



“Agri-Culture Diversity”

- Crops and People –

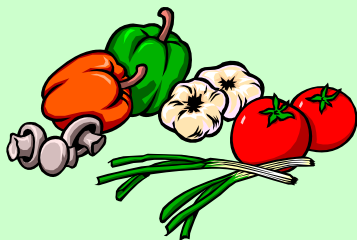


Richard Molinar & Michael Yang

Small Farms and Specialty Crops

UC Cooperative Extension

Fresno



Small Farm Specialty Crops
Conference –December 12, 2007

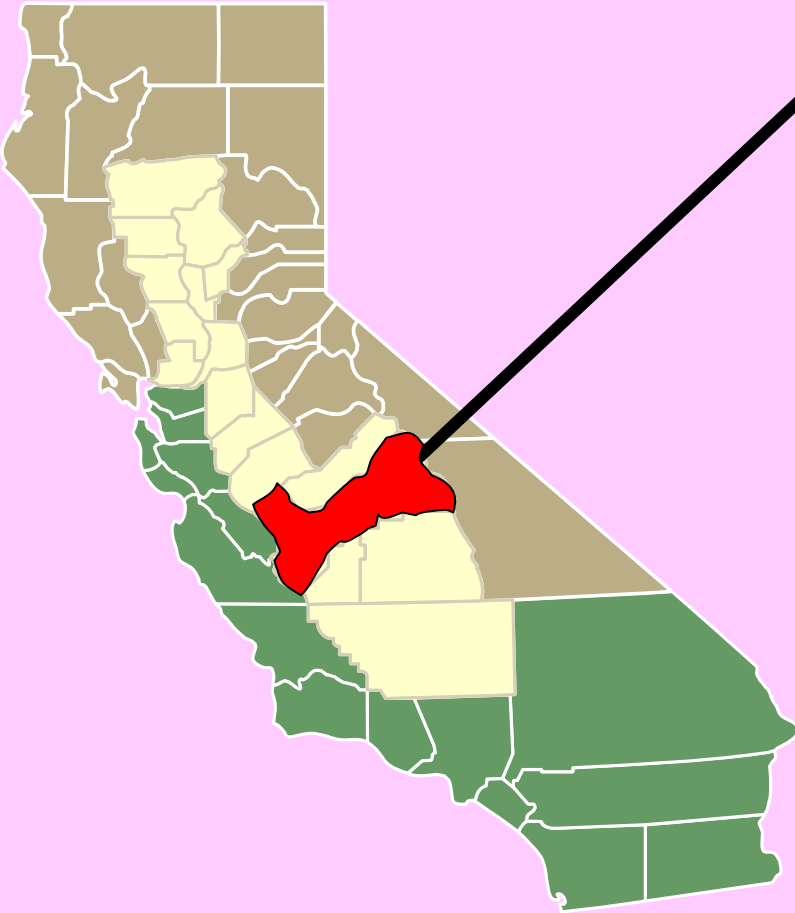


UC Cooperative Extension

- “Cooperative Extension is the primary educational unit of UC’s Division of Agriculture -founded in 1913, and is supported by county, state, and federal governments”

Fresno County

SE Asian Specialty Crops





Agri-Culture Diversity

	California	Fresno
»		
• All Farms	79,631	6,281
• SE Asian	4,022	759
• Hispanics	9,784	1,073
• African Amer	336	33
• Amer Indian	1,357	111

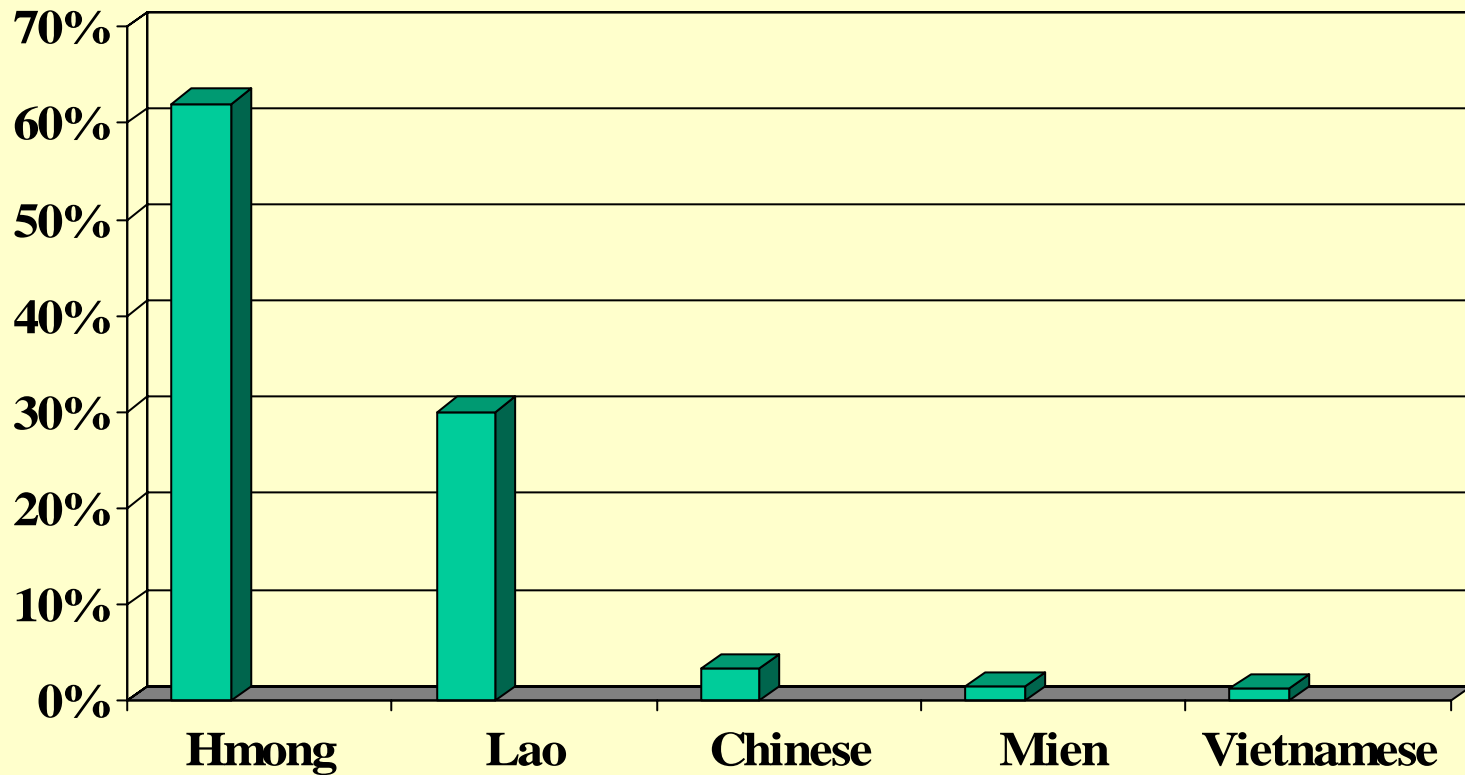
– 2002 U.S. Ag Census

The People in Fresno



- almost 1/2 of family farmers are minorities (2,000)
 - 39% Asian (62% Hmong, 30% Lao, 3.4% Chinese)
 - 54% Hispanic

SE Asian Vegetable Farmers in Fresno -759 Asians



SE Asian Crops:



long bean	119 ac
bittermelon(t+)	197
bok choy	98
daikon	361
eggplant	111
gailon	255
yam leaves	7

kabocha	65
lemon grass	40
donqua	180
moqua	82
sugar pea (tip+)	158
sinqua	60
sugarcane	9
you choy	76

Lemongrass, *Cymbopogon citratus*
Monocotyledoneae – Gramineae

stir fry or tea, tender perennial, 10-month crop



Multiplier Onions, *Allium fistulosum*

Monocotyledoneae – Amaryllidaceae

milder than bunching onions, perennial



Prickly Pear Cactus, *Opuntia spp.*

Cactaceae family

huevos con nopales, salsa, tacos de nopales, dye



Tuna -fruit



nopales



Cochineal scale - dye



Jujube, *Ziziphus jujube* Rhamnaceae Family

Chinese date (fresh or dried), medicinal, small trees, no pests



Okra leaf, *Corchorus olitorius*

Tillaceae Family

Mucilaginous consistency like okra, edible shoot tips



Purslane, *Portulaca oleraceae*

Portulacaceae Family

fresh in salads, soups, stews



Ceylon (Malabar) Spinach, *Basella alba/rubra* Basellaceae Family

(verdolaga) Succulent mature leaves in soups and stews



Water Spinach, *Ipomoea aquatica*

Convolvulaceae Family

hollow stems, aquatic tender perennial



Thai Pepper, *Capsicum annuum*

Solanaceae Family

Considered some of the hottest peppers



Eggplant, *Solanum melongena* / *torvum* / *integrifolium*

Solanaceae Family

Many different kinds – Thai, Hmong, Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Italian, bitter, bunching



? QUIZ ?

Solanaceae Family

bitter, cultivated, and used in soups with meat, in stores



Methi, *Trigonella foenum-graecum*

Leguminosae (Fabaceae Family)

(fenugreek) an herb or spice. East Indian



Long Beans, *Vigna sesquipedalis*

Leguminosae Family

Asparagus or yardlong beans; dark or light green, mosaic, or red



Snow Peas, *Pisum sativum*

Leguminosae Family

Grown for either edible pod (trellised) or stem tips (untrellised), but not both



Hyacinth bean, *Lablab niger* (*Dolichos lablab*)
Leguminosae Family

immature fruits, poisonous in large quantities uncooked



Bittermelon, *Mormodica charantia*

Cucurbitaceae Family

Trellised for fruit, untrellised for tips, fruits & tips, bitterness (quinine) increases with age, pests?? nema



Snake Gourd, *Trichosanthes anguina*

Cucurbitaceae Family

Flowers are delicately trimmed, fruits turn red if overripe



Sinqua (Luffa), *Luffa actuangula/cylindrica* Cucurbitaceae Family

Trellised, mature dry cylindrica makes luffa scrubber, both make excellent squash



Opo, *Lagenaria siceraria* Cucurbitaceae Family

fruits are smooth and hairless, tips also eaten



Moqua, *Benincasa hispida* var. *chiehqua*
Cucurbitaceae Family

fruits are hairy and acquire a white waxy coating when mature, eaten immature



Donqua, *Benincasa hispida*
Cucurbitaceae Family

Chinese wintermelon, up to 30 pounds, untrellised



**Other Crops – daikon, Chinese cabbage, gailon,
Mustard, Choys (bok, you, gai)
Cruciferae Family**



Crops with Potential

Papaya (-salad), sugarcane (fresh, rum), water chestnuts (plastic lined trenches), galangal, taro, bamboo, edamame, Kabocha, chayote (fruit & tips)





