



Building Food Security Workgroup

May 5, 2004

2:00-4:30 pm

AGENDA

2:00-2:30

Introductions

2:30-3:00

Food Security in Farmworker
Communities: Preliminary
for a Workgroup

Thoughts
Project

*Christy Getz, Presenter

3:00-3:15

BREAK

3:15-4:30

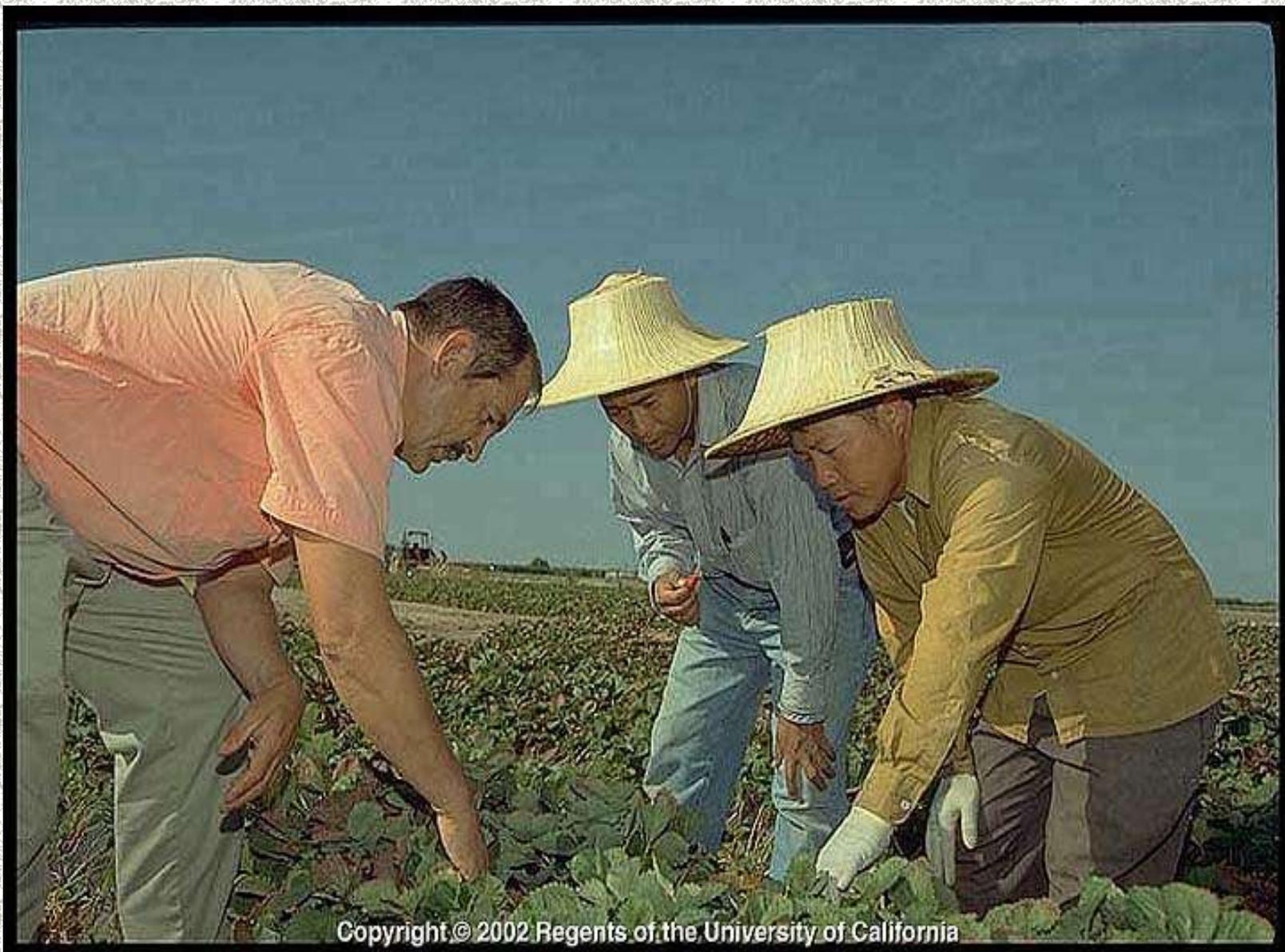
Discussion and Group Feedback

*Diane Metz, Facilitator

Food Security in Farmworker Communities



Building Food Security Workgroup
May 5, 2004
Davis, CA



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California Agriculture

Nearly \$30 billion in annual sales

Annual volume up 200% since
1970s

Accounts for >50% of major U.S.
vegetable production; >40% of
fruit production.



CALIFORNIA FARMWORKER DEMOGRAPHICS

At least 700,000 farmworkers in CA at any given time

Vast majority are Mexican born and raised; Increasing numbers from Southeast Asia

82% are male

Of these men, 62% are “solo”

Of the “solo” workers – about half have wives and a quarter have children back in Mexico

2/3 are under the age of 35

Median family income is about \$7,500 (solo males earn less on average)

More than half are undocumented workers (or are workers with false documents) – probably a lot more!!



Typologies of Farmworkers

Follow the Crop Migrant Workers (2 farmwork jobs more than 75 miles apart)

10%

Mostly solo males

Shuttle Migrants (home base > 75 miles from agricultural work)

20%

Families and Solo Males

Primarily documented

Settled Farmworkers (live within 75 miles of agricultural work)

50%

Newcomers (in US less than one year – migratory status unclear)

20%



Key Challenges

- 1) Low Pay, Low Earnings
- 2) Insecure Conditions
- 3) Working Conditions
- 4) Health Challenges



Low Pay, Low Earnings

\$8.50/hour, on average

23 weeks /year, on average

\$7,000 - \$8,000 /year

After taxes, \$6,000

After remittances to family in Mexico, many workers live on \$4,000/year



Insecure Life Conditions

Insecurity of Employment

- Stable work is rare

- Exploitation by farm labor contractors (FLCs)

Insecurity Regarding Immigration Status

- Fear of being detected by the INS

- Not having papers increases power disparity between worker and grower, FLC, etc.

Insecurity about Health Care

- Only 30% have any kind of health insurance beyond workers compensation

- Language and cultural barriers; lack of transportation; and fear are all impediments to obtaining health care

Food Insecurity



Poor Working Conditions

Sun; Hot Weather

Type of Labor

- Stoop labor

- Climbing, reaching

- Pesticides and other chemicals

Fair Labor Standards Act: no protection

Very little control over work conditions





Farmworker Health: What do we know?

Two Key Studies by The California
Institute of Rural Studies:

California Agricultural Worker Health
Survey (CAWHS)

Survey data

- 7 towns
- 971 farmworker interviews
- 652 physical exams

Agricultural Worker Health Study

Ethnographic data



California Agricultural Worker Health Survey (CAWHS)

- 7 farmworker towns
- 971 farmworker interviews
- 652 physical exams



Agricultural Worker Health Study

(AWHS)

- 6 agricultural regions
- Ethnographic approach





Farmworker Health Crisis

Current FWs: Young (median age=34) but high risk for chronic disease: heart, stroke, asthma, diabetes, HBP, cholesterol.

Infrequent medical visits

Few covered by insurance (<20%)

Dysfunctional health care system for farmworkers and their families



Obstacles to care:

Limited access to health insurance

Lack of awareness of services

Language and cultural barriers

Indigenous-language subgroups

Transportation

Immigration status/fear of institutions



CIRS Conclusions:

FW wages & housing declined since late 1970s negative impacts on health & well being

Current services inadequate

Health is a bi-national issue

Challenges to improving FW well being:

- Cultural

- Economic

- Political

- Structural



What do we know about food security in California's Farmworker Communities?

Very little!!!

In North Carolina: 47% of Latino migrant and seasonal farmworkers cannot afford enough food for their families and 15% have to resort to measures like cutting the size of their child's meal or not eating for a whole day.

In Michigan: A study of farmworkers found exceptionally low caloric intake.



We do know that:

Levels of participation in free or reduced-cost school meal programs are high in farmworker communities.

Many farmworker communities do not have Summer Food Service Programs; and in those that do, many farmworker families do not take advantage of such programs.

Farmworkers underutilize federal food programs.

Farmworkers have difficulty accessing WIC offices, which are located mainly in cities.

Farmworkers suffer disproportionately from a number of health-related diseases and conditions.

California Health Interview Survey (CHIS):

Community Food Security in Farmworker Communities: Preliminary Ideas for a Proposal





GOAL: Assess food security in farmworker communities so community-based interventions can be developed

DEFINITION: Community Food Security is “A condition in which all community residents [members] obtain a safe, culturally acceptable, nutritionally adequate diet through a sustainable food system that maximizes community self-reliance and social justice.” (CFSC 2002)



Need for this research!!!

Community Food Security is typically thought of as a concept that relates to communities of place: How can we use this concept to think about mobile communities (communities of “interest”), such as farmworker communities? As we’ve discussed, farmworker communities show anecdotal evidence of low levels of food security; We need more data to back this up and to inform targeted interventions.

We need to show how food security varies among different sub-populations of the farmworker “community” – needs vary according to a number of different variables. Farmworkers are NOT a homogenous population.



Why Cooperative Extension?

County-based: presence in virtually all of California's Counties

Serves agricultural communities and consumers of CA.

Works to reach out to underserved populations and communities

UCCE has a strong capacity in production and consumption ends of the food chain - from "farm to table"

This project offers unique opportunities to work across program areas

UCCE and Center for Weight and Health collaborated on a Food Security Document funded with USDA Food Stamp funds-2004

UCCE partners with community-based groups that work to address livelihood issues among farmworker populations.

USDA FSNEP encourages partnerships with UCCE

University of California Cooperative Extension

A STRONG PRESENCE IN CALIFORNIA'S COUNTIES





Potential Research Questions

What is the overall prevalence of food security/insecurity within farmworker communities (access and diet/nutrition)?

How does food security vary among farmworker subpopulations?

What are the barriers to and assets for improved food security?



Methods

Three-year timeline

Year One: Conduct Assessment

Year Two: Community-based Interventions

Year Three: Monitoring and Evaluation of Interventions to Identify Outcomes, Lessons Learned and Can We Replicate?

Approach:

In-depth research in one county/region, with complementary, less in-depth research in several areas.



In-Depth Research in one County/Region

Quantitative Data Collection

Assessment tool/survey

Qualitative Data Collection

Key informant interviews

Focus Groups

Asset Mapping

Secondary Data Analysis

OTHER?????



Less In-Depth Research in other counties/areas

Select Focus Groups

Select Key Informant Interviews

Brief Surveys

Roundtables

Community Forums

Secondary Data Analysis

Other???



Community Partners

Cooperative Extension Advisors
Health Care & Health Education
Providers

Food and Nutrition Providers

- Food Banks

- Food Advocacy Groups

- WIC

- Etc.

Farmworker Service & Advocacy
Groups

Schools and Migrant Education

OTHER ??????????????????????



NEXT STEPS

Discussion with Building Food Security Workgroup members to get input on these ideas and assess interest in participation. (TODAY!!)

Hire intern that Solano County has secured through the California Communities Program.

Draft proposal for CNN

Other Ideas