

Program Team: Agricultural Production Management Systems

Meeting objectives

1. Update PT members on current regulatory programs affecting small, diversified, and organic farms.
2. Receive updates from individual members on current research and extension work.
3. Discuss opportunities and potential collaborations for supporting diversified and organic agroecosystems and socially disadvantaged farmers.
4. Discuss potential changes to program team and workgroup structure.

Primary meeting outcomes

1. PT members networked with key personnel at CDFA, OFRF (Organic Farming Research Foundation), CCOF, and the Nature Conservancy.
2. The ANR Urban Agriculture Team discussed forming an official ANR workgroup and potentially joining an updated version of the program team.
3. The workgroups present (Small Farms, Agroecology and Organic Farming Systems, and the Urban Agriculture Team) discussed reorganizing the PT to include these three workgroups under a new program team. Potential titles discussed would reflect a focus on diversified, organic, and sustainable agriculture, small-scale and socially disadvantaged farmers, and local and direct marketing.

Next steps

1. Propose a revised program team with the above workgroups, once revisions become possible through the ongoing process of evaluating current program team and workgroup structure under the Strategic Initiatives.
2. Continue discussions with CDFA's Produce Safety Program to increase outreach and training materials to prepare small-scale and non-English speaking farmers for upcoming food safety inspections.
3. Continue discussions with CDFA's Farmer Equity Advisor, CCOF, and other external partners and regulatory agencies on specific needs of diversified, organic, small-scale, and socially disadvantaged farmers for regulatory compliance and technical assistance.

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

The PT activities at this meeting fit within the following focal areas and grand challenges of the Strategic Initiatives:

Focal Areas	Grand Challenges
SFS:	
Sustainable production	Dealing with regulatory requirements Water - quantity and quality
Safe food processing	Food safety and preservation
Water:	
Safe & sustainable groundwater	Promote sustainable groundwater management Lessen impacts from nitrogen use in agricultural and urban environments
SNE:	
Healthy rangelands, forests, and working landscapes	Land use policy Protecting water supplies – quality and quantity

SFS:

Sustainable production: Multiple panels and presentations discussed regulatory requirements affecting small-scale, diversified, and organic farms. Topics included the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) and policy changes for reporting requirements for small-scale, socially disadvantaged, and diversified farms, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), and the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). Discussions of ILRP and SGMA focused on quantity and quality of groundwater. The panel discussion and member presentations on diversified agroecosystems focused on sustainable production through crop diversification, on-farm biodiversity, and land use alternatives under SGMA.

Safe food processing: Shelley Phillips from CDFA's Produce Safety Program presented an update on implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and the timeline and process for beginning FSMA inspections for small farms.

Water:

Safe & sustainable groundwater: Panelists presented on sustainable groundwater management and the potential effects of SGMA on California farms, as well as accurate and feasible reporting of nitrogen applications on small-scale and diversified farms.

SNE:

Land use policy: Land use for groundwater recharge was discussed during the panel presentations on land use alternatives under SGMA.

Protecting water supplies – quality and quantity: Panelists presented on sustainable groundwater management and the potential effects of SGMA on California farms, as well as accurate and feasible reporting of nitrogen applications.