

## **Annual Report to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation 2007-2008**

Submitted by:  
University of California, Davis  
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

W.K. Kellogg Endowed Chair in Sustainable Food Systems  
Grant # P0115088

### **Project Summary**

Our agricultural communities face critical economic, environmental, and social challenges. Vital to this is the challenge of increasing the production of and access to healthful food, without damaging the environment, in the face of a world population that doubled twice in the past 100 years to more than 6.3 billion, and is expected to reach 9 billion by 2050. UC Davis founded the Agricultural Sustainability Institute (ASI) in 2006 to coordinate and build upon UC Davis' programs that address specific facets of these challenges.

ASI provides leadership to coordinate learning, discovery, and engagement focused on sustainable management of natural resources and agricultural and food system practices that are environmentally sound and socially just. This includes integrating and interpreting discoveries from diverse areas of research to articulate a comprehensive set of principles for sustainability, while engaging scientific and stakeholder communities. ASI provides a hub that links initiatives in research and education in sustainable agriculture and food systems among UC Davis, the University of California, and other partners throughout California. ASI includes the UC ANR Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education Program (SAREP), the UC Davis Russell Ranch Sustainable Agriculture Facility, the UC Davis Student Farm, and an advising office for a proposed undergraduate major in sustainable agriculture.

The W.K. Kellogg Endowed Chair in Sustainable Food Systems provides leadership as director of the Agricultural Sustainability Institute and the statewide Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program. The holder of this chair leverages these programs along with research and teaching activities to foster a safe, healthy, and accessible food supply for Californians. Building on an additional grant from the Foundation, the Chair also applies UC Davis' resources toward creating a national collaborative network of leaders in the field of sustainability and conducting a National Symposium on Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems annually, beginning in spring 2009.

On 2 January 2007, Dr. Thomas P. Tomich became the inaugural holder of the W.K. Kellogg Endowed Chair in Sustainable Food Systems. Having completed his first full year of tenure, we are pleased to report that in FY 2008, Dr. Tomich has made significant progress as leader of ASI, SAREP and affiliated programs.

## Progress Toward Goals

### **Is the holder of this Endowed Chair fulfilling all activities specific to the Endowed Chair as designated by the donor and approved by the university?**

Yes, Dr. Tomich is fulfilling all activities expected. The detail of his activities for FY 2008 is outlined in the following sections. Over the past year, he has continued to connect with internal and external stakeholders and has formalized channels for consultation and communication. Significant progress has been made in research, as well as in the development of a new undergraduate major for sustainable agriculture at UC Davis.

He has initiated a strategic planning process that includes extensive consultation with stakeholders throughout the state. A strategic planning consultant was contracted (part-time) to facilitate the process. Four (two in FY 2007/2008) organizational design and strategic planning events were conducted, producing internal consensus on working drafts of the mission, vision, values, and operational principles, organizational functions and structures, and staffing needs for ASI and its units. This information is publicly available on the ASI website. Currently, additional comments can be submitted online. Rather than multi-stakeholder consultation meetings, we have taken a different approach to obtain input from stakeholders, one which will provide for broader participation and institutionalized structures. An on-line survey is nearing completion and is expected to be launched this summer. This will provide for large-scale stakeholder input. This will be followed by focus group meetings targeted toward under-represented groups. An External Advisory Board is also being established and will provide for ongoing, formal participation by a diverse audience. Further details are provided later in this report.

Restructuring of the Student Farm and the Russell Ranch Sustainable Agriculture Facility (incorporating the Long-term Research on Agricultural Systems (LTRAS) and Sustainable Agriculture Farming Systems (SAFS) projects) are nearly complete. ASI's new deputy director Kate Scow is leading the process to refresh the science agenda for the Russell Ranch Facility. Restructuring of SAREP is underway and planned for completion by the end of June. An internal steering committee, comprising ASI unit heads and open to all interested staff, was established in January 2008; it meets monthly to guide operation and management and to seek synergies across units. A student advisory committee has been formed and will begin quarterly meetings with the director this fall to provide for ongoing exchange of ideas and information. Interest and participation by UC Davis faculty and campus-based extension specialists also has been strong, with over 40 leading faculty joining in a planning retreat in September 2007 and faculty champions willingly stepping forward to lead programmatic initiatives, including new projects on adaptation to climate change and on energy efficiency as well as emerging initiatives in nitrogen science and in sustainability of biofuel production.

Dr. Tomich has continued to engage with stakeholders and participate in a range of events across the state and nationally. He has made presentations at 32 outreach and public service events with audiences totaling almost 1000 external stakeholders. He has continued to foster

linkages with other researchers and practitioners working in sustainable agriculture and consults with colleagues at UC Berkeley, UC Riverside, UC Santa Cruz, and Stanford University on a regular basis. He has been interviewed for two radio programs and four print media (including the NY Times and LA Times) and is on the editorial committee for two academic journals. He also has spoken at 12 professional events, addressing almost 400 colleagues. This includes a keynote address on "Sustainability: Are We Asking the Right Questions?" at the UC Agriculture and Natural Resources' Communities and Sustainability Conference.

Sponsored by ASI and organized in collaboration with the University of New Hampshire, Dr. Tomich also planned and participated in the November 2007 "Gathering of Agricultural Sustainability Center Directors and Endowed Chairs" Meeting. The purposes of this meeting were to compare experience across institutions (a deeply felt need among these leaders) and to select themes and create a planning committee for the inaugural National Symposium on Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems to be held at UC Davis in March 2009.

**Is the holder of this Endowed Chair providing intellectual leadership on the campus and nationally to the sustainable agriculture and food systems movement?**

Yes, as noted Dr. Tomich has spoken at 12 professional events and has made presentations at 32 outreach and public events. In addition to those detailed above, he has spoken at the UC Davis Sustainable Agriculture Farming Systems (SAFS) project's annual field day, UC Berkeley Beahrs Environmental Leadership Program, the international DIVERSITAS conference on biodiversity, the UC Davis "Life Cycle Analysis of Energy Intensity in Agriculture and the Food System" conference, and the agroecosystem workshop and policy roundtable sponsored by ASI, the California Institute for the Study of Specialty Crops, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, and the University of California Agricultural Issues Center. Additionally, he has met with many public officials (such as California Energy Commission, Department of Food and Agriculture and the California Roundtable on Agriculture and the Environment) acting as a leading resource on sustainable agriculture and food systems.

Dr. Tomich has continued to create strong ties with faculty at UC Davis and other institutions. He recently organized and led a special open session gathering of 25 academic leaders at the annual W.K. Kellogg Foundation Food and Society Gathering in Arizona to plan a national university network for programs in sustainable food systems. This was followed by a second session of the Agricultural Sustainability Center Directors and Endowed Chairs to discuss planning of the first National Symposium on Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems, including themes and possible speakers identified by the organizing committee. This committee includes T. Tomich, University of California, Davis (Chair); T. Kelly, University of New Hampshire; M. Ostrom, Washington State University; R. Pirog, Leopold Center, Iowa State University; D. Sumner, University of California, Davis; and M. Wander, University of Illinois. Special advisors to the organizing committee include A.G. Kawamura, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture; R. Rominger, Farmer, former Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture and former Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture; and M. Pollan, University of California, Berkeley.

He has reached out to local schools as a resource for primary and secondary educators. He has taken a lead role in the development of a new undergraduate major in sustainable agriculture and significant progress has been made in the recruitment of faculty and development of core courses. Over the past year Dr. Tomich served on four faculty search committees (endowed chair in animal science, endowed chair in soil science, pollination ecology, and director of the Center for Study of Regional Change).

**Is the holder of this Endowed Chair making progress in scholarly activities, teaching, and university and public service expected from faculty at the same academic rank?**

Within the College of Agricultural and Environmental Studies, Dr. Tomich holds appointments as a full professor in the Departments of Human and Community Development and Environmental Science and Policy. He is a member of the UC Davis graduate groups in Community Development, Geography, and Ecology. He serves on two advisory committees (sub-saharan African initiatives and university farm), the Faculty Committee on Interdisciplinary Majors, and the implementation and curriculum committees for the new undergraduate major in sustainable agriculture.

His main teaching responsibilities will be in the new undergraduate major, which will have core courses offered in the 2008/2009 academic year and it is anticipated that the fully developed major will be accepting undergraduates in 2010. Dr. Tomich has been leading the development of course descriptions, in particular the development of the capstone course which he will be teaching. This process is nearing completion with four of the five proposed core courses prepared and three approved by their respective departments. This quarter, he has been teaching the graduate-level seminar course "Ecology 290: Integrated Ecosystem Assessment," which will contribute to the development of materials for the undergraduate major. He also has delivered guest lectures for two courses on campus, involving over 50 UC Davis students.

Dr. Tomich has been active in establishing his teaching and research program. He is working with a doctoral graduate student in the Education Department on the design of experiential learning in the new undergraduate major, is conducting a directed reading with a graduate student in community development and is working with another graduate student researcher on international agricultural development. He is a mentor for a Humphrey Scholar, has served on two masters' thesis committees for international agricultural development and one in community development and is a thesis reader for a fourth in ecology. He is also advising three additional graduate students on various topics. He has published three journal articles and three book chapters based on his previous research, two new papers on his work in energy and food systems, and one new paper on agroecosystem assessment. Dr. Tomich is also the coordinating lead author for a multi-author book chapter on conceptual frameworks for ecosystem assessment.

**What progress has been made toward identifying the principles and practices that contribute to sustainability of agricultural and natural resource systems?**

Over the last year, Dr. Tomich has continued to develop mechanisms to obtain input from stakeholders as a means of assessing priorities. This has been part of the strategic planning process for ASI and for establishing ASI and SAREP as leading players in the development of metrics and indicators of sustainability. Dr. Tomich also has been working with graduate students in the development of a conceptual framework for this challenging goal and this framework was presented at the “California Agroecosystem Services: Assessment, Valuation, and Policy Perspectives” workshop and policy roundtable in September 2007. Through a graduate-level seminar on integrated agroecosystem assessment, he is building student capacity to understand methods of assessment. Students are being asked to prepare proposals for assessment of drivers, conditions, and trends in an economic, environmental, or social aspect of California’s agricultural ecosystems and several will be selected as assessment studies, tentatively planned to commence in summer 2008.

**What progress has been made toward establishing communication channels that will permit a meaningful role for stakeholders in identifying and helping to find solutions to problems relating to sustainability?**

ASI is creating mechanisms to identify and assess big, emerging issues affecting access to good food and the vitality of agriculture. This process involves both informal consultations with various groups as well as more formal mechanisms, including formation of an external advisory board that broadly represents California’s diversity. Since joining UC Davis in January 2007, the ASI director has averaged at least 3 stakeholder meetings per month, engaging with over 1200 people, including, among others, young people, farmers and ranchers, commodity groups, philanthropists, public officials, social activists, environmental advocates, reporters, corporate executives, ‘celebrity chefs,’ and food industry leaders.

As noted, significant progress has been made in ASI’s strategic planning framework. Progress has been made to institutionalize mechanisms for effective and ongoing outreach and engagement. A professionally-designed web-based tool is under development to inform larger numbers of stakeholders of progress so far, to solicit feedback on the draft ASI mission, vision, and other strategic elements, and to seek input on priority issues. Results of that web-based consultation will be used in the inaugural meeting later this year of ASI’s external advisory board. The external advisory board is structured to reflect a wide range of differing perspectives and drawn from leaders across the state, including farmers and ranchers; agricultural, environmental, and community organizations; food manufacturers and retailers; educators; policymakers; and the media. Twenty members have been recruited (five are ex officio members). The inaugural meeting of the Board is being planned for December 2008. While establishment of the External Advisory Board has been a time consuming effort, the process has enabled Dr. Tomich to ensure a broad range of perspectives and expertise is represented (see appendices for a current list of members). Scheduling the first meeting also has been challenging, but the delay will enable a better turnout of the membership.

ASI has hosted numerous events over the year, providing forums for stakeholder consultations, collaborative partnerships, and education and outreach. The UC Davis Sustainable Agriculture Farming Systems (SAFS) project's annual field day took place June 22, 2007 at Muller and Sons Farm in Woodland. The event showcased sustainable research and management practices and included a growers-panel on on-farm energy-saving practices. Other events sponsored by ASI include the "Climate Change Issues Impacting the California Wine Industry and Other Perennial Crops" workshop for winegrape growers and other farmers, vintners, public officials and scientists, the previously mentioned agroecosystem assessment workshop and roundtable, and the international roundtable "Life Cycle Analysis of Energy Intensity in Agriculture and the Food System".

Dr. Tomich has continued to develop team-building within and across ASI, SAREP, and affiliates. The ASI Steering Committee (formerly the Agricultural Sustainability Alliance Project (ASAP) Committee) meets every 4-6 weeks, acting as an internal advisory committee for the Director as well as a forum to identify opportunities for synergistic cooperative efforts (including faculty connections) and to facilitate communication and collaboration among ASI units. It comprises representatives of all the internal units affiliated with ASI, as well as student representation through the "Students for Sustainable Agriculture," a campus organization. An external consultant has completed a historical review and evaluation of SAREP to assist in understanding the institutional structure and scope of the program's work and how best to coordinate activities within ASI.

**What progress has been made toward disseminating information to assist decision makers, scientists, and practitioners to improve the sustainability of the food system?**

The established programs of ASI and SAREP each disseminate a variety of information about sustainable agriculture and food systems, collectively reaching audiences including elementary school children, government leaders, farmers, ranchers, farm workers, researchers, educators, industry professionals, consumers, community organizations, and non-profits.

A full-fledged ASI Web site was launched in January 2008. It is a portal through which affiliates' Web sites may be accessed, provides links to research initiatives and publications produced by ASI and affiliates, and includes information on the strategic planning process. As part of this process, several brochures, posters, and factsheets have been developed and are available through the Web Site. To date, the communications strategy has been ad hoc, but quite comprehensive in the level of information disseminated. The development of a more formal communications strategy is encompassed in the ongoing strategic planning process.

ASI affiliated Web sites include:

SAREP: <http://sarep.ucdavis.edu/>

UCD Student Farm: <http://studentfarm.ucdavis.edu/>

UCD Sustainable Agriculture Farming Systems (SAFS): <http://safs.ucdavis.edu/>

UCD Long Term Research on Agricultural Systems (LTRAS): <http://ltrass.ucdavis.edu/>

Since May 2007, Dr. Tomich has contributed a *From the Director* column to four issues of *Sustainable Agriculture*, the ASI/SAREP newsletter (formerly referred to as the SAREP newsletter): Summer 2007 (Vol. 19, No.2)., Fall 2008 (Vol. 19, No.3)., Winter/Spring 2008 (Vol. 20, No.1)., Summer 2008 (Vol. 20, No.2). These are a forum to communicate key activities at ASI and affiliates and highlight important issues on sustainable agriculture and food systems. This contribution will continue going forward.

As noted, Dr. Tomich has continued to have a high profile at public outreach events and has participated in 44 public service and professional events. He has cultivated close relationships with policy-makers and information is shared through informal meetings and more formal forums (e.g., A.G. Kawamura, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture is on the ASI External Advisory Board). He has also been interviewed on radio and for newspapers (including the NY Times and LA Times), communicating with a wide audience at the state and national level. The ASI also is involved in planning and/or sponsoring a number of educational conferences and workshops to foster an exchange of information and dialogue on sustainable agriculture and food systems. One example is the annual "Sustainable Farming Systems" field day at Russell Ranch Sustainable Agriculture facility which provides an opportunity to bring together researchers, growers, students, and the community for both educational and interactive activities.

**What progress has been made toward assisting California's rural and urban communities and policy makers to understand and implement sustainable food and agricultural systems?**

To date, emphasis has been on identifying key groups and individuals, building rapport, and listening to concerns and suggestions from different groups. As noted, formal processes for ongoing stakeholder engagement are being institutionalized and efforts to communicate information on sustainable agriculture and food systems have broadened and will continue to expand going forward. We have also established a partnership with the California Department of Food and Agriculture and Roots of Change (ROC) on the California "SHARE" project, which aims to create a strategic vision for Californian agriculture that engages the public, farmers and ranchers (listening sessions are now scheduled across the state). Our work on the development of metrics and indicators of sustainability will help inform this initiative.

**What progress has been made toward educating students in the principles and practices of sustainability, exposing them to a variety of viewpoints and educational methods?**

A main focus of work over the past year has been the establishment of a new undergraduate major in sustainable agriculture. Eight faculty positions were included in the ASI initiative and six faculty have now been recruited. Two recruitments are in progress: Pollination ecology (Entomology), short-listing process underway; Sesnon Chair in sustainable animal systems (Animal Science), offer outstanding. An additional ASI-affiliated position in invertebrate community ecology has been proposed jointly with the Entomology Department; an offer has been made and is outstanding.

With core faculty recruitment nearly complete, development of the undergraduate major has accelerated. Four of five proposed core courses have been developed (the fifth is a capstone course that will be offered for seniors in the major). Three of these already have been approved by their respective departments. It is planned that four new core courses will be offered in 2008/2009. A Chairs committee, including the chair of each of the seven departments currently involved in the major, has been created for joint governance and has endorsed an arrangement whereby ASI will host the advising office for the major on behalf of the department chairs. The Chairs committee also encouraged the ASI director to reach out to additional departments in the College to seek their participation; discussions are underway with four additional departments. A doctoral student from the UC Davis School of Education is gathering input on the proposed major this quarter from high school faculty and students, particularly from under-served communities.

Dr. Tomich has also been actively encouraging involvement of members of the “Students for Sustainable Agriculture.” Student representation is now integrated in the strategic planning process and through participation in the internal ASI Steering Committee and the External Advisory Board. In addition, as the director of ASI and SAREP, Dr. Tomich has initiated quarterly meetings with a student advisory committee to remain in close connection with the students and exchange ideas on a regular basis.

## **Other**

The California Food and Fiber Futures (CF3) project, funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, was completed in September. CF3 was a diverse partnership of eight higher education institutions, government, stakeholders, business and industry, and non-profits to address California’s complex agricultural issues. ASI has built on this history of collaboration and integrated these inclusive and responsive values into its strategic framework.

## **Future Plans**

### **A. List the project and evaluation activities you intend to pursue during the next project year for each intended outcome and note whether and how they involve modifications.**

*Key activities in development of curriculum:*

Establishment of the new undergraduate major in sustainable agriculture: The goal is to have core courses offered starting in the 08–09 academic year and the fully developed major accepting undergraduates in 2010. Milestones over the next two years for the major development and approval include:

- completion of course descriptions/content and development of experiential learning activities,
- professional development on experiential learning for faculty,



- approval of all courses by the campus, approval of the major by the College Majors & Courses Standing Committee, approval by the College Executive Committee, Academic Senate approval,
- development of major code and other work with admissions and registrar's offices,
- approval of the major by the University of California system and, finally, matriculation of an demographically diverse first cohort of students,
- development of internship program, and
- new staff hires to assist in administration of the new major.

Plans are underway to strengthen and further develop the PH.D. area of emphasis in agroecology, which is part of the Graduate Group in Ecology at UC Davis, the number one ecology Ph.D. program in the U.S.

*Major events and strategic planning activities:*

March 24-26, 2009. First "National Symposium on Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems." Organized and sponsored by ASI, with funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. This will be the inaugural event and will be held at UC Davis to coincide with the centennial celebrations. The organizing committee will continue to work on planning for the three-day event, such as identifying themes and session topics, soliciting speakers and moderators, developing a complete agenda, preparing a list of potential participants, and general logistics and communications.

Summer 2008. Launch Web survey: This web-based survey tool will be used to gather stakeholder input on ASI's strategic planning. We aim to involve a broad range of stakeholders in using this tool to let us know what they believe are the most important sustainability challenges facing agriculture and the food system. The results of this process will inform our ongoing strategic planning and focus our stakeholder engagement activities.

December 9-10, 2008 (date tbc). Inaugural meeting of ASI External Advisory Board. Discussion of fundraising strategy and ASI strategic plan will be presented for discussion and possible approval. Activities for the balance of the academic year depend on the outcome of this meeting.

*Other events and activities currently scheduled (all will be held at UC Davis unless otherwise specified):*

June 17, 2008. "Sustainable Farming Systems Field Day." The 20<sup>th</sup> field day to be held at ASI's Russell Ranch Sustainable Agriculture Facility. The event brings together researchers, growers, students, and the community and includes tours, field displays, and education sessions.

September 2008. SAREP external evaluation (UC Agriculture and Natural Resources Division). Meetings with staff and the external review panel are currently being planned for mid-August.

The final evaluation should be completed by end of summer. This will feed into the strategic planning process for ASI.

September 14-18, 2008. Harlan II: International Symposium, "Biodiversity in Agriculture: Domestication, Evolution, and Sustainability". A three-day international symposium on crop and animal domestication, agricultural evolution, and agricultural biodiversity and sustainability. Co-sponsored by ASI.

November 2008 (date tbd). California Agricultural Learning Centers Conference. Sponsored by the Hanson Trust, this is a two-day gathering of leaders of agricultural learning centers across the state.

December 2008 (date tbd). Local Food Systems Conference. Sponsored by ASI and SAREP, this event will provide a learning opportunity to share best practices, results and lessons learned from 13 projects funded in 2006-2007 with other grantees and a broader audience such as UC Cooperative Extension, university campuses and non-profit organizations.

**B. What will be done this coming year to increase the likelihood that the project will be self-sustaining by the end of the grant period?**

Financial sustainability is ensured in the endowment, by design. However, Dr. Tomich is continually striving to leverage additional human and financial resources.

As noted, recruitment of new faculty members and the establishment of the new undergraduate major has been a focus of activities over the past year. As recruitment nears completion, focus is shifting to mentoring new junior faculty members to ensure they are successful in their career path and a variety of incentive mechanisms are being considered. To assist in meeting our goals, Kate Scow, a professor of soil microbial communities in agroecosystems with the Department of Land, Air, and Water Resources, was named deputy director of ASI in January 2008. She succeeded nematologist Howard Ferris who is on sabbatical in Costa Rica. Dr. Scow's specialty is complimentary to that of Dr. Tomich and her primary responsibility will be to lead the development of the new science program for Russell Ranch.

A results-based fundraising strategy will, of course, be an important output of the strategic planning process. Melissa Haworth, director of major gifts in the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, is working with the ASI director on developing this fundraising strategy and in identifying and cultivating opportunities for significant gifts. In addition, a proposal coordinator has recently been added to ASI's staff to assist in identifying funding opportunities and preparing proposals. This fundraising strategy will include efforts to build a significant program endowment for ASI and to identify other opportunities for major gifts, to enhance the permanent budget of SAREP, to develop major proposals and capture large-scale grants as the basis for programmatic initiatives in key thematic areas prioritized through the strategic planning process and stakeholder consultations, and – where strategically justified – to continue to seek smaller extramural grants as seed funding for pilot initiatives. In 2007, with a

gift of \$250,000, the Campbell's Soup Company established the first endowment fund for ASI as a program. An additional \$649,000 in program grants has been obtained since January 2007. To assist in the development and implementation of the new undergraduate major, \$100,000 has been awarded from the Columbia Foundation; an additional \$100,000 has been awarded by the Clarence E. Heller Foundation to focus on the development of experiential learning components of the new major. A Faculty Course Development Award of \$14,000 was awarded by UC Davis to assist in the development of one of the initial core courses – food systems. In addition, Dr. Tomich is in discussions with the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and others to explore opportunities for longer-term funding to assist in institutionalizing key functions of ASI and establishing additional avenues for research, education, outreach and communication.

**C. What indications are there that this project can (or cannot) be adopted elsewhere?**

It is still too soon to judge the replicability of this particular integrative science approach to “mainstreaming” engagement, research, education, communication, and dissemination on agricultural sustainability and food systems within a major land grant institution. However, as evident in this report, the initiative has been well received and garnered increasing interest both internally and externally.

**Dissemination**

**A. What information or evaluation findings from your project have been made available to the field and how?**

As noted above, ASI, SAREP and affiliates continue to implement communication activities and further plans are being made to enhance these measures. The strategic planning process has been designed to be very open and inclusive. Information has been made available on the ASI website and, as mentioned, an on-line survey instrument is under development. The working draft of operational principles includes a commitment to “creating and sustaining a learning organization” to embed monitoring and impact assessment in the overall design of our activities. As noted, SAREP is currently undergoing an external evaluation and a report commissioned by the Director has been completed which provides an historical review. However, no formal evaluation findings are available at this point in the project.

**B. What plans do you have, if any, at this time for disseminating information about your project during the next year and at the conclusion of Foundation funding?**

As noted above, information on the development of the strategic planning process is publicly available and we plan to continue to enhance transparency. ASI, SAREP, and its affiliates continue to communicate and disseminate information on their activities through various forums (e.g., websites, brochures, publications, newsletters) and creation of a more formal communications strategy is encompassed in the ongoing strategic planning process. Funding for a communications intern is also being sought.

## **Other**

The following appendices are attached to provide additional information on strategic planning activities.

- Appendix 1: ASI External Advisory Board (as of June 13, 2008)
- Appendix 2: ASI organization description, mission and vision (draft)
- Appendix 3: ASI operational principles (draft)
- Appendix 4: ASI reporting and accountability structure (draft)

## Appendix 1: ASI External Advisory Board (as of June 13, 2008)

**External Advisory Board.** ASI's external advisory board is structured to reflect a wide range of differing perspectives and will be drawn from leaders in their respective fields, including farmers and ranchers; agricultural, environmental, and community organizations; food manufacturers and retailers; educators; policymakers; and the media. The inaugural board will serve for terms of two or three years.

**Candidates who have agreed to be nominated** (in alphabetical order).

**Marcus Benedetti**, President, Clover Stornetta Farms, Petaluma, CA

**Ashley Boren\***, Executive Director, Sustainable Conservation, San Francisco, CA

**John Diener**, President, Red Rock Ranch, Five Points, CA

**Greg Drescher**, Senior Director for Strategic Initiatives, Culinary Institute of America, St Helena, CA

**Mable Everette**, CEO and Founder, Community Nutrition Education Services, and 2007 Roots of Change Leadership Fellow, Inglewood, CA

**Cornelius Gallagher**, Senior Vice President for Agribusiness, Bank of America, Roseville, CA

**Martha Guzman Aceves**, Legislative Advocate, California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, Sacramento, CA

**Carl Johnson**, Senior Vice President, Chief Strategy Officer, Campbell's Soup Company, Camden, NJ

**Jonathan Kaplan**, Director, Sustainable Agriculture, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), San Francisco, CA

**AG Kawamura**, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Sacramento, CA

**Craig McNamara**, President, Sierra Orchards, and Co-Founder, Center for Land Based Learning, Winters, CA

**Amparo Perez-Cook**, Vice President and General Manager, Bustos Media, LLC, Sacramento, California

**Judith Redmond**, Co-owner, Full Belly Farm, and President, Community Alliance with Family Farmers, Guinda, CA

**Richard Rominger\***, Rominger Farms, Winters, CA

**Howard Shapiro\***, Director, Plant Science & External Research, Mars Inc, and Co-founder, Seeds of Change, McLean, VA and Davis, CA

**Paul Wenger**, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, California Farm Bureau Federation, and farmer, Modesto, CA

\* indicates members of the Executive Committee

***Ex officio members*** (in alphabetical order)

**Daniel Dooley**, Vice President, Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of California

**Jennifer Ryder Fox**, Dean, College of Agriculture, California State University, Chico

**Neal Van Alfen**, Dean, College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences, Univ. of California, Davis

A student to be designated by the UC Davis Students for Sustainable Agriculture

## Appendix 2: ASI Organization Description, Mission and Vision (draft)

The Agricultural Sustainability Institute (ASI) will strengthen existing expertise in agricultural disciplines on the UC Davis campus and throughout the University of California by focusing attention on research, education, and outreach on agriculture that ensures access to healthful food and that promotes the vitality of agriculture and food systems and the environment today and for future generations.

UC Davis founded the Agricultural Sustainability Institute (ASI) in 2006 to coordinate and build upon UC Davis' programs that address specific facets of these challenges. This will lead not only to an expansion of relevant research, teaching, and engagement, but also to more efficient application of the university's energies to solve these, and other, complex problems facing California and the nation in an increasingly global economy. ASI is creating mechanisms to identify and assess big, emerging issues affecting access to good food and the vitality of agriculture. This process involves both informal consultations with various groups as well as more formal mechanisms, including formation of an external advisory board that broadly represents California's diversity.

The mission of the ASI is to ensure access to good food and to promote the vitality of agriculture today and for future generations. We do this through integrative research, education, communication and early action on big, emerging issues.

The vision is a food and agricultural system that:

- is innovative, adaptive and profitable
- promotes prosperity and equity for people working in agriculture and the food system and their communities
- improves the environment and human health
- provides healthy food for everyone
- builds awareness and understanding of the food system
- engages public participation in policy decisions affecting food and agriculture

Thematic areas of the ASI are:

- Agriculture, Resources, & the Environment: integration of agricultural systems at the farm/ranch and landscape levels
- Food & Society: integration of the food system, linking production, distribution and consumption
- Education & Leadership: integrated programs for sustainability education and leadership - kindergarten through post-graduate

The ASI provides a hub that links initiatives in research and education in sustainable agriculture and food systems among CA&ES, the University of California, and other partners throughout California. The ASI includes the UC ANR Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education Program, the UC Davis Russell Ranch Sustainable Agriculture Facility, the UC Davis Student Farm, and an

advising office for a proposed undergraduate major in sustainable agriculture.

The Russell Ranch facility is the only long term research site for irrigated agriculture for the Mediterranean climate zone. Building on this unique research and teaching facility, ASI is planning to create a global network of partners working toward sustainability. With a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation the ASI has already taken the lead in networking among academic leaders in sustainability across the United States. A symposium to gather these academic leaders is planned for March 2009.



### Appendix 3: ASI Operational Principles (draft)

**Practicing sustainability:** we strive to enact sustainability principles and practices in our own activities.

- **“Walking the talk”:** we work to use sustainable practices in our own operations and actively strive to embody our core values.
- **Community:** we embrace and enact the UC Davis Principles of Community in our daily work.
- **Respect for all:** we affirm the inherent dignity in all people and endeavor to relate to all with respect, fairness and justice.

**Legitimacy:** we set our priorities and design our programs in response to concerns and aspirations of stakeholders representing the diversity of California

- **Spanning boundaries:** we serve the entire state, and all segments of agriculture and the food system.
- **Science in the public interest:** we are committed to transparency in governance and priority setting; to open access to results and information; and to accountability to stakeholders.
- **Historical awareness:** we recognize the University's historic, current, and potential future roles in shaping agricultural and food systems and their effects on environment and society. We strive to make informed and responsible decisions regarding research, teaching and outreach based on this knowledge.
- **Seeking consensus, while respecting differences:** our activities employ a common set of ground rules, including respect for different viewpoints.

**Usefulness:** responsiveness to stakeholders’ needs – the broad interests of society as well as needs of specific groups – is key to the relevance of our initiatives and provides the necessary focus on real issues and opportunities.

- **Communication for impact:** we ensure that input from stakeholders consistently is sought and used effectively and that our products are translated to reach key audiences in forms they can use.
- **Integration of knowledge:** we actively seek and recognize the value of knowledge embodied in experience on farms and ranches, in communities, in industry, and in policy arenas.
- **Commitment to experiential learning:** we recognize the value of learning-by-doing and actively seek to integrate practical opportunities in our educational programs, training, and outreach activities.
- **Creating and sustaining a learning organization:** feedback, monitoring, evaluation, and impact assessment will be embedded in overall design of our activities.

**Credibility:** we hold ourselves to the highest standards of professional integrity and scientific rigor.

- **Forward-looking agenda:** we will create and sustain mechanisms to identify and assess emerging opportunities and threats, based on scientific analyses and stakeholder input and informed by global trends.
- **Broad scope, with multidisciplinary balance:** we integrate economic, environmental, and social dimensions of sustainability.
- **Scientific integration and synthesis:** our activities span big, inter-linked issues and multiple scales – ranging from molecular to global; past, present, future.
- **Open inquiry:** we promote critical analysis to challenge ‘conventional wisdom’ and to expand our understanding of technical, institutional, and policy options using the best natural and social science methods available.

**Appendix 4: ASI Reporting and Accountability Structure (draft)**

