**Program Team: \_Vegetable Nov. 26-27, 2018**

**Why such reports.** We need **simple** ways to collect quick overviews of key things happening in each of the PTs. We can then better **communicate** and **advocate** for the wonderful breadth of activity that is happening across UC ANR. As some other PT leaders indicated, when they get money from industry or others to meet, a simple report on the meeting is the norm.

The report would be **simple** and **post-event**. Suggestions for a better report structure most welcome.

**Meeting objectives**

1. **To network with colleagues that work on vegetables. Introduce and welcome new vegetable team members.**
2. **Discuss items of common interest such as labor shortages, pest management issues, nutrient and water quality issues, and ANR vegetable personnel needs**
3. **Meet with vegetable industry colleagues and discuss items of common interest.**

**Primary meeting outcomes**

1. **Six new ANR personnel were introduced – most work on vegetables.**
2. **We reviewed pest management, water and nutrient issues, food safety, labor shortage issues. We met with key vegetable commodity boards for processing tomato and leafy greens.**
3. **We reviewed personnel needs in key vegetable districts.**

**Next steps**

1. **The need for harvest mechanization in vegetable crops is overwhelming. We need to convene a joint meeting with several agricultural engineers to discuss action.**
2. **Plan next meeting in SJV, Salinas, Santa Maria, Ventura or Imperial Valley to focus on key issues in those districts**
3. **Consider a joint proposal to fund research in a vegetable related topic such as labor use efficiency. \_**

**How the PT activities fit with the larger SI picture (See table for reference).**

**Vegetable PT activities are relevant to EIPD and SFS. There are so many relevant issues: improved labor efficiency is necessary for long-term sustainability of the industry, challenges in the area of pest management due to lack of hand weeding labor, cancellation or restriction of old pesticides, need for improved water use efficiency and increasing salinity to name a few.**

**We see the PT is consistent with these Focal areas**

**All of the EIPD and SFS focal areas are relevant to the vegetable PT. Food safety is also a huge issue.**

**And fits with these Grand Challenges**

**Pursuing new technologies such as robotic weeders and improved labor use efficiency. Food safety and high production costs. Climate change, water quality and quantity.**