

SAREP's Theory of Change (August, 2018)

	What is the problem you are trying to solve?	Who is your key audience?	What is your entry point to reaching your audience?	What steps are needed to bring about change?	What is the measurable effect of your work?	What are the wider benefits of your work?	What is the long-term change you see as your goal?
<p><b>Economic</b></p> <p><b>Environmental</b></p> <p><b>Social</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● ● ● California's food and farming system is inequitable in terms of access to healthy food and control of land and resources, and it is unsustainable in terms of impact on human and environmental health.</li> <li>● Pollution from ag</li> <li>● Unsustainable resource use: a) reliance on non-renewable resources and b) rapid depletion of renewable resources, faster than they can regenerate</li> <li>● Agriculture's vulnerability to environmental change</li> <li>● Lack of resources/TA targeting the specific needs of small/mid-scale farmers and ranches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● ● ● California agriculture and food system stakeholders</li> <li>● ● ● Public, private, and non-profit agricultural service providers</li> <li>● ● ● Policy makers and govt agencies</li> <li>● ● ● Farmers &amp; ranchers, including small/mid-scale and historically under-served producers</li> <li>● ● ● UC Coop Extension</li> <li>● ● ● Ag &amp; environmental advocacy groups</li> <li>● ● ● Irrigation districts/RCDs</li> <li>● ● ● Economic development agencies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● ● ● Stakeholders want to participate in framing sustainability challenges and creating practical solutions</li> <li>● ● ● Stakeholders seek understanding of sustainability challenges in a rapidly changing world</li> <li>● ● ● Farmers &amp; ranchers and UC Coop Extension seek science-based solutions for means to improve sustainability and resilience</li> <li>● ● ● Stakeholders seek experiential learning and opportunities to collaborate to address sustainability challenges</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● ● ● Stakeholder-driven discovery, validation, and dissemination of knowledge, and co-creation of sustainable practices and policies.</li> <li>● ● ● Support farmers in accessing markets for sustainable products.</li> <li>● ● ● Make connections to institutional buyers and distributors to expand markets for sustainable products</li> <li>● ● ● Quantify and translate the practical value of ecosystem services and cost of food system externalities</li> <li>● ● ● Develop sustainability indicators and conduct participatory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● ● ● Knowledge, attitude, intention, behavior changes</li> <li>● Increased use of sustainable practices on farms of all scales</li> <li>● ● Increased awareness and social acceptability of innovative approaches (production practices, marketing, distribution, etc)</li> <li>● ● ● Increased market &amp; value-added options for small and mid-scale growers and for sustainably produced products</li> <li>● ● ● Policy makers become more aware of and implement successful policy interventions within health and food systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● ● ● California's food and farming system provides abundant healthy food, and supports environmental and human health</li> <li>● Conserved and resilient resources (water, soil, air, biodiversity)</li> <li>● Dynamic and successful small/mid-scale and historically under-resourced farmers</li> <li>● Continued vitality of California's agriculture and food sector</li> <li>● Improved access to healthy, culturally appropriate food for all Californians</li> <li>● Appreciation of California's diverse food cultures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A food system which is economically viable for food systems actors at all scales.</li> <li>● A food system in which production is achieved with resource use that can be continued indefinitely, including under changing climate conditions, and which enhances environmental health.</li> <li>● A food system which is characterized by structural equality such that race, class, geography and gender no longer determine health outcomes and access to healthy food.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cost of production out of alignment with market prices for food (market failure, small profit margins)</li> <li>● Consolidation of power &amp; wealth</li> <li>● Production of poverty in food system labor force</li> <li>● Inequity/racism</li> <li>● Disconnection from the source of our sustenance</li> <li>● Lack of equitable access to healthy, culturally appropriate food</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Institutional food procurement</li> <li>● Regional distributors</li> <li>● Youth</li> <li>● Consumers</li> <li>● Farmworkers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● ● Environmental and social justice groups/policy makers want credible information to spur social change and policy reform</li> <li>● ● Stakeholders seek to engage local, regional or state-wide policy makers to influence food and farming policy</li> <li>● ● Coop Extension &amp; TA providers</li> <li>● ● Farm Bureau</li> <li>● ● Producers Assoc.</li> <li>● Commodity Assoc.</li> <li>● NRCS/RCD</li> <li>● Ag professionals (PCAs/consultants)</li> <li>● Ag input suppliers</li> <li>● Enviro justice groups</li> <li>● ● Institutional Buyers</li> </ul>	<p>food system assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● ● ● Develop and translate relevant information to support programmatic and policy initiatives of our key audiences</li> <li>● ● ● Network and build capacity among food system actors with common vision/values</li> <li>● ● Work with innovative farmers to design, co-create, and demonstrate cutting edge approaches to sustainability</li> <li>● ● Farmer-led research to adapt practices to different regions/cropping systems</li> <li>● ● Work with farmers for incremental environmental improvements over large spatial scales</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● ● Policies that support payments to farmers for ecosystem services</li> <li>● ● Local food policies that address gaps in community food systems</li> <li>● ● Consumers and other buyers willing to pay more for “true cost” of food (eg, sustainably produced)</li> <li>● ● Coordinated efforts among food and ag system stakeholders</li> <li>● Occupational health improvement among farm and food system workers</li> <li>● Reduced disparities in food security, health and wellbeing across California</li> <li>● Increase in diversity of stakeholders</li> </ul>		
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**Assumptions:**

- (1) The current food/ag system relies on inequity and does not account for externalities
- (2) Sustainability requires addressing economic, environmental and social issues simultaneously.

**Discussion points for SAREP's Theory of Change:**

1. **Undertapped opportunities** for FS and ARE to work together **to address BOTH environmental and economic viability** of farms: Examples: ID environmentally sound practices and work on developing markets for products produced with those practices; also, work with underserved populations/small-scale, minority-owned farms to adapt environmentally-sound farming practices for their conditions
2. **Pros and cons** of working on **incremental change** on a large-scale by working **with mainstream farmers** VS working with production and/or marketing systems that are still **at the fringe but may provide radically new models** for greater long-term improvements for sustainability