
The UC Global Food Initiative addresses one of the critical issues of our time: how to sustainably and nutritiously feed a world population expected to reach eight billion by 2025.

OVERVIEW

The Global Food Initiative aligns the university's research, outreach and operations in a sustained effort to develop, demonstrate and export solutions—throughout California, the United States and the world—for food security, health and sustainability.

FIRST STEPS

- Forming more than 30 collaborative working groups across UC that are identifying best practices and developing toolkits for sharing broadly.
- Focusing on five critical areas: food production, food access and security, food sourcing, food education and communication, and food policy and public impact.
- Launching UC President's Global Food Initiative Student Fellowship Program, which has funded projects for more than 150 fellowships since 2014.
- Creating a national dialogue around food issues, launching the UC Food Observer blog and Mark Bittman: California Matters video series.

NEXT STEPS: THREE PILLARS

UC will continue to work to increase awareness, share knowledge and promote understanding of how to sustainably and nutritiously feed a growing world population, focusing on three pillars:

Campus level:

Increase food literacy; expand course offerings and experiential learning opportunities; foster networks that support campus health, food security and access; promote sustainable food procurement and zero-waste dining; coordinate events.

State and national level:

Expand farm-to-school partnerships; produce and share best practices from food hubs to sustainable agriculture; develop toolkit of resources for K-12 dining; develop toolkits and experiential education curricula for youth empowerment; foster urban agriculture partnerships.

Global level:

Serve as convener between researchers, policymakers and global agencies to help build awareness and shape food policy; support international fellowships for graduate students; recognize young pioneers in food through its 30 Under 30 Awards program.

AT A GLANCE

- Launched in 2014 by UC President Janet Napolitano, together with UC's 10 chancellors.
- Involves all 10 UC campuses, UC ANR and Berkeley Lab.
- Draws on UC's leadership in the fields of agriculture, medicine, nutrition, climate science, public policy, social science, biological science, humanities, arts and law, among others.

GFI REPORTS

Read more about best practices, case studies and lessons learned in GFI working group reports on topics such as experiential learning, food equity, food security, K-12 schools, doing business with small growers, and leveraging research for food and agriculture policy.

www.ucop.edu/global-food-initiative/best-practices/index.html