## The Community Food Projects Participant Impact Survey:

A Guide to Customizing, Administering and Collecting Surveys from Program Participants

The Community Food Project (CFP) Participant Impact Survey (PS) measures the self-reported changes in community residents resulting from community food projects. Its intent is to measure the knowledge, attitude and behavior changes of project participants. These self-reported outcomes of CFP work will be recorded and aggregated in the CFP Indicator of Success (IOS) data collection form.

There are five steps to using the CFP PS for your project. Details on each step follow.

- 1) Customizing the survey for program participants
- 2) Selecting the survey participants
- 3) Deciding when to survey
- 4) Selecting a survey administration mode and collecting data
- 5) Entering the data into the CFP IOS system

#### **Step 1: Customizing the Survey for Program Participants**

The CFP PS template is designed to be brief, placing little burden on participants. Because the goals and activities of community food projects are unique, the CFP PS tool is not intended to provide all of the evaluation measures a program may need to demonstrate success. Instead, it provides a tool that measures information that is common to many community food projects.

The CFP PS template is a Microsoft WORD document called "CFP PS-TEMLPLATE.doc". Project staff should review the tool and decide which questions suit their program and which do not. A key is provided in the Complete CFP PS (see page 5) to provide guidance on what sets of questions to ask based on the nature of your participants. For the purposes of this tool, we have categorized the people into three categories: food recipients/customers, participants and partners. It is likely that people who engage with your project will fall into more than one category.

- Food recipients/customers: People who receive or purchase food as a result of your project.
- **Participants**: People who participate in education or training programs, or who receive financial assistance and benefits other than food as a result of your project.
- Partners: People or organizations that have played a significant role in helping plan and/or implement your project's activities.

It is important to think carefully about the changes expected in participants. A one-hour workshop aimed at providing information on nutrition may increase knowledge but may not cause a behavioral change given the limited contact with participants. (See *Chapter 3: Selecting Your Outcomes* of the *Community Food Project Evaluation Handbook* for more information on matching outcomes to program dose.)

In addition to selecting the appropriate questions to ask participants, staff will need to customize the tool to make it feel more specific to the project. For example, the heading of the tool states, "CFP Participant Impact Survey" then the term "Project ABC" is used throughout. A training program called "How to Make Your Garden Grow" may want to change the title to "How to Make Your Garden Grow Survey" and then change the word "program" to "training" throughout.

However, because the data collected in the CFP IOS is intended to be uniformly collected, we ask that you DO NOT change the survey questions other than removing some or making them fit with your program name and activities.

For an example of a customized CFP PS, see the section, *Appendix B: Example Customized* CFP PS, at the end of this document.

### **Step 2: Selecting Survey Participants**

Every person participating in a program may be eligible for the survey, although new participants or persons with very little participation may not be good choices for a survey geared more at long-term behavior changes.

If possible, all eligible participants should be asked to complete the survey. If resources permit, it is less complicated to survey all participants and avoid having to design special data collection methods to sample only a portion of participants.

If resources do not permit all individuals (participants, merchants, clients, etc.) to be surveyed, a sampling scheme can be developed. ("Sample" is a term that as a noun refers to a subgroup of a total group, or as a verb refers to selecting a subgroup.) If sampling is used, be sure that the sample selected is "representative" of all the individuals; that is, that the individual profile (type of stand operated, ethnicity of the individuals, etc.) of the sample is similar to the profile of all individuals. For more information on sampling, see *Appendix C: Systematic Sampling*, page 13.

#### **Step 3: Deciding When to Survey**

The Program Satisfaction Survey may be administered after a workshop or at the end of a program cycle. If the program runs continuously without a true end date, staff should choose to administer the survey at planned intervals (e.g., at the end of each growing season, annually in the spring, etc.). Workshop and other program leaders should schedule time near the end of their session to allow participants time for completing the survey.

#### Step 4: Selecting a Survey Administration Mode and Collecting Data

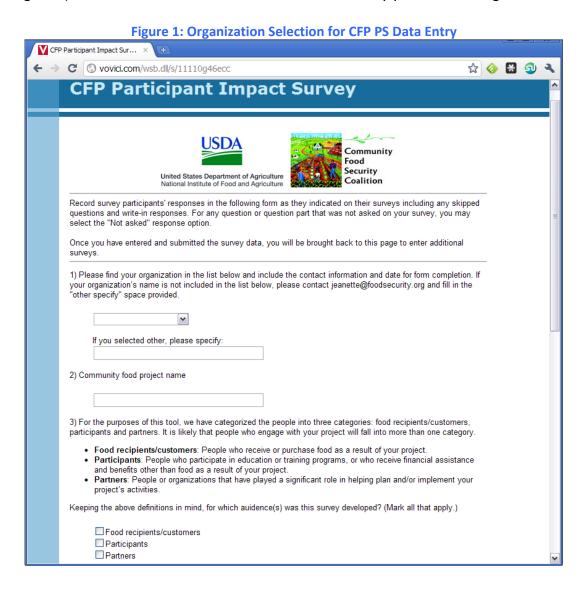
Program surveys, in general, can be administered in a number of ways. This survey was designed to be hand-distributed to participants and to be self-administered (meaning that respondents complete the survey privately and individually). Program staff or volunteers should hand out the surveys and ask participants to complete and return them before leaving. For younger groups or participants of lower literacy levels, the surveys can be group-administered, meaning that a staff member reads the questions aloud and participants answer the questions

independently. (See also *Chapter 7. Collecting Data* of the *Community Food Project Evaluation Handbook* for more information on the data collection process.)

#### Step 5: Entering the survey data in the CFP IOS

After the surveys have been completed by participants, the data should be entered in the CFP PS data entry form available at the following URL: <a href="http://www.n-r-c.com/survey/ps.htm">http://www.n-r-c.com/survey/ps.htm</a>. Each survey will need to be entered separately into the database. So, if you have 20 completed surveys – you will need to complete the data form 20 different times. The data from the surveys will be aggregated in the CFP IOS system. The results of your survey will be emailed back to you after the annual CFP reporting cycle (typically February/March) for use in program improvement, reporting and grant writing.

When you first access the form, you will need to specify your organization in the dropdown list, write in the CFP project name, and identify the audience(s) for whom the survey was developed (see Figure 1). You must enter this information for each survey you are entering data.



The data entry form contains every question on the CFP PS survey. If you removed questions from the survey, simply check the box marked "Not asked." Enter each survey as completed by the participant, including any skipped questions. If a respondent selected more than one option for a question that allows only one (e.g., checked "a good amount" and "not too much" for "learn more about the natural environment), flip a coin to determine which response to record in the data entry form. (If a respondent chose more than two responses, you'll have to flip a coin several times to narrow it down to one response.) If a person put a mark halfway between two possible responses, flip a coin to choose one of the responses and white-out the other. Any "cleaning" you do to the surveys should be marked on the surveys prior to entering the data. This will make your data entry go more quickly and efficiently.

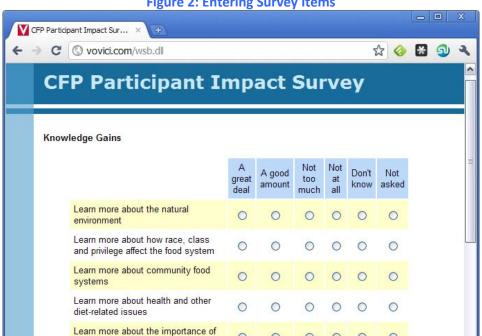


Figure 2: Entering Survey Items

Please note the CFP PS includes several optional open-ended, write-in response questions (see questions 7 through 11 of the Complete CFP PS beginning on page 5) that are not included in IOS reporting and are intended for project use only. The online CFP PS data entry form does not include space to enter these responses. If you included these questions on your survey, we recommend you record the written responses in a separate document (e.g., Microsoft Word, Notepad or other word processing application).

You will receive confirmation that your survey has been accepted after you submit it (make sure you click the "Submit" button at the end). You will be brought back to the first page of the CFP PS form automatically, where you can enter additional surveys if needed.

## **Appendix A: Complete CFP PS**

The following pages contain the all the questions available to you for customizing the CFP PS for your CFP project. The first three columns indicate the recommended audience for each question. Project staff should review each question to determine which should be included in your project's CFP PS.

Because the data collected in the CFP IOS is intended to be uniformly collected, we ask that you DO NOT change the survey questions other than removing some or making items fit with your program name and activities. The online data entry form has been design to collect data only on items included in the Complete CFP PS (excluding open-ended, write-in response questions).

#### **Legend**

RC: Food recipients/customers

PP: Participants PN: Partners

**Knowledge Gains** 

	,	י אאי	Janis .					
RC	ЬР	N	Please indicate to what extent [Project ABC] has helped you to	A great deal	A good amount	Not too much	Not at all	Don't know
х	х	х	Learn more about community food systems	0	0	0	0	0
х			Learn more about health and other diet-related issues	0	0	0	0	0
х			Learn more about the importance of eating fruits and vegetables	0	0	0	0	0
	х		Gain new farming and/or gardening skills	0	0	0	0	0
	х		Learn more about sustainable agriculture, farming, and/or gardening practices	0	0	0	0	0
х	х	х	Learn more about the natural environment	0	0	0	0	0
	х		Learn more about how to run a small food system business	0	0	0	0	0
х	х	х	Learn more about how race, class and privilege affect the food system	0	0	0	0	0
	х	х	Learn more about how to build diverse community participation	0	0	0	0	0
	х	х	Learn more about how to work collaboratively with others (organizations and individuals)	0	0	0	0	0
		х	Learn more about how to implement social justice practices in food system work	0	0	0	0	0
		х	Learn more about organizational development including leadership skills, communication skills, process skills, etc.	0	0	0	0	0

**Attitude Changes** 

_			<u> </u>	1				
RC	ЬР	N.	Please indicate to what extent [Project ABC] has helped you to	A great deal	A good amount	Not too much	Not at all	Don't know
х			Feel more connected to my food source	0	0	0	0	0
х	х		Increase my appreciation for leading a healthy life	0	0	0	0	0
	х		Feel more confident in my food preparation skills	0	0	0	0	0
х	х	х	Feel a stronger connection to my culture	0	0	0	0	0
х			Increase my appreciation for farming, gardening and food production	0	0	0	0	0
	х		Feel more confident about my farming and gardening skills	0	0	0	0	0
х	х	х	Feel a stronger connection to the natural environment	0	0	0	0	0
х	х	х	Feel a stronger connection to my local community	0	0	0	0	0
	х		Feel more confident that I have the right skills to get a job	0	0	0	0	0
х	х	х	Feel more confident as a leader in my community	0	0	0	0	0
х	х	х	Feel more able to affect change in my community	0	0	0	0	0
х	х	х	Increase my commitment to social justice issues	0	0	0	0	0
х	х	х	Feel more committed to work on local food system issues	0	0	0	0	0

**Behavior Changes** 

RC	ЬР	N	Please indicate to what extent [Project ABC] has helped you to	A great deal	A good amount	Not too much	Not at all	Don't know
х			Eat more fresh fruits and vegetables	0	0	0	0	0
х			Eat more food produced locally, organically, and/or with sustainable practices	0	0	0	0	0
х			Eat more foods that are traditional for my culture/family background	0	0	0	0	0
х	х		Provide healthy food for my family and myself	0	0	0	0	0
х			Be healthier	0	0	0	0	0
	х		Use more sustainable or organic farming or gardening practices	0	0	0	0	0
	х		Improve the way in which the food I grow is distributed	0	0	0	0	0
	х		Diversify my farm products	0	0	0	0	0
	х		Increase my income from farming/gardening	0	0	0	0	0
	Х		Make a living in agriculture	0	0	0	0	0
	х		Increase my number of customers	0	0	0	0	0
	х		Increase the size of my local market	0	0	0	0	0
	х		Donate/give extra food to other people	0	0	0	0	0
		х	Develop stronger leadership skills	0	0	0	0	0
		х	Assume greater leadership roles	0	0	0	0	0

RC	РР	N	Please indicate to what extent [Project ABC] has helped you to	A great deal	A good amount	Not too much	Not at all	Don't know
x	х	х	Take action that reduces the affects of race, class and	00		0	0	0
			privilege in my community				_	
Х	Х	Х	Make a greater difference in my community	0	0	0	0	0
		х	Be a better community organizer (this could include increased communication skills, etc.)	0	0	0	0	0
х	х	х	Improve my overall quality of life	0	0	0	0	0
RC	ЬР	Z	4. How long have you been participating in [Project ABC]?					
х	х	х	weeks or months or years					
					<b>.</b> •		12	
X Z	A X	X X	5. How would you rate your overall experience participating	g in [i	rojec	T ABC	.]!	
Х	Х	Х	O Excellent O Good O Fair O Poor					
RC	dd	Nd	6. The following are statements people have made about the food in their household. Please tell me how often this statement has been true for your household in the past 3 days.		Always	Often	Sometimes	Never
Х	х	Х	We were not able to afford enough food to eat		0	0	0	0
х	х	х	We were not able to afford enough of the kinds of food we wanted to eat		0	0	0	0
х	х	х	We were not able to afford to eat at all		0	0	0	0
The		lata	are not included in IOS annual reporting, and are intended	for pr	oject	use	only	'.
, RC								
х	х	Х						
x SC	d x	Z X	8. What do you like least about coming to [Project ABC]?					
RC	dd	Z	9. In what ways do you think your life is different (better or [Project ABC]?	wors	e) be	cause	of	

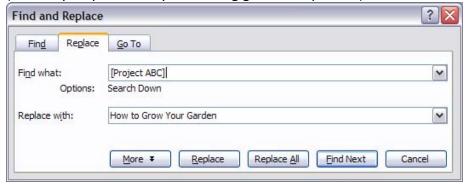
RC	ЬР	N	9. In what ways do you think you [Project ABC]?	· life is different (better or worse) because of
х	х	х		
		L		
RC	ЬР	Z	10. Are there ways [Project ABC] ca	an improve? If yes, please explain.
x	x	x		
		L		
RC	ЬР	Z	11. Do you have any additional con	nments regarding [Project ABC]?
x	x	x		
		raphi all de	<u>cs</u> emographic questions as is; do not	edit.
D1. '	(	is yo O Fei O Ma		D5. What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed? (mark one box)
D2. Which of the following includes your age?  17 or younger  18 - 24  25 - 34  35 - 44  45 - 54			or younger - 24 - 34 - 44	<ul> <li>12th Grade or less, no diploma</li> <li>High school diploma</li> <li>Some college, no degree</li> <li>Associate's degree (e.g. AA, AS)</li> <li>Bachelor's degree (e.g. BA, AB, BS)</li> <li>Graduate degree or professional degree</li> </ul>
D3.	Are y	<b>O</b> 65 <b>ou Sp O</b> No <b>O</b> Yes	years or older  panish, Hispanic or Latino?  , not Spanish, Hispanic or Latino  s, I consider myself to be Spanish,	D6. How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year? (Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.)
1	to ind to be	is yo dicate .) O Am O Asi	spanic or Latino our race? (Mark one or more races e what race you consider yourself nerican Indian or Alaskan Native an, Asian Indian or Pacific Islander ock or African American nite	<ul> <li>○ Less than \$15,000</li> <li>○ \$15,000 to \$24,999</li> <li>○ \$25,000 to \$49,999-</li> <li>○ \$50,000 to \$74,999</li> <li>○ \$75,000 to \$99,999</li> <li>○ \$100,000 or more</li> </ul>
	(	<b>O</b> t	her	

## **Appendix B: Example Customized CFP PS**

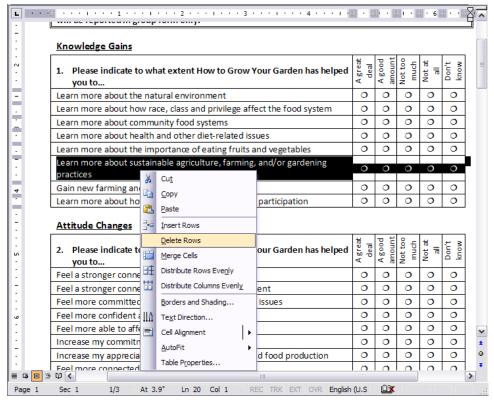
The following pages show the Complete CFP PS customized for the fictional program, How to Make Your Garden Grow.

### **Tips for Customizing the CFP PS template**

- Open the template in Word (CFP PS-TEMLPLATE.doc), and go to File > Save As... to save a copy of the template file that you can begin to edit.
- Find "[Project ABC]" and replace it with your program name by going to Edit > Replace...
   (This may help to make your editing go a little quicker.)



 To remove an item from one of the "grid style" questions (e.g., questions 1, 2 and 3), select the entire row in the table, and go to Table > Delete... > Rows. You can also delete the row by selecting it, right-clicking and selecting "Delete Row" from the contextual menu as shown below.



## **How to Make Your Garden Grow Survey**

Please take a few minutes to fill out this survey. This survey is being used to get your opinions on *How to Make Your Garden Grow* so we can improve it for you and others. We are interested in your honest answers. For example, some participants may have made changes to how they access food as a result of participating in the program. Others will not have changed. **There are no right or wrong answers.** Please do not put your name on this survey. **Your answers are completely private and your responses will be reported in group form only.** 

**Knowledge Gains** 

Please indicate to what extent How to Make Your Garden Grow has helped you to	A great deal	A good amount	Not too much	Not at all	Don't know
Learn more about community food systems	0	0	0	0	0
Learn more about health and other diet-related issues	0	0	0	0	0
Learn more about the importance of eating fruits and vegetables	0	0	0	0	0
Gain new farming and/or gardening skills			0	0	0
Learn more about sustainable agriculture, farming, and/or gardening practices	0	0	0	0	0
Learn more about the natural environment	0	0	0	0	0
Learn more about how race, class and privilege affect the food system		0	0	0	0
Learn more about how to build diverse community participation	0	0	0	0	0

**Attitude Changes** 

Please indicate to what extent How to Make Your Garden Grow has helped you to	A great deal	A good amount	Not too much	Not at all	Don't know
Feel more connected to my food source	0	0	0	0	0
Increase my appreciation for leading a healthy life	0	0	0	0	0
Feel more confident in my food preparation skills	0	0	0	0	0
Increase my appreciation for farming, gardening and food production	0	0	0	0	0
Feel more confident about my farming and gardening skills	0	0	0	0	0
Feel a stronger connection to the natural environment	0	0	0	0	0
Feel a stronger connection to my local community	0	0	0	0	0
Feel more confident as a leader in my community	0	0	0	0	0
Feel more able to affect change in my community	0	0	0	0	0
Increase my commitment to social justice issues	0	0	0	0	0
Feel more committed to work on local food system issues	0	0	0	0	0

# **How to Make Your Garden Grow Survey**

**Behavior Changes** 

Please indicate to what extent How to Make Your Garden Grow has helped you to	A great deal	A good amount	Not too much	Not at all	Don't know		
Eat more fresh fruits and vegetables	0	0	0	0	0		
Eat more food produced locally, organically, and/or with sustainable practices	0	0	0	0	0		
Eat more foods that are traditional for my culture/family background	0	0	0	0	0		
Provide healthy food for my family and myself	0	0	0	0	0		
Be healthier	0	0	0	0	0		
Use more sustainable or organic farming or gardening practices	0	0	0	0	0		
Improve the way in which the food I grow is distributed	0	0	0	0	0		
Donate/give extra food to other people	0	0	0	0	0		
Take action that reduces the affects of race, class and privilege in my community	0	0	0	0	0		
Make a greater difference in my community	0	0	0	0	0		
Improve my overall quality of life	0	0	0	0	0		
4. How long have you been participating in How to Make Your Garden Grown weeks  or  months or years	ow?						
5. How would you rate your overall experience participating in How to Make Your Garden Grow?							
O Excellent O Good O Fair O Poor							
	1			۲۵.			
6. The following are statements people have made about the food in thei household. Please tell me how often this statement has been true for your household in the past 30 days.	r	Always	Often	Sometimes	Never		
We were not able to afford enough food to eat		0	0	0	0		
We were not able to afford enough of the kinds of food we wanted to eat		0	0	0	0		
We were not able to afford to eat at all		0	0	0	0		

# **How to Make Your Garden Grow Survey**

7. In what ways do you think your life is differe Garden Grow?	nt (bette	or worse) because of How to Make Your
8. Are there ways How to Make Your Garden G	row can i	mprove? If yes, please explain.
<u>Demographics</u>		
These last questions are about you. The informat	ion will be	e used to help categorize your answers.
D1. What is your gender?  ○ Female ○ Male  D2. Which of the following includes your age? ○ 17 or younger ○ 18 - 24 ○ 25 - 34 ○ 35 - 44 ○ 45 - 54 ○ 55 - 64 ○ 65 years or older	D5.	What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed? (mark one box)  O 12th Grade or less, no diploma O High school diploma O Some college, no degree O Associate's degree (e.g. AA, AS) O Bachelor's degree (e.g. BA, AB, BS) O Graduate degree or professional degree  How much do you anticipate your
Please respond to both questions D3 AND D4:	ъ.	household's total income before taxes will be for the current year? (Please include in
<ul> <li>Are you Spanish, Hispanic or Latino?</li> <li>No, not Spanish, Hispanic or Latino</li> <li>Yes, I consider myself to be Spanish, Hispanic or Latino</li> <li>What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race you consider yourself to be.)</li> <li>American Indian or Alaskan Native</li> <li>Asian, Asian Indian or Pacific Islander</li> </ul>		your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.)  ○ Less than \$15,000  ○ \$15,000 to \$24,999  ○ \$25,000 to \$49,999-  ○ \$50,000 to \$74,999  ○ \$75,000 to \$99,999  ○ \$100,000 or more
<ul> <li>Black or African American</li> <li>White</li> <li>Other</li> </ul> Thank you for taking our sur	rvevl Your	feedback is appreciated!

## **Appendix C: Systematic Sampling**

"Systematic" sampling is often the easiest way to choose a sample. To select a systematic sample, divide the total number of individuals by the number to be surveyed. The nearest whole number will be the "skip factor." For example:

- If a CFP has the resources to survey 50 individuals,
- And there are 230 individuals at the project,
- The skip factor would be  $230 \div 50 = 4.6$ 
  - o If 4 is used as the skip factor, there will be about 57 or 58 individuals to survey:  $(230 \div 4 = 57.5)$
  - o If 5 is used as the skip factor, there will be about 46 individuals to survey:  $(230 \div 5 = 46)$

Once the skip factor is chosen (a program could use either 4 or 5 in the example above), the list of individuals can be used to select the sample. A random number between one (1) and your skip factor should be chosen as the place to begin on the list. For example, if the number three (3) is chosen as the first number, start with the third individual on the list. That individual would be the first to include in the survey. Then count down the list by the skip factor, selecting every "Nth" (where N equals the skip factor) individual (see Figure 3). These are the individuals to survey. If a list is not available, start at a designated area and begin counting with the first individual as "1." Give every "Nth" individual the survey.

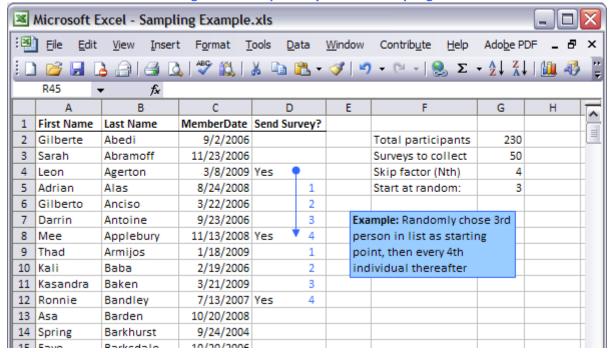


Figure 3: Example of Systematic Sampling

Another option may be to pick a representative day or set of days and survey all participants on that day or set of days.