Development, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (ret.) <i>"Innovation, equity and rates of change"</i>
10:30– 11:00	Coffee Break and Interactive Activities
11:00-11:30	Rachel Surls , Advisor, Sustainable Food Systems, University of California Cooperative Extension, Los Angeles County <i>"Farming in the city: challenges and opportunities in the urban agriculture movement."</i>
11:30-12:00	Andy Knowlton , Produce Manager, Feeding America. <i>"Technology solutions to address the challenging logistics involved in food rescue."</i>
12:00-12:20	Session 1 Panel Discussion with Q&A
12:20-12:25	Poll Everywhere interactive activity
12:25-13:25	Lunch Break
13:25-15:55	Session 2, Improving The Global Agri-food System to Feed More People More Sustainably
13:25– 13:50	Goggy Davidowitz , Professor of Entomology, University of Arizona <i>"Edible insects and the nine billion problem"</i>
13:50-14:15	Rebekah Moses , Senior Manager, Impact Strategy, Impossible Foods <i>"Plant-based meat: adding consumer solutions to the future-food toolkit"</i>
14:15- 14:40	Olivia Sanchez , City of Riverside Solid Waste Division and lead coordinator of Riverside's Food Rescue & Waste Prevention Ambassador Certification Program <i>"Riverside Food Rescue & Waste Prevention Program"</i>
14:40 –15:05	Coffee Break and Interactive Activities
15:05-15:30	Anthony Shelton , Professor of Entomology and Associate Director of International Agricultural Programs, Cornell University <i>"How Bt brinjal is making a difference in the lives of Bangladesh farmers, consumers and the environment."</i>
15:30-15:50	Session 2 Panel Discussion with Q&A
15:50-15:55	Poll Everywhere interactive activity
15:55-16:00	Day 1 Closing Remarks Norman Ellstrand and Richard Conlin
17:00-20:00	Jane S. Johnson Chair in Food and Agricultural Endowed Chair Appointment Ceremony and Buffet Dinner Reception (Only by invitation)



Program: Day 2 - Thursday 25th January 2019

8:00-8:55	Continental Breakfast
8:55-9:00	Welcome & Introduction Norman Ellstrand and Richard Conlin
9:00-12:00	Session 3, Sharper Wedges
9:00-9:30	Christopher Gardner , Director of Nutrition Studies at the Stanford Prevention Research Center and Professor of Medicine, Stanford University. <i>"Food and Society: Individual and Institutional Levers of Change in Eating Behaviors"</i>
9:30-10:00	Robert Valgenti , Project Coordinator of E.A.T. (Engage, Analyze, Transform) Research Group, Board member of Menus of Change Research Collaborative (MCRC), Professor of Philosophy and Chair of the Department of Religion and Philosophy, Lebanon Valley College <i>"Re-Writing the Narrative: University Dining as a Laboratory for Change"</i>
10:00-10:30	Susan Wessler , Neil and Rochelle Campbell Presidential Chair for Innovation in Science Education, Distinguished Professor of Genetics, Home Secretary, US National Academy of Sciences <i>"Training and diversifying the next generation of (plant) scientists."</i>
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break and Interactive Activities
11:00-11:30	Raoul Adamchak , Farm Manager, University of California Davis Student Farm and co-author of Tomorrow's Table: Organic Farming, Genetics, and the Future of Food <i>"Sharpening the wedges against hunger with organic farming practices."</i>
11:30-11:50	Session 3 Panel Discussion with Q&A
11:50-12:00	Poll Everywhere interactive activity
12:00-13:30	Lunch Break
13:30-13:35	Breakout workshop instructions
13:35-14:30	Concurrent Breakout Interactive Session
14:30-15:30	Concurrent Breakout Interactive Session
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break and Interactive Activities
16:00-16:30	Workshop reports and recommendations
16:30-17:00	Closing Keynote Glenda Humiston, Vice President Agriculture & Natural Resources, University of California
17:00-17:05	Final Remark Norman Ellstrand and Richard Conlin
18:00-19:30	Dinner Reception



About the Organizer : CAFÉ

Today, the complex interplay between global change and population growth with agriculture and food systems is increasingly difficult to ignore. Global agri-food systems are challenged with delivering more food to meet the needs of current and future generations and to do it in a way that is environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable. The solutions to meet these challenges and transform global food systems will largely depend on innovative transdisciplinary approaches aligned within a systems perspective.

The University of California's (UCR's) California Agriculture and Food Enterprise (CAFÉ) is a research initiative facilitating the integrative, multidisciplinary study of complex issues associated with agriculture, food and sustainability for the betterment of the health and well-being of humanity and the planet.

To attain this goal, CAFÉ acts to both open communication and break down disciplinary barriers among UCR-based faculty, researchers, staff, administrators, and students to facilitate activities that lead to the creation of solutions.

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