

INFAS Annual Meeting Report

July 31, 2016, At the Sustainable Agriculture Education Association Conference at the University of California, Santa Cruz

INFAS Present: Nancy Creamer (NCSU), Tom Tomich and Joanna Friesner (UC Davis), Ann Thrupp (UC Berkeley), Julie Grossman (University of Minnesota), Casey Hoy (Ohio State University), Stacey Philpott and Damian Parr (UC Santa Cruz), Hunter Francis (Cal Poly-SLO), Paul Thompson (Michigan State University),

Guests Present: Andrew Baskin (UC Davis), Albie Miles (University of Hawaii- West Oahu), Emma Rotner (working with Tom Kelly, University of New Hampshire), Stephanie Yee and Hannah Weinronk (Real Food Challenge), Mary Rogers (University of Minnesota), Will Valley (UBC food systems; Land, Food, and Community)

Joining by Phone: Rich Pirog (MSU), Tom Kelly (UNH), Marcy Ostrom (WSU), Shorlette Ammons (NCSU), Kate Clancy (Independent Scholar) and guest Lauren Gwin (Oregon State University)

INFAS Business and Announcements

1. INFAS executive committee members
 - a. Newly Appointed: Shorlette Ammons (NC State University), Marcy Ostrom (WA State University), Christine Porter (University of WY), Paul Thompson (MI State University).
 - b. Retiring/ending term of service: Patricia Allen (Marylhurst University) and Molly Anderson (Middlebury College)
 - c. Continuing: Nancy Creamer (NC State University) and Tom Kelly (University of NH)
2. INFAS Budget: Approximately \$120,000 for collaborative network activities

Action Items/Decisions

1. INFAS participation on the new APLU Commission for Food Security working groups (Nancy)
 - a. Key points for INFAS members on working groups (meetings, August, DC)
 - i. INFAS phone call before August meetings (*update, done Aug. 26*)
 - ii. Aim for an INFAS member on every WG (*update, this was achieved*)
2. By end of August: Schedule Executive Committee call to develop INFAS work plan (Joanna)
3. By end of August: Explore INFAS becoming member of NSAC (Joanna)
4. Finalize INFAS initial case study/informational drafts (Emma, by 8/10); Initial review by interviewees; Finalize revision (Joanna, and Emma if available)
5. Add 'network synergy' as one of the criteria for prioritization for INFAS activities (Joanna- update, see proposed added criterion in the accompanying word doc sent with this report)

Possible INFAS Future Activities

- *Executive Committee will discuss in October phone call*
- *References (Refs) refers to expanded discussion located under 'INFAS Member Information/Updates'*
 1. *Ref. 3a: Scholarship to 'establish food as a right in the US.'*
 2. *Ref. 3c: Share NCSU structural racism education toolkit across network.*
 3. *Ref.4: Real Food Challenge- student/faculty network*
 4. *Ref. 5: Share INFAS case-studies/stories. Invite membership to develop their stories.*
 5. *Ref.5 iii: Consider 'areas for improvement' for INFAS*
 - a. *More information sharing within the network, and externally*
 - b. *More frequent meetings*
 - c. *Smaller regional meetings in order to better connect the network*
 - d. *Growing the network*
 - i. *Community colleges?*
 - ii. *Geographic gaps*
 - e. *Involving WKKF more as a participant*
 - f. *Expanding in-person coordinator interactions with members*
 6. *Ref. 6: Track/share involvement and outcomes on APLU commission*
 7. *Ref.7a: Collaborating with NSAC on messaging; INFAS join NSAC?*
 8. *Ref. 7b: Co-funding/holding a research convening with FFAR, NSAC*
 9. *Ref. 7f: INFAS chairs give \$5K to help NSAC gather data that would help with policy*
 10. *Ref.8: INFAS activity towards creating stronger legitimacy for agroecology*
 11. *Ref. 9: Regional INFAS meetings.*

INFAS Member Information/Updates- *expanded discussion*

1. Hunter Francis: Overview of the INFAS panel at SAEA; panelists: Andrew Baskin, Julie Grossman, Shorlette Ammons, Casey Hoy and Paul Thompson.
Panel Title: Building Racial Equity into Higher Education for Sustainable Agriculture
2. Joanna Friesner: Recent INFAS publication, [*Labor in the Food System: A View from INFAS*](#) published April 4, 2016, INFAS-sponsored special issue of the Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems and Community Development.
3. Updates following the April 2016 INFAS workshop in Phoenix:
 - a. Casey Hoy: starting to organize process by which INFAS can contribute to 'establishing food as a right in the US, and to argue that that right is being violated'.
 - b. Rich Pirog: His center has coordinated with PISAB to bring MSU staff, 25 MSU extension leaders and 7-8 community food system leaders of color for training on structural racism. Rich is working on integrating this training with a follow-up learning community on structural racism and inequities that impede a sustainable food system.

- c. Shorlette Ammons: in 2nd year of activities at NCSU including collaborating with dRworks for faculty, staff, and extension trainings, and continuing dialog via monthly sessions ('in-betweens'). They will provide training for others to hold learning sessions in their communities and they're developing a toolkit (to be shared with INFAS.)
4. Real Food Challenge: introduced by Tom Tomich- *Background*: Mentoring the next generation was built into INFAS's founding; RFC emerged as a framework to provide national scope and continuity with a legitimate student-led movement.
 - a. Hannah Weinronk, Program Coordinator. RFC is a national network and campaign of students to shift university purchasing and to change campus food systems. Universities spend \$5 billion/year on food; a leverage point for students.
 - b. RFC student-led campaigns are now at 74 institutions committed to sourcing 20% 'real food' by 2020. RFC provides training. Updates: recent focus on the Cal State System, the Main system, and some larger land grants.
 - c. Barriers: Food systems infrastructure; insufficient local supplies; conflict with university 'preferred vendor' system; production/distribution challenges.
 - d. Points of synergy: RFC is trying to build capacity to overcome barriers and see a need for applied and academic research. RFC has students passionate about food issues and advanced education that could benefit from connecting with INFAS faculty.
5. Emma Rotner: INFAS summer fellow with Tom Kelly at University of New Hampshire:
 - a. Project: interview INFAS members, highlight local & collaborative network efforts.
 - b. She's developed 9 drafts and a template for additional member highlights.
 - c. Emma presented survey and interview highlights and her analysis:
 - i. Challenges to local/regional efforts:
 1. Ensuring broad range of voices are heard
 2. Moving to action in a network/large group
 3. When people in power aren't representative of the food workers
 4. Bridging gaps between academia and local communities
 - ii. Value of being part of INFAS:
 1. The ability to share information with people passionate about similar things, and learn from them (successes and challenges)
 2. INFAS's commitment to racial equity has galvanized the network and underscored the need for us to collaborate
 3. Possibility to scale-up
 - iii. Areas for improvement:
 1. More information sharing within the network, and externally
 2. More frequent meetings
 3. Smaller regional meetings in order to better connect the network

4. Growing the network
 - a. Community colleges?
 - b. Geographic gaps
 5. Involving WKKF more as a participant
 6. Expanding in-person coordinator interactions with members
- iv. Analysis
1. INFAS is a network of networks; INFAS is coming together and each member has their own local network giving the potential to bring lots of voices together
 2. The work that each member does is the work that represents INFAS's goals; this is incredibly important to share.
 3. INFAS can serve as an ally for community organizations, as a place of privilege, and to be there to support community needs.
 4. An unsolved question- how to communicate more effectively within this diverse and widespread network?
6. Casey Hoy and Nancy Creamer- APLU 2050 Commission on Food Security
- a. Working Groups (WG) were recently formed. Casey and Nancy recommended INFAS members for all groups; INFAS members on all 8 WG.
 - b. WGs <http://www.aplu.org/projects-and-initiatives/international-programs/challenge-of-change/challenge-of-change-working-groups/>
 - c. Goal of Commission: develop report (due December) to influence national policy of the new administration, and influence funding to APLU institutions.
 - d. INFAS action: Develop list of key points of emphasis to share with INFAS members on working groups that are meeting end of August.
 - i. Availability - Aug 25 & 26
 1. Sustainable Production Systems - led by Kendall Lamkey, Iowa State
 2. Plant and Animal Performance - led by Ermias Kebeab, UC Davis
 3. Supply Chains, Distribution, Loss and Waste - led by Sabine O'Hara, University of the District of Columbia
 - ii. Access – August 29 & 30
 1. Inclusion and Equity – led by Paula Hunker, Auburn
 2. Enabling Environment for Access and Solutions – led by Alex Winter-Nelson, Illinois
 - iii. Utilization – August 31 & September 1
 1. Knowledge and Education – led by Jack Elliot, Texas A&M University
 2. Food Safety, Sanitation and Public Health – led by Maria Rubino, Michigan State
 3. Nutrition, Human Development and Health – led by Lindsay Allen, USDA

7. NSAC (National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition) collaboration with Ferd Hoefner:
 - a. Fall 2015 and 2016: Several INFAS members (led by Casey Hoy) talked with NSAC about collaborating on messaging to state/local legislators and the activity in (b) below.
 - b. Nancy Creamer- Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research: established by the 2014 Farm Bill to further work of the USDA to “enhance sustainable production of nutritious food for a growing global population.”
 - i. <http://foundationfar.org/research/>
 - c. FFAR is convening meetings on [7 categories of research](#); will provide matching funds to groups.
 - d. INFAS could take on a convening as an activity- suggested around food access and health. This could lead to future RFPs in these areas.
 - i. [INFAS Member on FFAR Advisory Council](#)- Michelle Wander- Soil Health Advisory Council
 - ii. [INFAS member on FFAR Board of Directors](#)- Nancy Creamer
 - e. Tie NSAC work in with INFAS fellows modeled after, e.g. CEFS fellows: grad students that receive \$5K and work to contribute to research data. INFAS network of WKKF chairs could give \$5K to help NSAC gather research data that would help w/policy (and INFAS could bring fellows together 1X /year for greater impact.)
8. Kate Clancy: Suggested activity: deWit and Iles (2016) article, '[Toward thick legitimacy: Creating a web of legitimacy for agroecology](#)' to provide strong arguments for agroecology.
9. Tom Tomich/Joanna Friesner: Regional INFAS meetings such as were proposed in the past INFAS national food assessment proposal; regions would feed into national network.
10. Albie Miles- University of Hawai'i, West O'ahu **Update:** Albie submitted application materials for his institution to join INFAS; the Executive Committee reviewed/ approved it. He shared a draft concept paper '*Ike Ai: Food System Resiliency and Equity Plan for the State of Hawai'i*'.