SESSION 35: Racial Equity in Food Systems: A Cooperative Extension training Approach

Racial Equity in the Food System workgroup - represented by:

Rich Pirog – Director, MSU Center for Regional Food Systems
Lindsey Lunsford, Food Systems Resources Specialist – Tuskegee University
INTRODUCTIONS

WHO’S IN THE ROOM?

SPAN grantees
REACH grantees
HOP grantees
Who else?

Food System – Food, Agriculture
Racial Equity
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion
Health Equity
What else?
SESSION #35 AGENDA

• Introductions
• Coming Together for Racial Understanding:
  • Workshop Overview and Exercise
• Racial Equity in the Food Systems Workgroup
• Racial Equity Metrics in the Food System – national scan
• 6th Edition Annotated Bibliography - Structural Racism in the U.S. Food System
• Closing quote and final Q&A
COMING TOGETHER FOR RACIAL UNDERSTANDING
WAKE UP CALL FOR LAND GRANTS & EXTENSION

October 2016 – Extension Committee on Organizational Policy (ECOP) formed Rapid Response Team (RRT)

April 2017 – Report to ECOP from RRT

May 2017 – National webinar

October 2017 – Curriculum Team assembled

August 2018 – National Train the Trainer event
COMING TOGETHER FOR RACIAL UNDERSTANDING
TWO MODELS FOR DIALOGUE ACROSS RACE

Everyday Democracy – Facing Racism in a Diverse Nation

Mississippi State University – Dialogues for Community Healing
Participating States

Teams from 20 states – including HBCUs
COMING TOGETHER FOR RACIAL UNDERSTANDING

Community Dialogues for Racial Healing

Exercise
RACIAL EQUITY IN THE FOOD SYSTEM (REFS) WORKGROUP

Our Purpose

Our People

Our Process
RACIAL EQUITY IN THE FOOD SYSTEM (REFS) WORKGROUP

A community of Cooperative Extension professionals and community stakeholders who *connect, learn, and collaborate* to facilitate change within our institutions and society to build racial equity within the food system.

*New web page:*  
[https://www.canr.msu.edu/racial-equity-workgroup/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/racial-equity-workgroup/)

*The workgroup is funded in part by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation*
Why do land-grant educational institutions need to be engaged?

December 13 – 2018 - Racial Equity in the Food System national webinar

Characterize the current level of work activity in your state related to racial equity in the food system

- Significant: 13%
- None to Little: 16%
- I don’t know: 17%
- Moderate: 54%

78% of the 248 people who responded to this poll are from education institutions.
RACIAL EQUITY IN THE FOOD SYSTEM (REFS)
STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Shorlette Ammons, NC State Extension
Crystal Tyler-Mackey, VA Coop Extension VA Tech
Lindsey Lunsford, Tuskegee University
Diego Thompson, Mississippi State University
Courtenay Simmons, Consultant
Joyce Senior, Oregon State University Extension
Shatomi Luster-Edward, University of Missouri
Tamera Adjei, University of Tennessee
Lucy Diekmann, University of California Extension
Rachel Lindvall, South Dakota State University
Erin Peot, University of Wisconsin Extension
Rich Pirog, Michigan State University - CRFS
Vanessa Garcia Polanco, Michigan State University
Reneé V. Wallace, Doers Consulting Alliance
Quote from a Racial Equity in the Food System (REFS) Committee Member

“Oregon is a predominantly white state, and I think one of the biggest challenges I face is that I live and work far away from the urban areas where the largest concentrations of people of color live (I’m the only Afro Latina faculty in OSU Extension). My work is related to community food systems, and although I work with low-income and underserved populations, I have developed a deep interest and awareness on social justice and food justice issues that I cannot fully address through my current line of work.”

Joyce Senior, PhD
EFNEP Manager & SNAP-Ed Coordinator
Oregon State University Extension
Committee Member - REFS
REFS Strategy:
Facilitating Food System Change by Connecting, Learning & Collaborating
April 17 2019 REFS webinar - How would you rate your knowledge of the history of land-grant institutions, and differences between them?

- Very Knowledgeable: 23%
- Somewhat Knowledgeable: 30%
- Slightly Knowledgeable: 30%
- Not Knowledgeable: 8%
- Any knowledge limited to institution where I work: 9%
FORTHCOMING NATIONAL PUBLICATION

Measuring Racial Equity in the Food System: Established and Suggested Metrics

Interviews & Literature Review

86 potential metrics

Authors: Sarah Rodman and Kathryn Colasanti
CAUTIONARY NOTES

Race is a social construct.

People are more than their race.

Data is not the whole story.

Research can be a distraction.
THEME 1: FOOD ACCESS

- Food Security and Hunger
  - Rate of food insecurity, by race
- Food at Schools and Early Childhood Education Sites
- Community Food Environment
  - Number of chain supermarkets per zip code, by predominant race of zip code
- Food Education

MSU Center for Regional Food Systems
@MSUCRFS
THREE 2: FOOD AND FARM BUSINESS

- Ownership
- Business Support

Farm ownership, by race
% of SBA loans going to food-based business owners of color
THEME 3: FOOD CHAIN LABOR

- Income and Benefits
- Upward Mobility
- Labor Protections

Wage gap between white workers and workers of color by sector
% of people who are CEOs in food industries, by race
% of food chain workers reporting wage theft, by race
THEME 4: FOOD MOVEMENT

- % of staff in leadership positions in food movement organizations, by race
- Level of multi-cultural competency among staff in food movement organizations
- $$ attracted by food movement organizations, by race of leadership
Racial Equity Metrics Discussion

What metrics might be most meaningful to you in your work?
An Annotated Bibliography on Structural Racism Present in the U.S. Food System

Sixth Edition

More than 220 citations including publications and videos

https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/structural_racism_in_us_food_system

Zotero is a free software that lets users easily save, manage, and cite sources.

Download free software
Sync with group library
Tutorial available
You have to get over the fear of facing the worst in yourself. You should instead fear unexamined racism. Fear the thought that right now, you could be contributing to the oppression of others and you don't know it. But do not fear those who bring that oppression to light. Do not fear the opportunity to do better.

Ijeoma Oluo, *So You Want to Talk About Race*
Defining freedom cannot amount to simply substituting it with inclusion. Countering the criminalization of Black girls requires fundamentally altering the relationship between Black girls and the institutions of power that have worked to reinforce their subjugation. History has taught us that civil rights are but one component of a larger movement for this type of social transformation. Civil rights may be at the core of equal justice movements, and they may elevate an equity agenda that protects our children from racial and gender discrimination, but they do not have the capacity to fully redistribute power and eradicate racial inequity. There is only one practice that can do that. Love

Monique Morris, *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools*
We thank you for your participation!

Visit the Racial Equity in the Food System Workgroup webpage:
https://www.canr.msu.edu/racial-equity-workgroup/

Please subscribe to the list serv from this web page!
EQUITYFOOD

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