

What are Workgroups?

What is a Workgroup? Workgroups (WGs) represent vibrant “**Communities of Practice**”. They **connect** people to **plan** and **implement** their research and extension around **common problems or themes**. (They may help members understand how better evaluate their impacts.)



Are Workgroups permanent? They should be nimble; responsive to the changing needs in California. After 3-years, if the need still exists, then groups can be easily extended.

How do Workgroups, Program Teams and Strategic Initiatives fit together?



Workgroup leadership? Leadership rotation (2-3 years) is encouraged to grow leadership skills in members. WGs should define a Chair and Co-Chair with clarity of responsibilities (e.g., sharing impact and leadership succession, etc.).



join

Who can join a Workgroup? Workgroups bring together Agricultural Experiment Station (AES) and Cooperative Extension (CE) personnel along with stakeholders and collaborators.

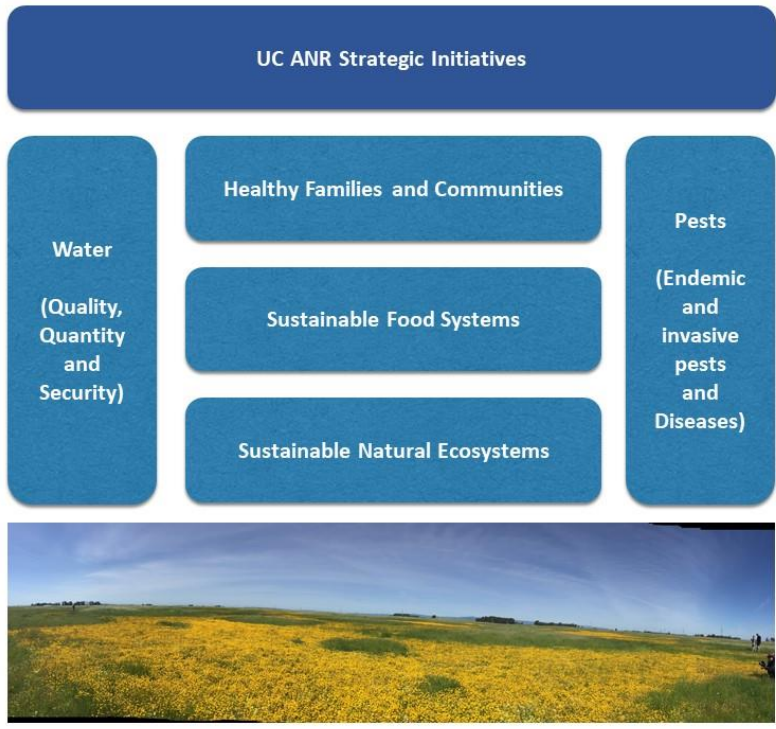


How do Workgroups meet? Meetings can be virtual or in-person (e.g., Increasingly, workgroups are meeting virtually (e.g., by Zoom), while others raise funds to bring people together). Limited funds are available for WGs to meet as part of Program Teams.

How do Workgroups fit with the other elements of UC ANR?

- **How do WGs align with PTs?** Program Teams link people at a higher level than workgroups; allowing people to **network**, **share** and **learn** across a broader range of distinct though related topics.
- **Strategic Initiatives** are the **umbrellas** - our highest level of aggregation - with the goal to **unify**, **communicate** and **advocate** for our broad range of work.

What does the SI UCA mean? See the figure (next page)



Unify

1. Create vision
2. Identify Focal areas, emerging issues & priorities (Grand Challenges)
3. Input to UC ANR strategic plan
4. Hold meetings
5. Manage grants
6. Operate a think tank
7. Help build capacity
8. Input to staffing needs

Communicate

1. Collate stories & highlights
2. Develop materials (white papers, etc.)
3. Foster debate

Advocate

1. Represent UC ANR/SI
2. Engage stakeholders and government
3. Raise awareness
4. Representatives on Program Council

