



Photo by: Joeelyn Hsu



# Annual Report 2015-16

## Cultivating Diversity, Justice, Resilience & Health

Dear Friends,

Through the support, collaboration, and engagement of numerous diverse partners, the Berkeley Food Institute (BFI) has achieved significant progress this past year towards its vision to transform food systems—to expand access to healthy, affordable food and promote sustainable and equitable food production. We have also updated our mission—to empower new leaders with capacities to cultivate diverse, just, resilient, and healthy food systems.

In this report, we are excited to present highlights of our accomplishments from the past year, as illustrated by achievements in our core program areas—education, research, policy, community engagement, and communications. We continue to be motivated by the incredible surge of interest in food systems. We are delighted to see the many ways that food brings people together and builds new bridges across sectors.

We thank those who have contributed to and participated in BFI's success, and invite all to be involved in realizing a transformative vision.

Sincerely, The BFI Team





2015-16 Student Fellows and Employees

## Who Are We? People = Power

A key driver of Berkeley Food Institute’s advancement toward sustainable and equitable food systems is **people power**: the passion and intellectual capacity cultivated by our faculty, researchers, policy influencers, collaborators, and diverse and remarkable students who offer great promise for leadership, innovation, and effective change in food and agriculture.

Emphasizing the critical importance of people, **BFI’s “refreshed” mission is to empower new leaders with capacities to cultivate diverse, just, resilient, and healthy food systems.** As an interdisciplinary hub, BFI acts as connective tissue, facilitating the partnership of seven colleges and schools across the UC Berkeley campus: Natural Resources, Public Policy, Journalism, Law, Public Health, and most recently, the College of Environmental Design and the Haas School of Business, who joined us in 2015-16. BFI leverages a breadth of human capital both on and off campus as a critical component for success. Our people power is comprised of:

- **Passionate students**, including our student fellows and employees
- **Renowned faculty with intellectual leadership** on numerous topics in food and agriculture systems
- **Core staff** of two faculty co-directors, executive director, policy director, program manager, and development and grant officer
- **An executive committee**, serving as an advisory group, that includes six deans and faculty, staff, and student representatives
- **Distinguished visiting fellows**
- **Community collaborators and stakeholders** including leading thinkers, educators, advocates, and farmers

See Appendix for details.

BFI’s structure breaks down silos between disciplines, and our approach reinforces values of equity, inclusion, diversity, and academic freedom.

We welcome all to **B involved!**

## Priority Themes, Core Programs, and Activities

In 2015-16, BFI undertook a comprehensive strategic planning process. As a result, we narrowed our focus to **three vital themes** that address critical food system challenges and build upon the wealth of knowledge at UC Berkeley in these fields. We emphasize a holistic approach to address these pressing issues:

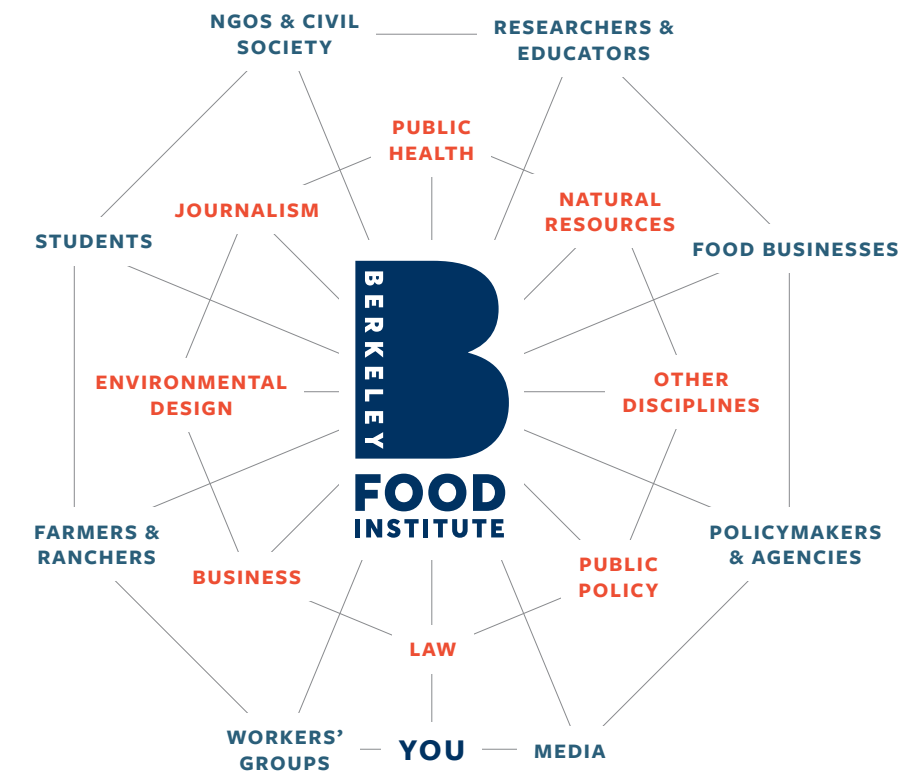
- Promoting equitable access to good food
- Advancing fair and healthy jobs in food systems
- Accelerating the adoption of agroecology

**How do we work towards our goals and achieve impacts in these areas?** BFI continued to implement programs in five core areas: **education, research, policy, community engagement, and communications.** Importantly, we developed new connections across these program areas, linking research and education with policymaking and community-based initiatives—building capacities that impact food systems.



*“BFI, as a multi-disciplinary effort, can accelerate the synthesis of knowledge to transform our food system to one more just, equitable, and sustainable. The challenges facing our state, our country, and the planet require bold, creative, and innovative solutions—BFI is part of developing those solutions.”*

— **Maria Echaveste**, Distinguished Visiting Fellow at BFI; Lecturer at Berkeley Law; and Former Deputy Chief of Staff for President Bill Clinton



Red = UC Berkeley Schools and Colleges



## Highlights of Accomplishments by Theme: 2015-16

Over the past year, BFI achieved significant accomplishments in our thematic areas and across our core programs. By building the capacity of our students, researchers, and policy leaders, BFI is shaping food and agriculture systems that embody and promote greater diversity, justice, resilience, and health. Here are a few inspiring examples of our successes within each of our priority themes.



### Accelerating the adoption of agroecology

- Policies to **promote and protect** soil health
- **Diversified** farming systems
- **Alternatives** to pesticides
- Pollinator **health**



#### HIGHLIGHT

We are documenting the environmental and socioeconomic benefits of diversified farming systems (DFS) and sustainable practices for growers in California and beyond. For example, studies published by DFS researchers this year revealed that supporting agricultural biodiversity on farms not only generates important pest control services, but is also compatible with food safety goals. A group of public policy graduate students completed a project on soil health, carbon, and climate change, in collaboration with BFI and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (an agency of the USDA). The resulting report was used by federal policymakers in considering potential program improvements to advance the adoption of soil health practices. Through these projects we are informing and influencing policy processes at the state, national, and international levels.

Photo by: Claire Kremen

### Promoting equitable access to good food

- **More effective** food assistance programs
- **Thriving** agriculture in our cities
- **Better access** to organic food



#### HIGHLIGHT

In 2015 BFI advanced a collaborative effort with scholars and practitioners from public health and antipoverty fields to propose improvements to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Our BFI faculty affiliates are generating and sharing policy recommendations aimed to increase equity and healthy food access in the program. In partnership with community groups working on food security and access, this work includes evaluation of healthy food incentives and production of a policy brief about ways to improve nutrition factors related to SNAP.

Photo by: Ecology Center, state lead for the Market Match incentive program

### Advancing fair and healthy jobs in food systems

- Ensure **fair and healthy** working conditions within existing jobs
- Foster new jobs that build **economic security** for working families

#### HIGHLIGHT

BFI's seed grant program supported faculty affiliates' projects to evaluate and identify ways to improve conditions for agricultural workers. One project on "Engaging Indigenous Farmworkers in Promoting Occupational Safety and Health," is intended to empower indigenous Latino workers to monitor and improve health and safety conditions on farms. Another project on "Making the Business Case for Improved Farmworker Conditions," works with growers to implement and quantify the benefits of voluntary third party certification programs aimed to protect workers health, safety, and rights.

Photo by: Andres Cediel, Investigative Reporting Program, UC Berkeley





## Cumulative Impact: BFI by the Numbers 2013-2016

**136** affiliated faculty and staff from **41** departments and programs

**22** executive committee members

**44** actively involved students including:

**10** undergraduate student employees

**5** graduate student researchers

**9** student fellows

**8** student contest awardees

**2** student council representatives

**13** faculty research seed grants, comprised of:

**57** principal investigators and **49** collaborators

**\$336,312** total funding

**\$70,418** in funding provided to students through fellowships and awards

## Highlights of Accomplishments by Program: 2015-16

### Education

BFI facilitated the development of a Food Systems Minor for undergraduate students. This program launched in August 2015, based on many months of work by BFI and committee collaborators, and provides a cohesive, comprehensive academic program for undergraduate students at Berkeley interested in food and agriculture. The Food Systems Minor was covered on the front page of the *Los Angeles Times* on Thanksgiving Day, 2015. The article featured quotes by Charlie James, a Berkeley student enrolled in the program.

BFI led a cross-campus project on Equity and Inclusion in Food Systems at UC Berkeley, featuring workshops for diverse representatives of food and agriculture programs, and efforts to overcome inequities and foster inclusiveness in these programs across the Berkeley campus.

BFI played a lead role in producing a report called [“Learning from the Ground Up: Lessons from Experiential Education in Food and Agriculture at the University of California,”](#) and a directory of experiential learning projects in the UC system. The report, which was led by Kate Kaplan, a BFI student fellow supported by the UC Global Food initiative, is published on the website of the UC Office of the President, and hard copies have been distributed to more than 300 people who can use it as a resource for participating in or developing experiential learning programs.

Student-led class in the Student Organic Garden. Photo by: Jonathan Fong



Photo by: Fran Collin

*“Cross-pollination among diverse thought leaders and constituencies is vital to bring about food systems change. BFI is not only breaking down traditional silos in academia, but also leveraging innovative research for policymakers and supporting systems approaches to fix the food system. Galvanizing the remarkable intellectual resources at Cal, BFI’s potential is limitless.”*

— **Michael Pollan**, BFI Affiliated Faculty and Executive Committee Member; Professor of Journalism; and Award-winning Author







Photo by: Restaurant Opportunities Centers United

## Research

Several of the BFI-funded interdisciplinary research projects were completed this year. One of the projects documented human rights violations of restaurant workers and suggested policy changes to address workers' wages and related issues. The project was led by Saru Jayaraman, Director of the Food Labor Research Center (FRLC), and Laurel Fletcher, Berkeley Law professor. In December 2015 the researchers released a report entitled [“Working Below the Line: How the Subminimum Wage for Tipped Restaurant Workers Violates International Human Rights Standards.”](#) BFI is preparing a policy brief based on the report.

BFI released its third annual call for proposals to UC Berkeley faculty and awarded two new seed research grants (\$50,000 each) in spring 2016 to support cross-disciplinary projects on: 1) innovative school lunch programs in Oakland, by Malo Hutson, Jason Coburn, and collaborators; and 2) gender dynamics affecting food access among SNAP recipients, by Tina Sacks, Ron Strohlic, and collaborators.

## Policy

BFI's policy program identified strategic priorities and goals aligned with our three thematic areas. We held briefings in Washington, DC and Sacramento to introduce BFI faculty experts to policymakers and to share information and recommendations. For example, BFI arranged visits by campus experts Malo Huston and Dennis Baldocchi with several members of the California Legislature to talk about their policy-relevant work on equitable food access and climate change and agriculture, respectively. BFI also facilitated exchanges between diversified farming systems experts, Claire Kremen and Amber Sciligo, with USDA officials and legislators in Washington, DC, to share findings regarding effective methods to protect pollinators, enhance ecosystem services, and advance diversified organic practices. BFI also awarded graduate students opportunities to co-develop policy briefs related to our main themes. BFI organized two successful policy-training workshops for faculty to share information on effective engagement in policymaking processes.

Research-to-Policy Faculty Workshop, June 2016. Photo by: Jonathan Fong





## Communications

The 10-part video series *California Matters*, co-produced by BFI in collaboration with the UC Global Food Initiative and hosted by food writer/*New York Times* columnist Mark Bittman, has had 537,592 views as of July 2016, through publicity in the *New York Times* and other news outlets. The series covered challenges and solutions in the food system, from production to labor rights to pollination. BFI faculty affiliates Claire Kremen, Jennifer Sowerwine, Philip Stark, Tom Carlson, Saru Jayaraman, Kristine Madsen, and Brenda Eskenazi were featured in this series.

Our policy program staff produced summary documents of BFI affiliated faculty research that has important policy implications in food systems, targeted for policymakers. Our staff and research collaborators used these as communication tools in meetings with agency officials and legislators. We also completed a branding project with a consultant to design a new logo and new outreach materials, and developed a robust customer relationship management system to enhance coordination of communications.

Neng Fong and Song Yang of Fresno. Still from *California Matters: The Changing Faces of California Agriculture*



Laura Moreno. Photo by: Jim Block

## Community Engagement

BFI launched a summer fellowship program for graduate students to partner with community organizations with common food systems interests. Students were selected through a competitive process and matched with organizations working on important food system issues, such as the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and the Sustainable Economies Law Center. 2015 student fellow Laura Moreno carried out a project on food waste with NRDC that led her to secure a job with the organization.

We also helped organize, participated in, and publicized dozens of additional public education events such as a conference, “Working for Justice in the Valley: People, Food, Land, and Water,” co-organized with the California Institute for Rural Studies, San Joaquin Valley Sustainable Agriculture Collaborative, UC Merced, and UC Global Food Initiative.



## Cumulative Impact: BFI Events 2013-16

- 15 “Food Exchange” forums, attended by 1,468 people
- 19 diversified farming systems seminars, attended by 570 people
- 3 equity and inclusion workshops, attended by 85 people
- 5 policy workshops, symposia, and briefings attended by 309 people
- 6 other special events, attended by 694 people

### Event Highlight from 2015-16:

BFI organized a forum in October 2015 on “Decolonizing Foodways,” featuring guest speakers and renowned chefs-activists who engaged 125 participants in a highly interactive discussion and meal that explored what it means to liberate our diets from colonial relationships of production and consumption.

Decolonizing Foodways Symposium. Photo by: Jonathan Fong



## Escalating Impact in 2016-17 and Beyond

BFI leverages UC Berkeley’s academic strengths and innovation in food systems to break down silos and build bridges among many different constituents necessary to effect change and develop solutions in this field. BFI’s policy work results in more effective use of rigorous research findings by policymakers and facilitates necessary dialogue between academics and public decision-makers. Policymakers have begun to look to BFI as an expert resource because we provide relevant information that can lead to practical change in food systems. Our community engagement program directly connects BFI’s students and faculty with a variety of groups outside the university to engage in fruitful projects.

Learnings from our first three years reveal that younger generations have a very important role in transformative change in this field. To support this constituency further, BFI has adjusted its mission to address the empowerment of food and agriculture leaders through expanded student initiatives and fellowships, as well as a greater focus on assisting young and emerging UC Berkeley researchers and educators with effective communication of valuable research findings.

After educational and work experiences at BFI, our students are finding fulfilling professional opportunities that allow them to make greater impact in food systems. For example, Pallavi Sherikar, an undergraduate student employee at BFI, helped to produce the report, [“Leveraging Food and Agriculture Research for Policy.”](#) Pallavi was so inspired by her experience with BFI that she is now working with the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition in Washington, DC. Two former graduate student researchers, Nora Gilbert and Sally Smyth, worked at the USDA after studying and working on food policy through BFI.

Looking ahead, we see great, untapped potential for expanding the impacts of our programs. We will continue to leverage our successes and partnerships from the last three years while we hone our activities to focus on our goals of promoting equitable access to good food, advancing fair and healthy jobs in food systems,

and accelerating the adoption of agroecology. In order to work toward more effective change in these areas, we will expand upon our communications, community engagement, and policy program areas, and launch new research-to-policy initiatives that contribute to successful systems change.



*“BFI has had a tremendous impact on my personal career interests. I knew very little about the complexity of food systems when I first joined BFI, but after witnessing the energy, dedication, and hard work that BFI puts in to changing our system towards a more sustainable and*

*equitable food system, I was inspired to delve deeper into food and agriculture policy. This summer I am working as a policy intern in Washington, DC at NSAC where I am building on the phenomenal experience I had at BFI.”*

— **Pallavi Sherikar**, Environmental Economics and Policy, Class of 2017



*“BFI’s research community represents a tremendous breadth and depth of expertise in disciplines ranging from journalism to nutrition policy, soil ecology to agrarian reform. Looking forward, it can become a paragon of ‘responsive’ research, and a catalyst for advancing transformative paradigms.”*

Photo by: Jim Block

— **Maywa Montenegro de Wit**, BFI Student Fellow and PhD Candidate, Environmental Science, Policy, and Management

**We thank you for your interest in the Berkeley Food Institute. We invite you to join in and support our programs and encourage you to **B engaged** in food systems change!**





Mary Lee, PolicyLink, moderator at the Food Exchange Forum, “The Challenge of Making Good Food Affordable,” April 2016. Photo by: Jonathan Fong

## Appendix

### Funders and Supporters

We are incredibly grateful to the numerous people and organizations that support our work. This list comprises donors and supporters in fiscal year 2016 (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016). We regret any errors or omissions.

#### \$10,000 and Higher

**11th Hour Project of the Schmidt Family Foundation  
CS Fund\*\*  
Sheila Duignan and Mike Wilkins  
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Clarence E. Heller Charitable Foundation  
Robert Huston  
Noelle Leca and Michael Moradzadeh  
Ali Partovi  
The Stephen M. Silberstein Foundation  
Dana and Edward Slatkin  
Jennifer Solow and Tom Jacoby  
Kristen and Tom Stoever**

#### UC Global Food Initiative USDA-NIFA\*\*

*\*\*Designated to support research of the Center for Diversified Farming Systems, which is housed within the Berkeley Food Institute*

#### \$1,000 to \$9,999

**Lisa Holmes  
Claire Kremen and Charles Fineman  
Nora Norback and Darrel Hess  
Bryna and Daryl Ross  
Jeanine and Guy Saperstein  
John Swift**

#### Under \$1,000

**Anonymous (2)  
Dale Baum and Seonghee Lim  
Joshua Blatt  
Karen Carlson and Stephen Sugarman  
Dolores and John Casazza  
Diana Chen**

**Ann FitzSimmons  
Judy Fried and Bob Scowcroft  
Christopher Gardner  
Randall Goldstein  
Natasha Granoff  
Amanda Hart  
Nina F. Ichikawa  
Charlie James  
Gregory Johnson  
Sheryl Lee  
Elaine Leitner and Steven Zieff  
Angela Little  
Marguerite Matthews  
Kathryn Moriarty Baldwin and Gregory Baldwin  
Abbey Myszka  
Amy Regan  
L. Ann Thrupp  
Judith Tuller**

### Staff

**Claire Kremen, Faculty Co-director  
Alastair Iles, Faculty Co-director  
L. Ann Thrupp, Executive Director  
Rosalie Z. Fanshel, Program Manager  
Nina F. Ichikawa, Policy Director  
Amy Regan, Development and Grant Officer**

### Executive Committee

**Sarah Bell, 11th Hour Project, Schmidt Family Foundation  
Stefano Bertozzi, School of Public Health  
Henry Brady, Goldman School of Public Policy  
Annette Doornbos, Goldman School of Public Policy  
Maria Echaveste, Berkeley Law  
Bob Epstein, Founding Funder  
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Alastair Iles, Berkeley Food Institute  
Nina F. Ichikawa, Berkeley Food Institute  
Charlie James, Haas School of Business  
Claire Kremen, Berkeley Food Institute  
Richard Lyons, Haas School of Business  
Kathryn Moriarty Baldwin, College of Natural Resources  
Michael Pollan, Graduate School of Journalism**

**Stephen Sugarman, Berkeley Law  
L. Ann Thrupp, Berkeley Food Institute  
Sarah Ting, Goldman School of Public Policy  
David Tuller, School of Public Health and Graduate School of Journalism  
Edward Wasserman, Graduate School of Journalism  
Jennifer Wolch, College of Environmental Design**

#### Alternates:

**Priya Mehta, School of Public Health  
Robert Strand, Haas School of Business**

### Student Employees, Fellows, and Awardees in 2015-16

**Emily Altman, UC Global Food Initiative Fellow  
Michelle Azurin, Community Engagement Fellow  
Tara Benesch, UC Global Food Initiative Fellow  
Liz Carlisle, Research Fellow  
Steven Castro, UC Global Food Initiative Video Awardee  
Luke Craven, Visiting Student Fellow  
Sabine Dabady, Policy Consultant  
Laura Driscoll, Policy Consultant  
Luna Fassett, Equity and Inclusion Fellow  
Kali Feiereisel, Graduate Student Researcher  
Aquetea Goodman, Student Assistant  
Gina Hervey, UC Global Food Initiative Sustainable Agriculture Inventory Assistant  
Jodie Howard, UC Global Food Initiative Video Awardee  
Amy Huynh, Equity and Inclusion Fellow  
Talitha McAdams, UC Global Food Initiative Video Awardee  
Maywa Montenegro de Wit, Center for Diversified Farming Systems Fellow  
Laura Moreno, Community Engagement Fellow  
Melina Packer, Equity and Inclusion Fellow  
John Romankiewicz, Community Engagement Fellow  
Pallavi Sherikar, UC Global Food Initiative Policy Assistant  
Andrew Stevens, Research Fellow  
Sarah Ting, Policy Consultant  
Julia Tubert, Communications Assistant  
Nicole Wong, UC Global Food Initiative Fellow  
Kara Young, Equity and Inclusion Fellow  
Agnes Zhu, Student Assistant  
Lizbeth Zuniga, Equity and Inclusion Fellow**





*Cultivating Diversity, Justice, Resilience & Health*