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AGROECOLOGY FOR FOOD SYSTEM CHANGE

a dialogue series on land, life, and livelihood

Session 1

Using Agroecology to Drive Food System Change
in North and Central America: Responses and Collaborations
to Address the Present Economic-Ecological Crisis

November 18, 2020 - 6:30pm PST / November 19, 2020 - 8:00am IST

Speakers:



Dr. Vandana Shiva
Founder
Navdanya



Dr. Chris Bacon
Associate Professor of Environmental Studies
Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences
Santa Clara University

Roundtable Dialogue Moderator:



Dr. Pedro Walpole SJ
Global Coordinator
Ecojesuit

With testimonies from:

- Sacred Heart, La Mesa Verde
- Valley Verde
- Fresh Approach
- and more

Register here: <https://bit.ly/34DVKit>

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Opening Prayer and Reflection



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GOALS

- 1. Share and learn about each other's work on agroecology and community-based participatory action research**
- 2. Develop a shared understanding of needs and opportunities for food systems change in the context of interconnected socio-economic and ecological crises**
- 3. Help guide emerging food system changes, and inspire action for food sovereignty and agriprenneurship**
- 4. Promote ecological conversion and collaboration that is called for in Laudato Si' and the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs)**

Hosts



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Session overview

Time	Session	In-charge
10 mins	Welcome remarks and context setting	Hosts
20 mins	Global Overview of Agroecology as a response to covid-19 and Food Systems Change	Dr. Vandana Shiva
10 mins	Using agroecology to advance food justice responses to climate change and covid-19 in Nicaragua and California	Dr. Chris Bacon
5 mins	Testimonial 1: Grassroots food justice and entrepreneurship to share culturally relevant seedlings in San Jose, California	Raul Lozano, Valley Verde
5 mins	Testimonial 2: A regional food systems response to building food security and justice during covid-19	Andy Ollove, Fresh Approach
5 mins	Testimonial 3: Urban gardeners sharing knowledge and building community during covid-19	Fernando Fernandez Leiva, La Mesa Verde, Sacred Heart

Session overview

Time	Session	In-charge
5 mins	Break	
15 mins	Community-based experiences (Q&A)	Brex Arevalo
25 mins	Roundtable Dialogue	Dr. Pedro Walpole SJ
10 mins	Synthesis and closing remarks	Dr. Pedro Walpole SJ and Dr. Chris Bacon

***Please type your questions and comments in the chat box :)**



Dr. Vandana Shiva Founder, Navdanya

**Global Overview of Agroecology
as a response to covid-19 and
Food Systems Change**



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Empowered Partnerships for Food Justice

Agroecology and Participatory Action Research to Transition Towards Food Sovereignty in Nicaragua and California

Christopher M Bacon

Environmental Justice and Common Good Initiative

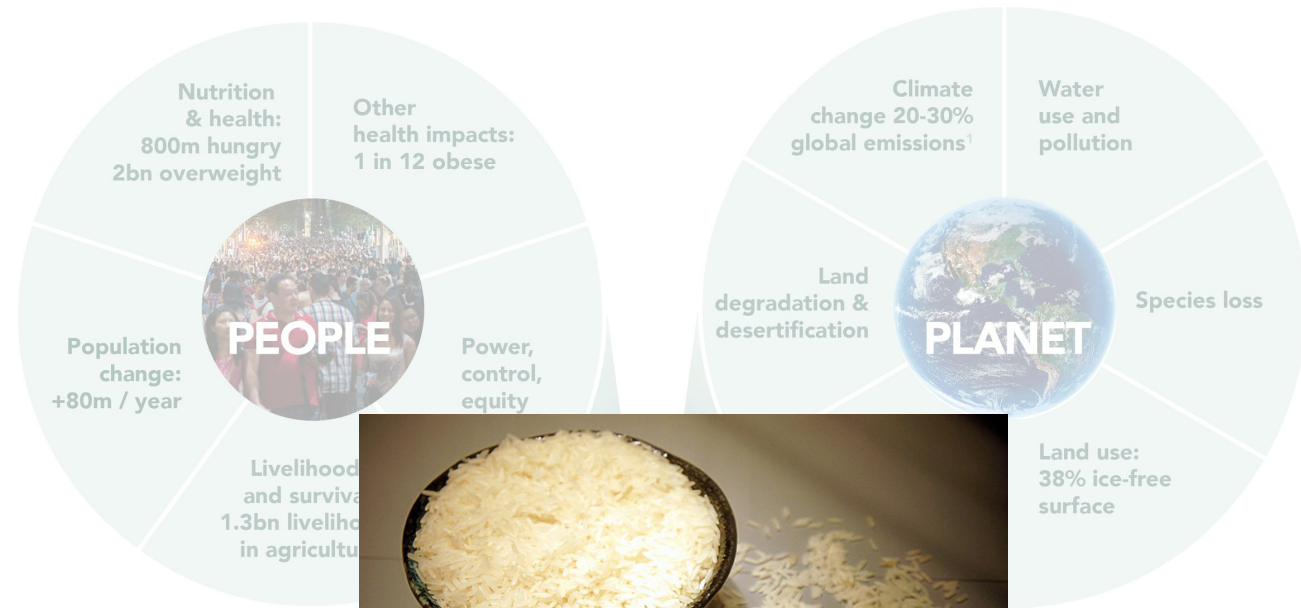
Associate Professor of Environmental Studies and Sciences, Santa Clara University

cbacon@scu.edu

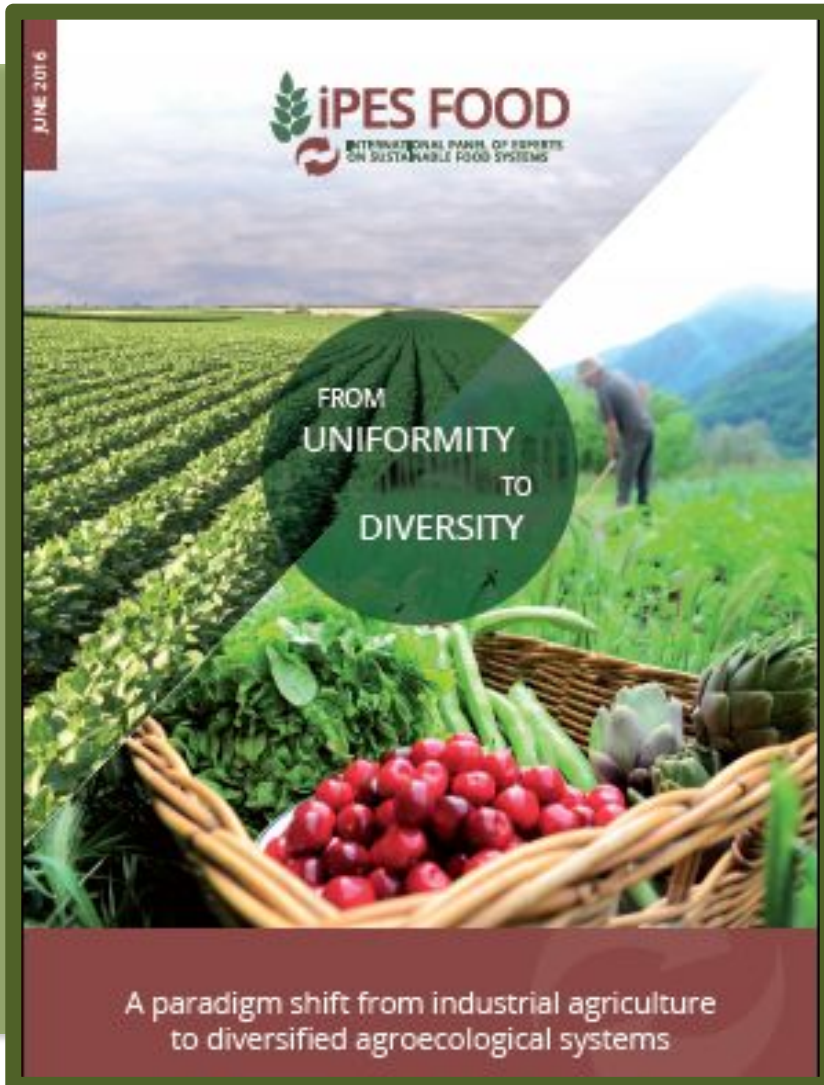


Food connects people, planet and values

social values & ideas in the food system
relationships, ethics, culture, justice, and more



The Challenge



Food systems contribute 20 to 30% of global greenhouse gas emissions;

Around 20% of land on earth is now degraded;

35% of global crops dependent on pollination threatened by combination of extinction of wild species and application of insecticides;

Around 2 billion people suffer from micronutrient deficiencies; current food systems produce an abundance of energy-rich, nutrient-poor crops.

Long-term Participatory Action Research with Community-Based Partners in Nicaragua and California

**Agrarian Reform
Cooperatives, Livelihoods
and Fair Trade Coffee**



**Diversified Farming and
Dietary Diversity**



**Food sovereignty
and resilience to
global change**



ENDING SEASONAL HUNGER IN NICARAGUA

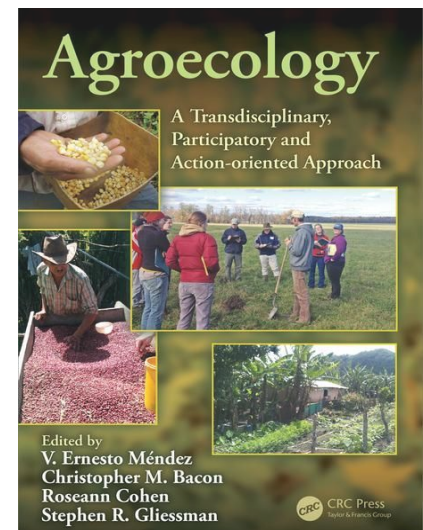
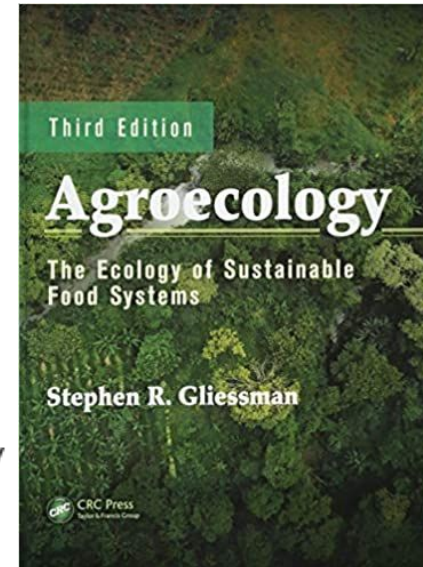
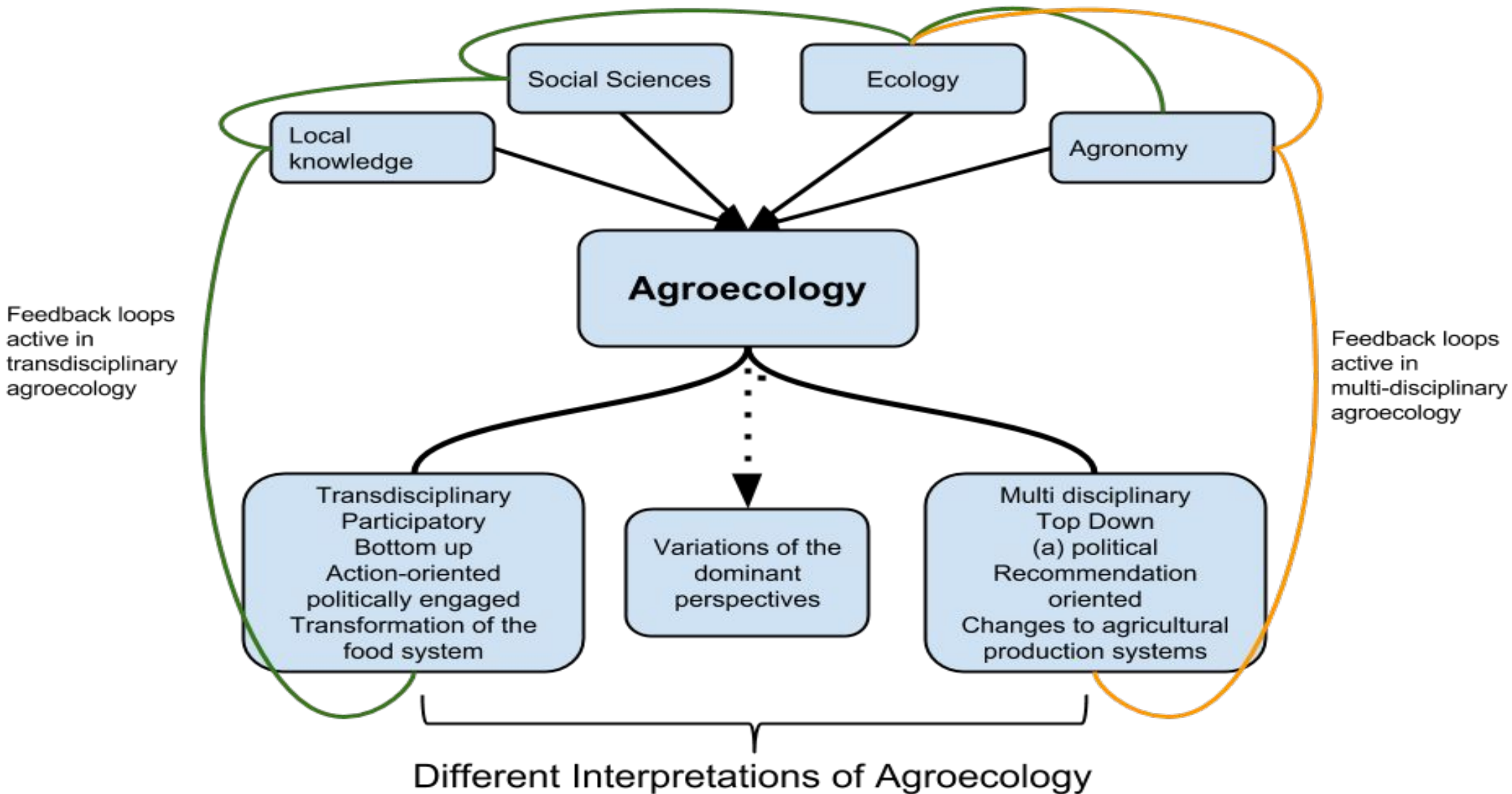
LAS SEGOVIAS
NORTHERN NICARAGUA

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zOCBnqafHY>

▶ ⏪ 🔊 0:02 / 3:22

CC ⚙️ 📺 🖥️ 🗉

An Approach to Agroecology



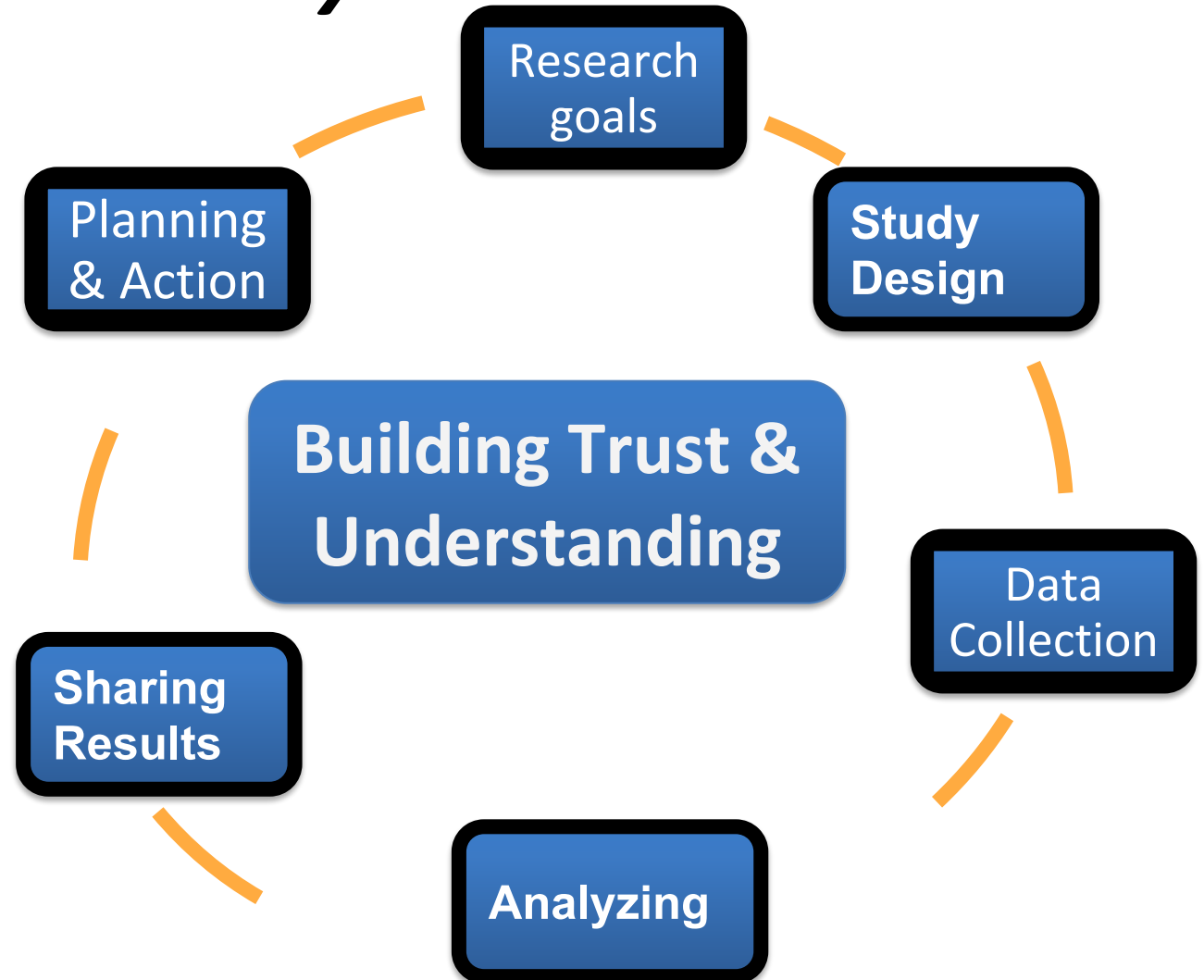
Long-term Partners & Community-Based Participatory Action Research Cycles

Rural Nicaragua - 500 Years Resistance, Negotiation and Solidarity

- Dictatorships, Wars, Reconciliation
- Agrarian reforms
- Farmer organizing & social movements

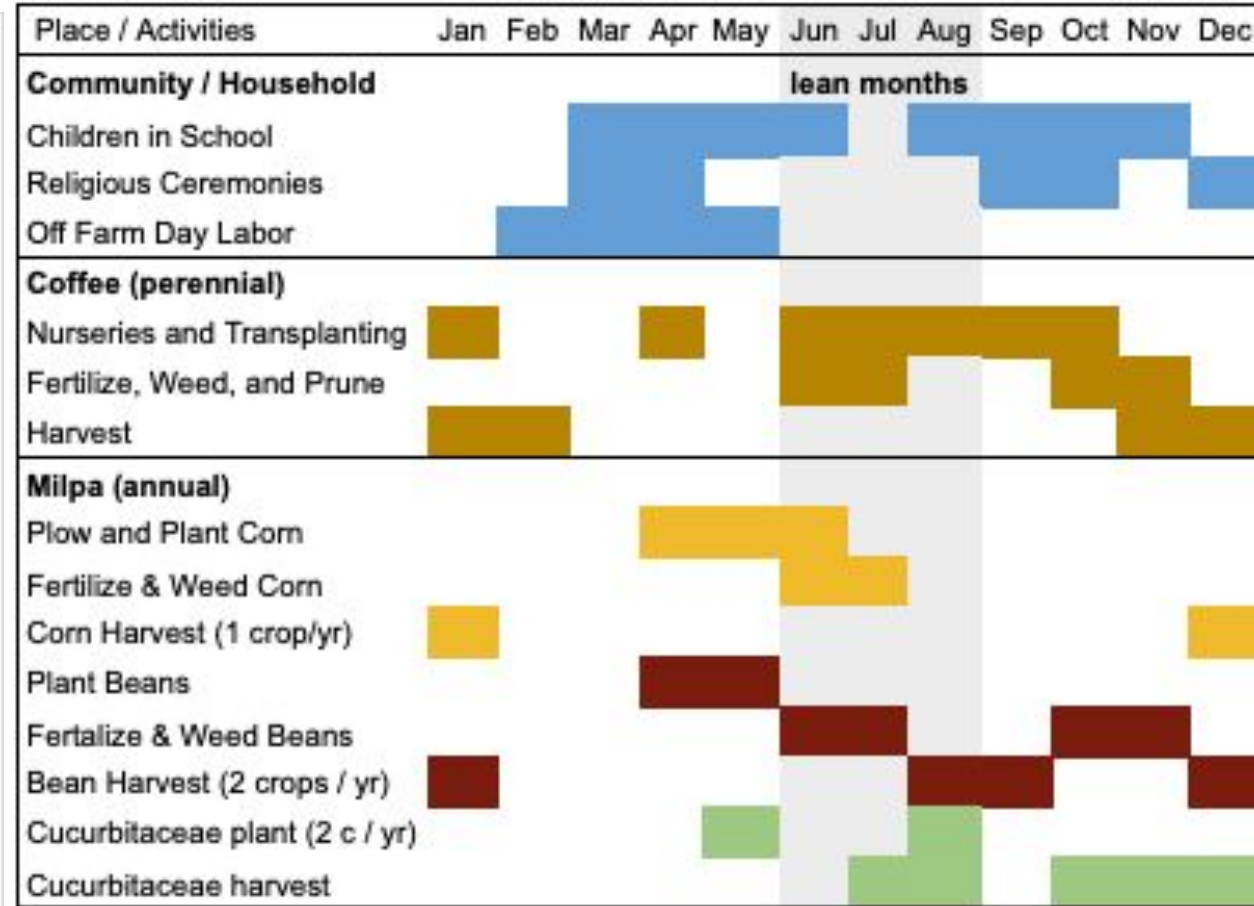
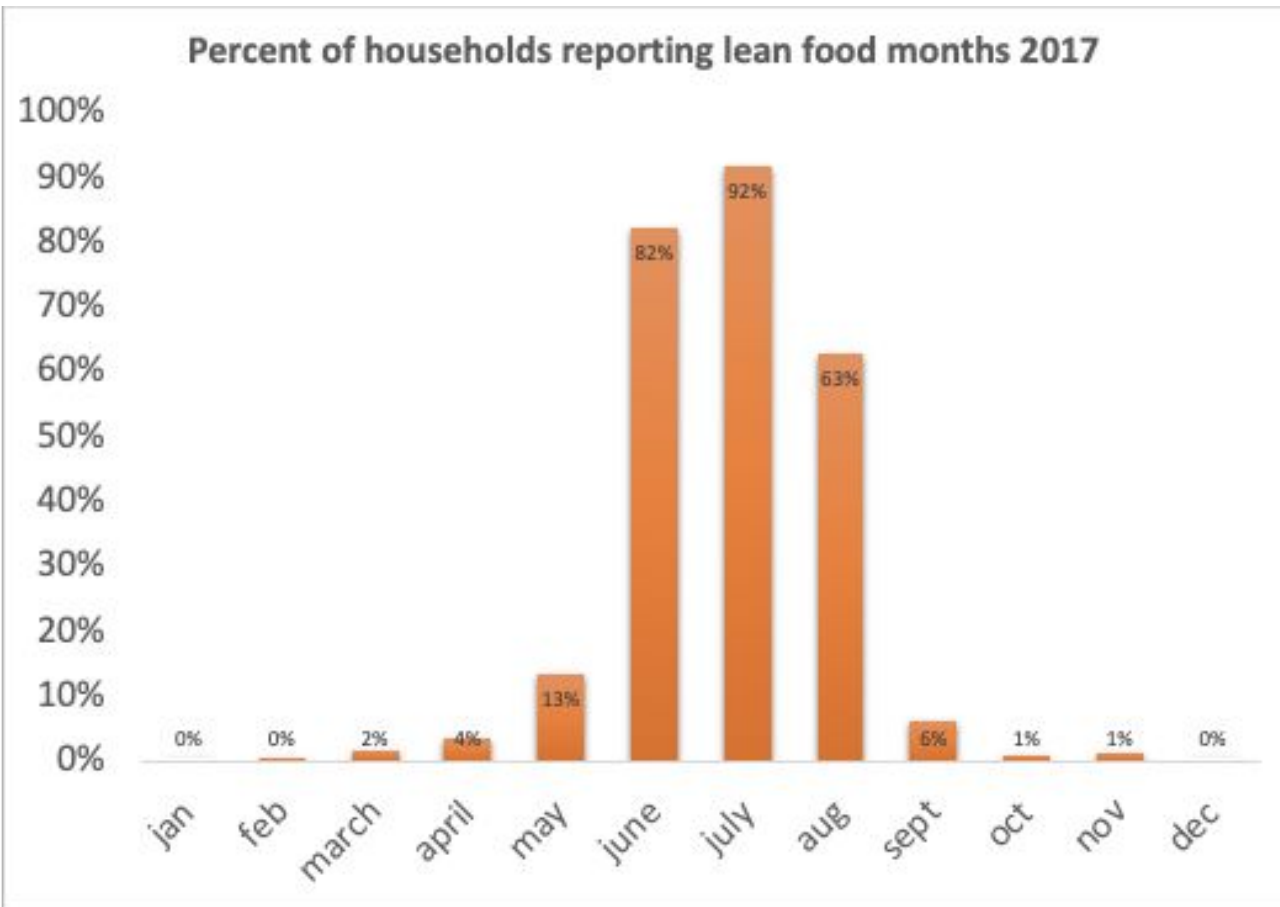
Who are our partners for 15 + yrs?

- Smallholder Cooperatives & fair trade
- Campesino-a-Campesino
- Nicaraguan led NGOs
- Farmers and youth



Unpacking the Hungry Farmer Paradox

Reports of Food and Water Lean Months During the Previous Year



Source: Survey of 311 Farmers in 2017.

Bacon, Sundstrom, Stewart-Frey et al. , in review; Also see: Bacon et al. 2014

Linking farm diversity and household dietary diversity (n=162, HH Survey in 2017)



Source: Survey of 162 Farmers in Northern Nicaragua
Bacon, Shin, Flores-Gomez, Ballardo, Krees, Martinez et al. , in prep.

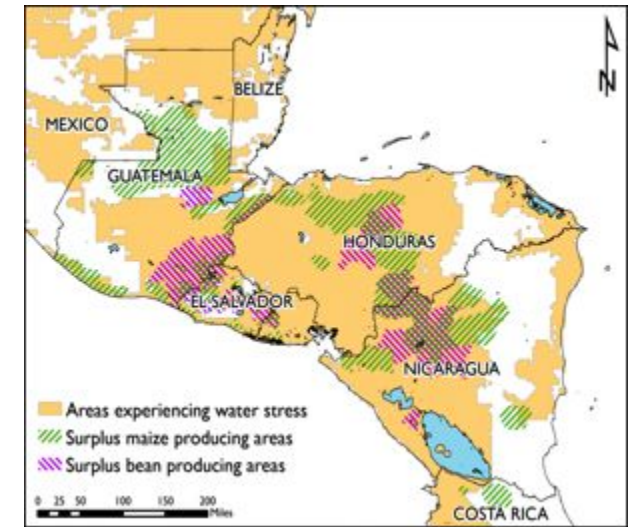
Climate Injustices & Multi-hazard Environments in Central America



1998 Hurricane Mitch



2011- Coffee Leaf Rust



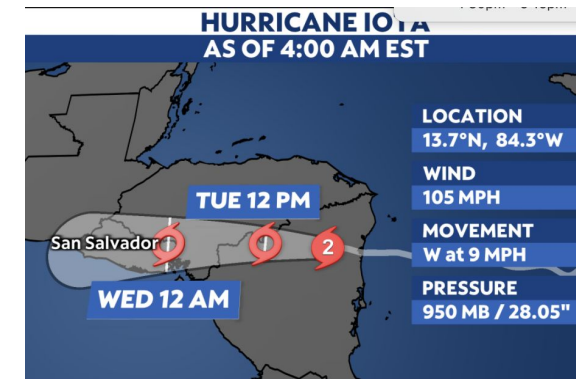
2014 -2016, 2019 Droughts



2014 - Domestic Bean Prices Spike



Political unrest 2018



Hurricane Eta and Iota, 2020

What can help build resilience?

Some evidence

1. Consider local context, knowledge, & creative responses
2. **Across HHs, food security correlated with:**
 - **Income/ wealth,**
 - **Size of farm (especially land for farms less than 1.5 ha**
 - **Diversified food production (especially corn and beans)**
3. **Farmers deserve a better deal**
 - Smallholders most frequently identify coffee leaf rust, drought, and unfair prices (sell harvest low buy food in lean season at high prices as severe hazards.



"Stop calling me resilient. Boundary Way, Belfast, Northern Ireland." © Ilan Leonard

Looking for that Inner Resilience



Laudato si':

(1) gratitude for the beauty of nature as creation (§220); (2) rejection of the dominant “culture of consumerism, which prioritizes short-term gain and private interest” over the long-term interests of the poor and planet (§184); and (3) a conversion that reconciles individuals with themselves, others, and creation (§217–218).

<https://www.bread.org/report/2019-hunger-report>



ENCYCLICAL LETTER

LAUDATO SI'

OF THE HOLY FATHER

FRANCIS

ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

A photograph of two men in a lush green field, possibly a coffee plantation. One man is wearing a dark cap and a light blue shirt, while the other is wearing a dark shirt. They are both looking down at something in the plants. The background is filled with dense green foliage and trees.

From Knowledge to Action for Food Systems Change

- 1. Coffee export co-op develops diversification & food security program to change food systems & end hunger.**
- 2. Crafting an agroecology-based co-op led food sovereignty strategic plan to work with 10,000 members.**
- 3. Need broader food policy changes and implementation strategies to get fairer deals for farmers and eaters.**

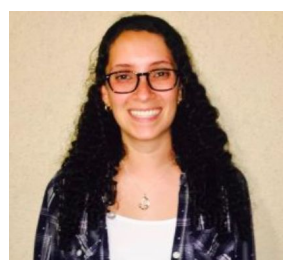
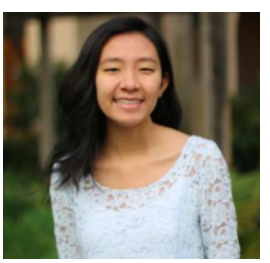
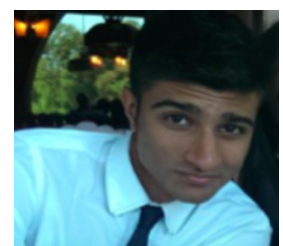
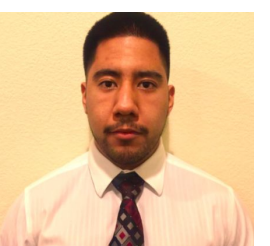
In Nicaragua - Community-based Research Team



In California, Santa Clara U. Student Researchers



**Student
Researchers
involved in
this work**





Introducing Community-Based Food Justice Responses to COVID-19 in Northern California



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<https://www.scu.edu/ej/>



In California

**SOUTH BAY
FOOD JUSTICE
WORKSHOP**



MARCH 6, 2020

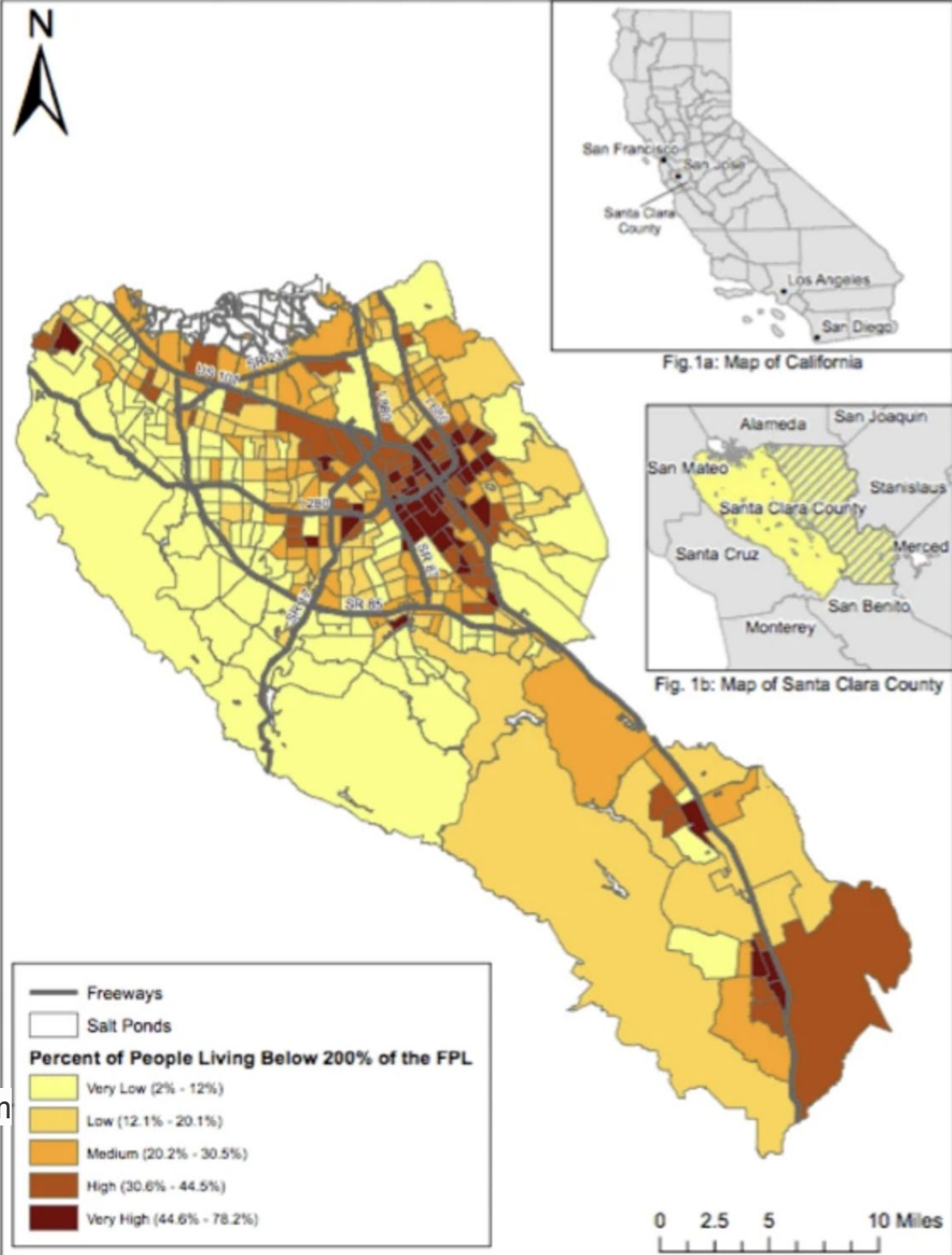
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The Silicon Valley and Bay Area Paradox



Map at left- Poverty levels, by census tract in Santa Clara County. The map in *a* shows the location of SCC in California. The large, low-density population area shown in *b* is omitted from subsequent analysis. (Sources US Census, ACS 5-year estimates 2010–2014)

Source: Bacon and Baker 2017.



PRE-PANDEMIC - A BROKEN FOOD SYSTEM FOR TOO MANY PEOPLE

- High costs of housing and transit
- Silicon Valley's residents already struggling to meet their basic needs.
- Disproportionately affected some segments of the population,

Nearly $\frac{1}{3}$ of all Silicon Valley households did not earn enough money in 2018 to meet their basic needs without public or private/informal assistance.

Source: [Silicon Valley Institute for Regional Studies, 2020](#)

COVID-19 MAKES IT WORSE

- Record unemployment
- Higher food prices
- Increased hunger disproportionate impacts based on income and race.

Indicators of Food Insecurity <i>Santa Clara & San Mateo Counties, and California</i>		
	Pre-COVID (Dec. 2018)	COVID (April 23 – May 19)
California	10.2%	21.8%
San Mateo County	5.5%	16.7%
Santa Clara County	6.4%	16.7%

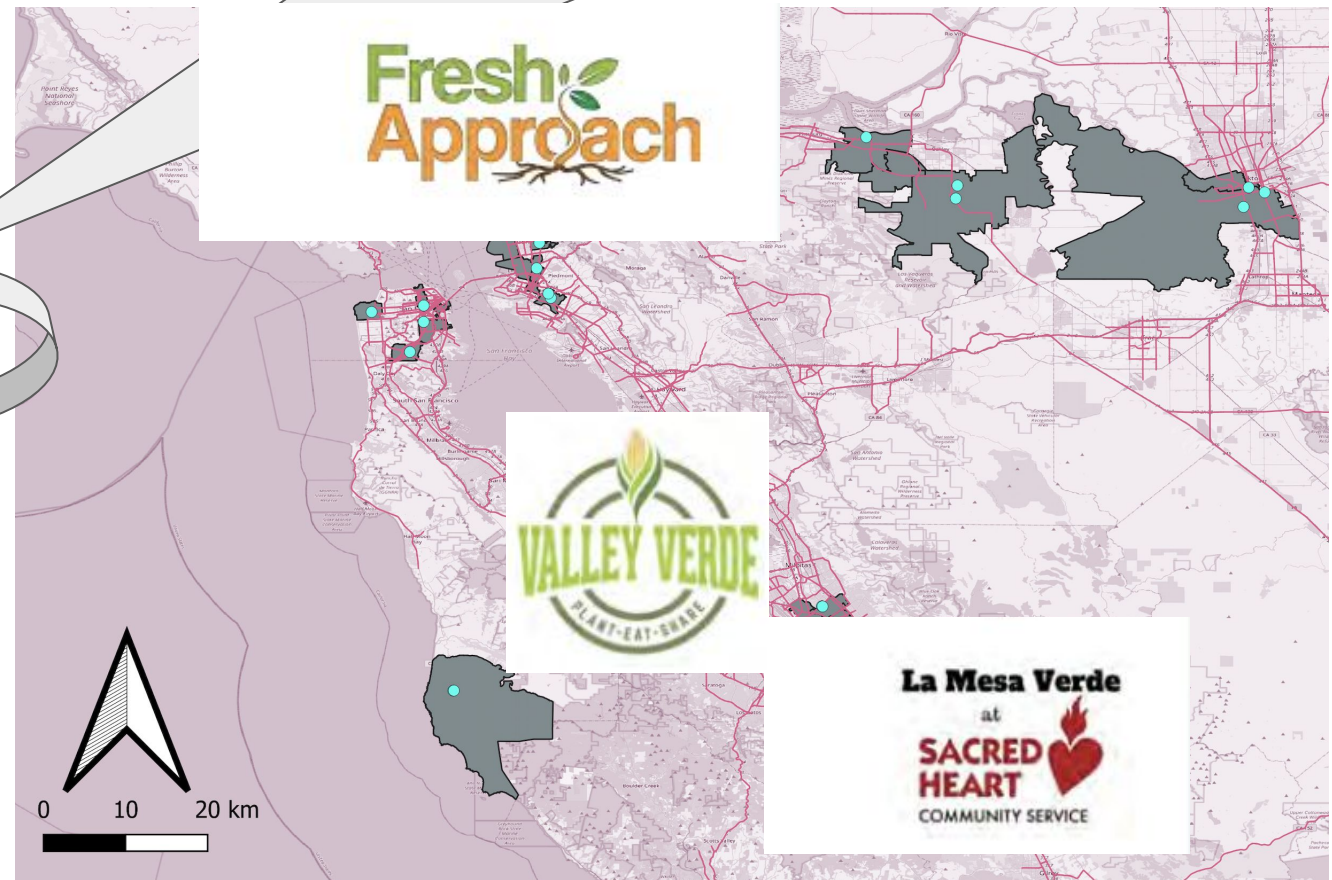
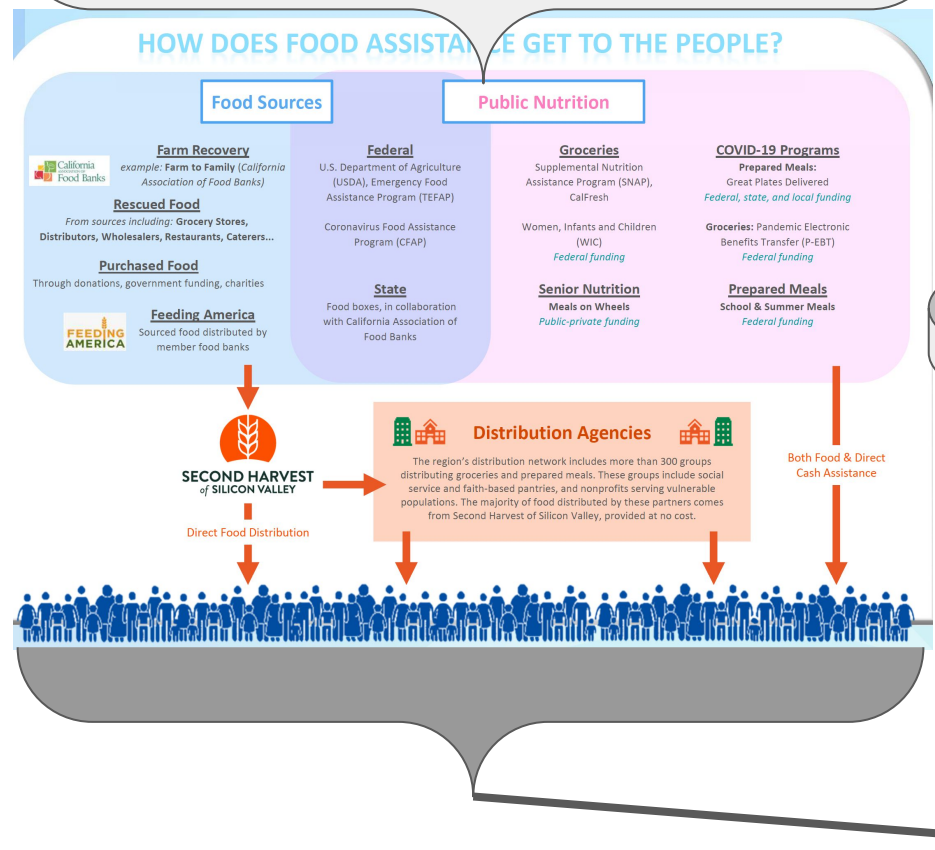
Sources: Diane Schanzenbach, Northwestern University Institute for Policy Research (prepared for California Association of Food Banks)

Silicon Valley food insecurity rose by as much as 11 percentage points in early spring, 2020, compared to December 2018.

...to manifest the right of peoples to healthy and culturally-appropriate food produced through ecologically and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems.

COLLABORATING TO MEET SHORT-TERM FOOD NEEDS AND BUILD FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

Democratic dialogues with eaters, farmers, workers and all food system participants to...





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Food Justice Responses

Testimonial 1: Grassroots food justice and entrepreneurship to share culturally relevant seedlings in San Jose, California

<https://youtu.be/1-7m2GHbq64>

Testimonial 2: A regional food systems response to building food security and justice during COVID-19.

Testimonial 3: Urban gardeners sharing knowledge and building community during COVID-19.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ou5hq6ZNF2A&feature=youtu.be>

Raul Lozano, Valley Verde

Andy Ollove, Fresh Approach

**Fernando Fernandez Leiva,
La Mesa Verde, Sacred Heart**



see here to learn more <https://www.freshapproach.org/>
contact for more info about this project: Andy Ollove <andyollove@freshapproach.org>

A large, overflowing basket of fresh vegetables. The basket is filled with a variety of produce, including bright orange carrots, red radishes, and leafy greens. The vegetables are piled high, creating a vibrant and fresh appearance. The background is slightly blurred, suggesting an outdoor market or farm setting.

Farm Fresh Food Relief

Activating an Emergency Local Food Hub
in response to COVID-19

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5 minute break

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Community-based experiences (Q&A) 15 minutes

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Roundtable Discussion 25 mins

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Synthesis

Many thanks to all

special thanks to hosts & participants



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