

The declining small farm ownership and under representation of Hispanics in Southern California has been the basis for the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) risk management education program since 2000. In 2003, through funding by USDA, UCCE and California State University San Bernardino (CSUSB) in partnership formed the Inland Empire Small Farm Initiative (IESFI): A Catalyst for Small Farm and Hispanic Development in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

The purpose of the Inland Empire Small Farm Initiative (IESFI) is to enhance the feasibility and sustainability of small farm and Hispanic owners through risk management education of production and entrepreneurship. The UCCE contributes research-based seminars in agricultural production, economics, and marketing. The Inland Empire Center for Entrepreneurship (IECE) provides continuous consulting support to small businesses, using IECE program staff, faculty, and student intern teams.

This poster will present programs conducted through the Small Farms Initiative including critical needs identification done through survey assessments and through the use of an advisory board. Additionally, results and impacts of educational workshops and individual consultations will be presented.