

Food Systems Resiliency Webinar Series

#8 Resilience in Diversity: Adaptation Strategies in Local & Regional Food Systems, October 27, 2020

This webinar provided insights into how local and regional food systems actors are adapting to COVID 19, what challenges persist, and ways UCCE can do more to support resilient regional food systems.

Speaker bios & resource links:

Erick Ismael Sanchez de Leon

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Manager, Operations
Mandela Partners



Erick Ismael Sanchez de Leon, who friends call "E", loves California and has a special place in his heart for the Bay Area. His academic interests revolve around our built, natural, and imagined environments. He also enjoys learning about places and spaces off the beaten path. Erick works alongside Joseph at Mandela Foods Distribution assisting with warehouse management, produce sourcing, and delivery. Erick loves meeting new farmers, exploring West Oakland, and providing community residents with healthy, locally grown produce.

Mandela Partners is a non-profit organization that works in partnership with local residents, family farmers, and community-based businesses to improve health, create wealth, and build assets through local food enterprises in low-income communities.

Josefina Lara Chavez

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Farm to Market
Specialist,
Community Alliance with Family Farmers

Josefina was raised in the Salad Bowl of the United States, the Salinas Valley. She has a graduate degree in Public Administration, from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies. Through her work and volunteerism, she has served communities locally and internationally with social justice, equity, and love being at the root of it all. She is passionate about creating stronger connections between people, and is currently working on getting her farm off the ground.

CAFF is a community organization that works to build sustainable food and farming systems through policy advocacy and on-the-ground programs that create more resilient family farms, communities, and ecosystems

[COVID-19 Response and Resources for California Family Farms](#)

[California Family Farmer Emergency Fund](#)

[Market Matchmaking Service](#)

[Fresno Farm Bridge](#)

[CSA and Online Sales Resources for Farmers](#)

[Resources in Spanish](#)



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Shosha Capps

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Community Food Systems Analyst, UC Sustainable Research & Education Program (SAREP)

Shosha's work at SAREP focuses on collaborating with diverse communities across California to build more just and sustainable food systems through community-driven research, education, and outreach. Before joining SAREP in 2014, Shosha worked in community food security and collaborative resource development with urban, beginning, and young farmers in North Carolina. Shosha grew up in rural South Carolina and has MS degrees in International Agricultural Development and Community and Regional Development from UC Davis.

Gail Feenstra

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Director, UC Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education Program (SAREP)

Gail is the Director of the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SAREP), a statewide program of UC Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR). SAREP is dedicated to working with stakeholders statewide to improve the environmental impacts of agriculture, the health of rural communities, and the profitability of family farming operations in California. SAREP's goals also include a commitment to strong regional food systems, healthy, sustainably produced food that is accessible to all, and equity and justice in the food system.

[COVID-19 Resources for California's Agricultural Community](#)

[COVID-19 Agritourism Resources and Information](#)

[COVID-19 Stories from UC ANR Small Farm & Food Advisors](#)

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