

**2<sup>nd</sup> California Community Food Security Summit**  
**Organizing Committee Notes**  
**Land Access**

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**Butcher Paper Notes**

- Land trusts
- Southern Cooperative and their training center – plan to provide land to new organic farmers
- Policy to prioritize beginning farmers in this county except/excluding public lands
- There are 100,000,000 acres of land in California. Organize a committee to research land ownership and find out where there are possibilities for public ownership for food security.
- Less than one half of one percent (0.05%) of the land in California is in the “ownership” of Indigenous People.
- Need a Clearing house/network of organizations and individuals working on land reform/reparations
- Find a public space and plant it! Guerilla Gardening.
- We need to understand land reform models around the world
- Need Solidarity with land reform movements from around the world.
- Should seek Conservation easements to keep agricultural land from being developed/open space trusts and finding folks to lease the land
- Develop specific ways to engage folks from different constituencies
- Occupation of public land
- Retrain young folks to **want** to become stewards of the land
- Develop links with farm workers and aspiring immigrant farmers
- Need to address Land owners abuse of tenants
- Include all workers/farmworkers
- CFJC should put forth a policy on land access
- Need to get involved in your local land trust to affect land-use decisions and make sure they rent land to limited-resource and farmers of color, indigenous farmers
- Whatever ails one of us, ails **all** of us.
- Farm labor issues /farmworker justice
- Occupy corporate land
- Urban land issues & rural land issues are different but converge on many points
- Community gardens are at risk – cities are selling them off
- Need to re-think community gardens; less about individual plots, more collective
- \$\$ for scholarships to get community members, farmers here
- Branch out more into the community -> go to the people
- Go to parks and schools
- More support for cooperative land “ownership.”

## **Main Ideas/Opinions about Problems and Solutions**

- Understanding the context of institutionalized land theft in this country is essential in moving forward and finding solutions to the issue of land access. The history of stolen land and labor must inform policy development, or it will be meaningless.
- Community land trusts could be developed to hold gardens and farms in trust for the community so that they won't be lost to development as so many of them seem to be.
- Get involved in your local land trust to help ensure that they make land use decisions that benefit local, limited-resource farmers, ranchers, gardeners and that they give preference to small-scale farmers over corporate ones. A lot of land trusts are taking cultivated and grazed land out of production, often at the expense of the family-farmers who used to own or lease that land.
- Public lands, federal, state, and county, often include viable agricultural land. We should try to work with those agencies to gain access to those lands for food production, or if they won't cooperate, farm those lands anyway without their permission.
- Private, corporate-held lands should also be considered for occupation for food production.
- People should 'guerilla garden' wherever there are abandoned, vacant, or open spaces.
- Urban gardening and rural farming issues are very different and should be recognized for those differences. However, they have converging interests as well, especially around the issue of land control and power.
- Native Californian tribes have very little control of land resources, with less than ½ of 1% of California land under their control. They continue to battle the development and desecration of their sacred sites.
- We should look at land reform movements around the world to understand the different models and forms that this world-wide movement is taking. We should also stand in solidarity with those movements and support them in the ways we can.
- There should be a study of land ownership in California to understand who has the power. This would provide a better understanding of land inequality, and places to make change.
- Organizations like California FarmLink are trying to connect retiring farmers with beginning farmers or farmers with limited resources who are looking for land. FarmLink tries to help facilitate land transfer to the next generation of farmers.
- Aspiring Black farmers can be linked with retiring or aging Black farmers in the South.
- Some folks are opposed to the idea of land ownership, rather they would like to see more emphasis placed on land stewardship and stewarding the land as a community. Perhaps this is an opportunity for communities to purchase land cooperatively and farm it together.

For more information & to join this Committee contact: Heather Fenney at 310-822-5410