

2015 INFAS Annual Meeting Report

During the AFHVS/ASFS Annual Conference (June 24-28, 2015)

Chatham University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
June 27, 2015 5 pm – 7 pm EST/ 2- 4 pm PST
Chair: Casey Hoy Note-taker: Joanna Friesner

ACTION ITEMS

1. Draft process for new participants to join INFAS and compile key INFAS documents (**J. Friesner, complete; this report, pages 1 and 4-6**).
2. Draft Annual meeting report and circulate to attendees for input. (**J. Friesner, complete**)
3. Disseminate draft report to broader network for input, comments, etc. (**J. Friesner: July 31**)
4. Convene Core Design Team to plan for expanded INFAS engagement 3-day workshop (winter '15/spring '16), to include a target of 20+ INFAS members participating (**J. Friesner**)

DRAFT PROCESS FOR NEW INFAS PARTICIPANTS

Key INFAS documents (a-e) follow this outline on pages 4-6.

1. Prospective participant reviews key INFAS documents to determine appropriateness of fit:
 - a. *INFAS Mission Statement* - see page 4
 - b. *INFAS Vision Statement* - see page 4
 - c. *INFAS Statement on Equity in the Food System* - see page 4
 - d. *INFAS Preamble to Vision, Mission, Equity in the Food System Statements* - see page 5
 - e. *INFAS Responsibilities and Expectations of Participants* - see page 6
2. Please consider the INFAS mission, vision, statement, preamble, commitment to food system equity, and member responsibilities carefully. By joining INFAS, you will be making a public statement that you support the first 5 documents; and INFAS activities in which you engage will be oriented to moving the mission, vision and commitment to equity forward. If you do support these, then please send the following materials to Joanna Friesner (INFAS Coordinator: jdfriesner@ucdavis.edu), parts of which will be posted on the INFAS website if approved to participate.
 - a. Information prospective participant provides to Joanna by email:
 - i. Name
 - ii. Institution (or other) affiliation
 - iii. Webpage (personal, departmental, institutional/organizational) or indicate: n/a
 - iv. Title (optional)
 - v. Department, center, etc. (optional)
 - vi. Email address for INFAS contact, including for list-serv.
 - vii. A very brief description of current work and your interests in INFAS collaboration, particularly as those interests relate to the INFAS mission, vision, and commitment to food system equity (no more than 150 words maximum).

- b. Joanna will confirm receipt of requested information via email (if necessary, asking for any additional information or clarification)
- c. Once information gathering is completed, Joanna will forward by email the prospective participant's information to the INFAS Executive Committee for review.
- d. INFAS Executive Committee affirms or denies the request and notifies Joanna by email.
- e. Joanna conveys response by email to prospective participant and, if affirmed, adds participant to the INFAS lis-serv and INFAS webpage.

BRIEF ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

1. Introductions, including those joining by phone (*Present:* C. Hoy, L. Berlin, K. Clancy, P. Allen/J. Spayde, J. Friesner, D. Robinson, A. Leasure-Earnhardt, P. Sprague, A. Matthews, P. Thompson. *By Phone:* T. Kelly, A. Thrupp, R. Fanshel)
2. Feedback on INFAS ROUNDTABLE: Collaborations for Equity in the Food System: Progress, Challenges, Priorities
3. Network Design: Rational, Progress, Next Steps
 - a. Introduction, timeline, national equity data examples - Joanna Friesner
 - b. INFAS Statement on Equity in the Food System, Preamble, Vision- Joanna Friesner
 - c. Equity Activities- Examples
 - i. Berkeley Food Institute: Ann Thrupp, Rosalie Fanshel
 - ii. FCWA: Diana Robinson
 - iii. INFAS sponsorship of JAFSCD special journal issue: *very brief mention (see page 7 for more information)*
4. Next Steps- INFAS broader engagement- *started discussion*
 - a. Winter/Spring INFAS hosted workshop with part-day training on structural racism
 - b. Co-creation of INFAS action agenda /Where can INFAS contribute to Equity in the FS?
 - c. Key stakeholders? Goals? Desired outcomes?
5. Discussion on New INFAS Participation-
 - a. Draft list of membership responsibilities, expectations
 - b. Process to incorporate new members
 - c. Incorporate new Executive Committee members during coming year.
6. How to engage INFAS to build up new partners (HBCUs, TCUs, community colleges, other states, institutions) and how can Coordinator support this- *Only briefly addressed*

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS/OUTCOMES/NEXT STEPS FROM ANNUAL MEETING

1. INFAS roundtable was successful with a full room and good discussions during and after.
2. Ann Thrupp and Rosalie Z. Fanshel, - Berkeley Food Inst: Equity example: BFI is 2.5 years old, 110 affiliated faculty, staff. Research, education programs and linking them to policy and practice. Recently awarded \$10K grant from UCB's Division of equity and inclusion develop new workshops entitled "Building equitable and inclusive food programming at UC Berkeley."

3. Diana Robinson, Food Chain Workers Alliance: Equity Example: FCWA trains members on organizing for policy change, structural racism in the food system, and engaging communities. FCWA recently released a report on Walmart's supply chain and impact on labor.
4. INFAS Broader engagement- winter/spring larger workshop-
 - a. Goal: to develop a foundation for network action regarding inequities in the food system.
 - b. Where can we contribute, as a Network? *In particular, develop and articulate a shared understanding of the leverage points and pathways we use for creating change within our respective institutions, both academic and nonacademic, and in society as a whole and how these approaches could intersect.*
 - c. Stakeholders at the table are the key to develop an INFAS action agenda.
 - i. Need to reach out to communities of color to meet them where they're at, enable them as legitimate partners
 - ii. Stakeholder-driven
 - iii. Other stakeholders: (beginning of a list)
 1. Expanded land-grant universities (e.g. 1890s, tribal colleges)
 - a. Ask these universities what they need/want
 2. Activists (e.g. Rural Coalition- Lorette Picciano)
 3. Government/policy (e.g. USDA)
 4. Allied academic initiatives (e.g. Kirwan Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity).
 - d. Comment made on the need for 'internal work' on structural racism and inequities to continue for INFAS members and institutions.
 - e. Additional comments made on workshop desired outcomes:
 - i. Clearly articulate how we address/respond to inequitable situations individually and how those approaches may connect.
 - ii. Develop possible Network activities (definition of 'activities' is up for discussion)
5. Incorporating new participants into INFAS- ***Approved process will be posted online***
 - a. Feedback needed on proposed process, list of responsibilities requested (see pp 1, 4-6)
 - b. At a minimum, being an INFAS participant means being added to the INFAS email list- serv for information sharing; being invited to participate in meetings and activities
 - c. Unfinished discussion: process for allocating network resources in the future when there are funded activities.

INFAS Executive Committee Membership

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| Term: 2012-2015 (retiring in fall 2015) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bruce Milne, UNM, Past Chair: 2012-2013 2. John O'Sullivan, NCA&T |
| Term: 2012-2016 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Patricia Allen, Marylhurst, Past Chair: 2013-2014 2. Molly Anderson, Middlebury College, Past Chair: 2014-2015 |
| Term: 2014-2017 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tom Kelly, UNH, Current INFAS Chair: 2015-2016 2. Nancy Creamer, NC State |
| Term: 2015-2018 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tbd, fall 2015/winter 2016 2. As above |
| Ex Officio | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tom Tomich, UCD, INFAS host 2. Shorlette Ammons, NCA&T, Community 3. Graduate Student- Tom K to appoint 4. Real Food Challenge |

INFAS Mission Statement

The Inter-institutional Network for Food, Agriculture and Sustainability (INFAS) is a national network of university and college educators, researchers, and activists, who collaborate in analysis, synthesis, and problem-solving with practitioners to increase U.S. food-system resilience; to illuminate critical trends and common stewardship of public goods essential for food systems, such as water, biodiversity, ecosystem services, and public institutions; and to reduce inequity and vulnerability in the U.S. food system.

INFAS Vision Statement

We envision a US food system that is environmentally sustainable and socially just. This requires structural equality such that race, class, and gender no longer determine health outcomes, social status, or economic opportunity and that healthy, restored agroecosystems and fisheries are achievable.

INFAS Statement on Equity in the Food System

1. INFAS is a network of educators and researchers who are dedicated to all aspects of food system sustainability and committed to supporting, learning from and partnering with activists in our communities. We recognize that our food system is profoundly inequitable and institutions of higher education hold power and privilege that can be used for good or harm. Equity in opportunity, food access and health outcomes is a non-negotiable foundational principle of a sustainable food system and a core value and commitment for us.
2. To help build equity in the food system, we are focusing on the barrier of structural racism. We recognize multiple forms of oppression; so we also will focus on gender and class oppression, and the intersections among race, class, and gender that shape barriers and opportunities to equity.

3. We make a commitment to collaborate with communities of practice and place through our research, education and convening capabilities to better understand, communicate and find solutions to how food system disparities affect the experiences of those most affected by systemic inequities. We will strive to work with and respect community members as leaders, co-creators of knowledge, co-formulators of questions and co-facilitators in building solutions as we endeavor to create a more just food system for all people.

Preamble to INFAS Equity and Vision Statements

1. As participants in the Inter-institutional Network on Food, Agriculture & Sustainability (INFAS), we see that food and agriculture are part of a diverse set of interconnected systems. We recognize the value of systemic analysis to identify full impacts of policies and practices, how components of the food system function, and gaps in our understanding. We recognize that the food system has effects on, and is affected by, almost every other sphere of human activity and well-being. Therefore, we value transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches to solving problems, in addition to contributions that are made within single disciplines.
2. We recognize that the global food system is profoundly inequitable along lines of gender, class, and race. In the US, racial inequity is expressed in the still-living legacies of slavery, racism, and theft of resources from indigenous peoples, all of which continue to prevent equal opportunity for many individuals and groups. Inequity is also expressed structurally in the leadership, infrastructure, and decision-making mechanisms of our food system, which continues to favor the small subset of the population (usually white, male and coming from backgrounds of relative affluence) that has held power in the US from its founding as a country.
3. We recognize multiple converging trends in US food systems that are leading us further away from sustainability, resilience and social equity and more toward irreversible thresholds at which we could enter a drastically transformed and impoverished world. We know that we live in a time of increasing uncertainty that demands new coping mechanisms. Global environmental change (e.g. climate change, nutrient cycle disruption, loss of biodiversity, and ocean acidification) constitutes a cluster of potentially severe thresholds to which food systems contribute; strikingly, the loss of human diversity, as indigenous peoples and their languages continue to be decimated, also is irreversible.
4. We value the cultural diversity of the US food system embodied in the many foodways and cultural practices of all our peoples. We understand that specific foods people eat, food production, and food consumption have spiritual, cultural, and social significance that goes far beyond food's nutritional and economic value.
5. We see that public policies and practices sometimes push food system actors away from sustainability, resilience and social equity. We understand that these policies and practices have global impacts, affecting the food system choices of people across the world as well as within our own borders and leading to limits on opportunities for all, but especially women, poor people, and people of color. We know that policies and practices can be changed with sufficient motivation, knowledge and mobilization of political power.

6. We seek to meet our responsibilities as food citizens from our positions within, or working with, institutions of higher education. We understand that the goal of “sustainability” is a call to action that requires much more of us than what is found in our formal job descriptions, and we come together to learn and act in more effective ways to promote racial equity, economic equity, and environmental restoration and health. The means by which we anticipate achieving these goals are through 1) creating a deeply engaged, interactive, and diverse INFAS network; 2) cultivating a new generation of leaders in administration, institutions, and society with education that responds to their needs and the changes that are happening in food systems; and 3) transforming food system knowledge generation, use of knowledge, policy, economic concentration, and distribution of profits to facilitate the first two goals.

Responsibilities and Expectations of INFAS Participants

1. Agree with the INFAS Vision and Equity in the Food System Statements.
2. Incorporate the INFAS Mission statement and principles into your work
3. Commit to connecting your work with others to effect change and share knowledge at local, regional, national, or international levels including with communities outside academia.
4. Share resources from your place-based work into INFAS and take resources and share back to place-based community work. ‘Resources’ could be information, ideas, publications, or collaboration opportunities including for funding or other relevant activities.
5. Commit time and resources (based on capacity) to participate in INFAS activities including convenings and related activities.
6. Commit to honest Network communication and engagement, e.g. participating in discussions, contributing to activities etc. (based on capacity)
7. Model and share best practices in campus:community relationships
8. Be an ambassador for INFAS: cultivate relationships within INFAS and also connect this Network with other networks. Be willing to talk with new people about INFAS, invite more people to participate and share the Network’s commitments to equity in the food system and the pillars of sustainable agriculture and sustainable food systems: economic sustainability, social sustainability, and environmental sustainability.

Labor in the Food System from Farm to Table

Submission Deadline: September 22, 2015

Publication in the winter or spring 2016 issue

From migrant laborers and apprentices in our fields, to cutters in meatpacking plants and line workers in restaurants and food service, the world's food system is balanced on the backs of an often exploited group of people. The food system may be the largest employer in the world, but there is a dearth of research on the subject of labor in the food system. The *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development* (JAFSCD) welcomes submission of papers that build on **descriptions and analyses** of the scale and scope of labor problems in the food system, as well as those that inform **solutions**. This might include the identification and testing of effective empowerment strategies, best practices, win-win relationships, and changed power dynamics. Examples of papers might include (but are not limited to):

- Case studies of the transition of farm laborers to management positions or to ownership
- Analyses of power dynamics and politics related to guestworkers (H2A and H2B)
- Economic impacts of the shift to guestworkers in the food system and immigration reform
- Cases of win-win collaborations between management and labor in the food system
- Surveys of farm apprentices with respect to the impact of their experience and what they learned
- Legal and ethical considerations regarding unpaid farm interns and apprentices
- Evaluations of labor movement self-help strategies in the context of food sovereignty
- Comparative case studies of unionization and collective bargaining (both successful and post mortem)
- Impacts of immigration reform on worker safety, wages, working conditions, deportation, and food security
- Legal and public-policy aspects of employer/labor relations in the food system
- Case studies of successful line-worker adaptation to using local raw ingredients
- Commentaries or policy analyses on current and proposed labor regulations
- Comparisons of the health status (including morbidity, mortality, and life expectancy) of food workers compared to the public at large
- Environmental factors affecting the health of farmworkers and other food workers
- Case studies of collaborations, solidarity actions, and successful movement-building between food workers, worker organizations, and other actors working to transform the food system
- Effects of philanthropic interventions (positive and negative)

For more details about this call, contact editor in chief Duncan Hilchey at duncan@newleafnet.com. In addition, JAFSCD welcomes articles at any time on any subject related to the development aspects of agriculture and food systems.

About JAFSCD: The *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development* is the only international, peer-reviewed journal focused on the emerging field of food and agriculture-based community development. JAFSCD is online only at www.AgDevJournal.com. It is published by the Food Systems Development Project of the Center for Transformative Action, an affiliate of Cornell University