

FSMA Training for small and mid-sized farms, small processors, and small fruit and vegetable wholesalers in California's Central Valley
Grant Award #2020-70020-33026

Stakeholder Summary

This was a collaborative project between the College of Sequoias Community College District and the Training Institute at State Center Community College District. Initial goals of the project were to prepare 50 specialty crop producers for FSMA Produce Safety inspections, deliver Produce Safety Grower training to 200 people and deliver GAP training in Spanish to 400 people. Due to lack of cooperation and fear of triggering official audits, producers were reluctant to allow for our contractors to conduct the farm visits, therefore the scope of work was changed to conduct additional Produce Safety Trainings. Target audience was socially, economically and/or educationally disadvantaged groups of small farmers, producers, processors, and key personnel.

A total of 34 trainings were completed which resulted in 795 participants receiving training in Produce Safety and Good Agriculture practices when harvesting fields, to prevent foodborne illnesses. We were able to exceed the number of individuals trained in produce safety by 166 and we exceeded the number of individuals trained in GAP by 29.

Produce Safety Grower Training

- 16 Trainings were completed.
- 366 individuals received the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) Produce Safety Certification
- Excess of 90% increased knowledge on Produce Safety
- Training conducted in English (7), Spanish (8), and Hmong (1)
- Delivery models included online and hybrid formats.

Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)

- 18 Trainings were completed onsite in the fields.
- 429 Hispanic supervisors, crew leaders and workers received training.
- Trainings were conducted in workers' native language, Spanish.
- Trainees signed GAP agreements and were provided copies of the practices for reference in Spanish.

Training Institute

State Center Community College District

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