Conference Program

SAEA Conference Information

Schedule at a glance:

**Thursday, July 21**

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm: Registration + Welcome – Ohio Union Traditions Room (1739 N High St, Columbus, OH 43210, second floor)
- The Traditions Room on the second floor of the Ohio Union will be staffed from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM Thursday. Check in for registration between 1:00 PM and 4:30 PM to register, pick up conference materials, and receive instructions for checking into dorm accommodations at Jones Tower, if applicable.

4:30 PM Conference opening and welcome – Ohio Union Traditions Room

5:15: Buses depart for MTSO
- Departure point: Traditions Room at the Ohio Union (arrive by 5:00 PM)

5:45-8:30 PM: Welcome Dinner at The Methodist Theological School in Ohio, with farm tours and an evening of Irish music

8:30 PM: Board buses for return to campus
- Buses will stop at Jones Tower to drop off guests staying in the dorms and at Ohio Union.

**Friday, July 22**

8:00 AM-9:45 AM: Breakfast and Keynote Speaker, Fawcett Center (2400 Olentangy River Rd, Columbus, OH 43210)

8:00-8:30: Breakfast buffet

8:30-9:30: David Brandt keynote speech

9:30-9:45: Pick up box lunches

9:45 AM: Board buses at the Fawcett Center for field trips

10:00-4:15PM: Field trips
- Attendees will split up into field trip groups and travel around Ohio on their respective trips
- Each trip will offer a time and place to eat lunch between 12:00 and 1:00 PM

4:15-4:50 – free time and walk to Ohio Union

5:00 PM – Buses leave for Waterman Farm
- Departure point: Ohio Union, South side bus loop (same as departure point on Thursday evening)

5:15-8:30: Waterman Farm Dinner (2548 Carmack Rd, Columbus, OH 43210)

5:15-6:15: Keynote Speech by Dr. Rattan Lal, Kunz-Brundige Franklin County Extension Building (2548 Carmack Rd, Columbus, OH 43210)

6:15-6:30: Field trip reports, each 3 minutes max!

6:30-7:30: Dinner at Waterman Farm (walking distance from Kunz-Brundige building)

7:30-8:30: Farm Tours

8:45: Buses return to OSU campus, drop-off points at Fawcett Center (for car retrieval) and Jones Tower
Saturday, July 23
7:30-9:00 AM: Breakfast and Open Space planning session, Ohio Union Great Hall Meeting Room (1739 N High St., Columbus, OH 43210, first floor)
7:30-8:30: Breakfast buffet
8:30 to 9:00: Open space planning
9:15: Buses leave for Central State University
10:30: Arrive at Central State University, (1400 Brush Row Road, Wilberforce, OH 45384)
Conference will take place in the Joshua I. Smith Center for Education and Natural Science (see map below)
10:30-11 AM: Check into dorms
11:00-12:00: Conference workshops and roundtable (see detailed conference agenda for details)
12:00-1:30: Lunch, networking, visit the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center
1:30-5:30 PM: Conference presentations, workshops, roundtables, panels, open space sessions (see detailed conference agenda for details)
5:45 PM: Board buses for dinner at Agraria
8:45 PM: Board buses back to CSU Campus

Sunday, July 24
8:00 AM: Breakfast on campus
8:30 AM: Closing Keynote by Ms. Ariella J. Brown
10:00 AM: Buses depart from Joshua I. Smith Center for Education and Natural Science back to Columbus

COVID Precautions
Following current mandates from the state of Ohio, we expect attendees to be vaccinated or testing negative for COVID, to wear masks for all indoor events, to be asymptomatic, and to test if they begin to show symptoms and isolate if testing positive. We strongly encourage attendees to take a rapid test for COVID before arriving at the conference, even if you are vaccinated and boosted.

Please bring your favorite refillable water bottle ... for use during the entire conference! (hint: if you’re flying, empty it before you get to security, then refill it once in the terminal!

Field Trips
Please bring filled water bottles, hats, sunscreen, sunglasses, comfortable clothes, and wear comfortable walking closed toed shoes (each of the field trips will involve walking in fields and potentially on uneven ground), and closed toed shoes will be required to tour the kitchen at ACENet. Cameras, note pads, etc. may also come in handy. Boxed lunches will be provided and can be consumed as needed, but times and places will be set aside for eating lunch on each trip.

Presenters for Saturday Academic Sessions at Central State University – Please Bring Presentation PowerPoints on a USB flash drive!

All scheduled conference presentation rooms at Central State University will be equipped with computers set in a Zoom webinar format. Presenters will use the “share screen” function to display their presentation to both live and virtual attendees. This will work best if the presentation is loaded directly onto the classroom computer from a USB drive. Presentation from laptop connections may not work for Windows laptops and the classroom computers are not Mac compatible.

Open Space Sessions
Open Space sessions have become a tradition at SAEA conferences. Open Space is a straightforward way to allow you to organize a conversation with other attendees around a specific question or theme. You will be invited to add a topic for which you are willing to lead and record a 50 minute conversation. If there is a topic that you are passionate about and a time when you would rather address that topic than any of the currently scheduled conference workshops, panels, roundtables or presentations, then please be ready to propose the topic as an open space. After proposing a topic you will choose a time and room number for the topic, and be there to facilitate the session and ensure that the learning is recorded in notes. Please keep in mind the four principles and one law of open space:

The Four Principles:
• Whoever comes are the right people.
• Whatever happens is the only thing that could have.
• Whenever it starts is the right time.
• Whenever it’s over, it’s over.

The Law of Two Feet: you take responsibility for what you care about — standing up for that and using your own two feet to move to whatever place you can best contribute and/or learn.

Information for those driving to the conference:

Parking
Ohio State University: All-day parking is available on OSU campus for $16.25 on weekdays and $9.75 on weekends (visit the CampusParc website to see available lots, daily parking rates reset at midnight, not after 24 hours). If you plan to park near designated meeting points, the Ohio Union South Garage is closest to the Ohio Union and the Lane Avenue Garage is closest to Jones Tower (the dorm where attendees are staying). Complimentary all-day parking passes are available on Friday at the Fawcett Center.

Central State University: Parking at CSU is free, the nearest lot is marked on the map below with a purple star.

Arriving at CSU
If you plan to drive separately from Ohio State University to Central State University: The GPS location for CSU’s campus (1400 Brush Row Road, Wilberforce) does not direct to the correct building. The conference is in the Joshua I. Smith Center for Education and Natural Science (which does not show up as a location on navigation apps). Copy and paste the following coordinates into your GPS app to arrive at the correct building: 39°42'53.6"N 83°52'28.7"W. Alternatively, if you navigate on GPS to Central State University Campus, you will turn into the main entrance off of SR-42 and take a right at the roundabout onto William Mallory Dr. This road will wind to the left, and you will take the FIRST LEFT into the parking lot of the Center for Education and Natural Resources. If needed, use the image on the next page for reference. The default GPS destination is labeled with a red X, the red line is the route to the correct building (Building 35, red star) and parking lot (purple star, free parking).

Please note that if you plan to stay off-campus for the CSU portion of the conference, it is necessary to have a car or arrange a ride from someone else back to your accommodations. There are no hotels within walking distance and rideshare apps are limited in the area.

Additional Conference Information for Attendees

• Note: the conference bus will make one stop at OSU to drop people off, then proceed to the John Glenn Columbus International Airport (CMH). It is advised to book a flight for 1:00PM or later if you are taking the conference bus back to Columbus.

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Keynote Speech and Field Trip Descriptions

Ohio State University, Friday, July 22, 2022

8:30-9:30 AM: Mr. David Brandt Keynote: Pioneering Cover Crop Practices for Soil Health.
Fawcett Center Ballroom A, 2400 Olentangy River Rd, Columbus, OH 43210

David Brandt is a nationally known Ohio farmer who has received numerous awards for his conservation practices. He will share practices that feature extensive use of cover crops to improve soil health on his 1,150 acre farm in Fairfield County, his ongoing learning as he works with researchers at Ohio State and NRCS, and his recommendations and wisdom gained from years of working the land and paying close attention to the health of his soils.

10:00 AM – 4 PM: Field Trips across the State of Ohio

- Central – This urban agriculture tour around Columbus includes the Charles Madison Nabrit Memorial Garden, Reeb Avenue Center, Franklinton Farms, HamMer Studios, and Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens (Columbus, OH).
- Southeast – This tour includes Newark Earthworks, a remnant of the mound builder cultures that is astounding in scale and both ancient and present day significance, and ACEnet (Athens, OH), a pioneering food hub and entrepreneurial innovation center and some of the value-added enterprises that have emerged and support sustainable agriculture in the region.
- Northeast – This tour includes Malabar Farm State Park (Lucas, OH), home of sustainable agriculture pioneer and Pulitzer Prize winning author Louis Bromfield and the Ohio State Sustainable Agriculture Library.
- North by Northwest – This tour includes Price Farms Organics, Stratford Ecological Center (Delaware, OH), and Columbus Zoo’s (Powell, OH) sustainability efforts and unique relationship with Price Farms.

5:15-6:15 PM: Dr. Rattan Lal Keynote: Learning to Manage Soil Health for Global Food and Climate Security
Kunz-Brundige Franklin County Extension Building, 2548 Carmack Rd, Columbus, OH 43210

The way Ohio State University scientist Rattan Lal sees it, many of Earth’s biggest challenges — from growing enough food to protecting water quality to reversing climate change — have answers in the soil. As Distinguished University Professor of Soil Science in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFESS), Lal has spent his career working to find those answers. Along the way, he’s gained a global reputation for his research and advocacy on soil-related matters along with multiple honors and awards.

Central State University, Sunday, July 24, 2022

8:30 – 9:30 AM: Closing Keynote, Ms. Ariella J. Brown: Community Supported Agriculture through an Equity & Advocacy Lens

Ms. Brown will highlight the importance of diversity in agriculture and talk about the critical role that advocacy can have for making a difference in this work as well as talking about her professional experiences from her time in Congress to her current work on BIPOC initiatives and the creation of the Black Farming Conference here in Ohio, now in its third consecutive year.
Academic Session Descriptions
Central State University, Saturday, July 23, 2022
Joshua L. Smith Center for Education and Natural Science (JISC)

Workshops

Co-constructing crossroads: 5 years of TA reflections from an introductory agroecology course – Ben Juliano, UW-Madison, Kase Wheatley, Jules Reynolds, University of Wisconsin-Madison

In this workshop, participants will share perspectives and explore best practices for building an interdisciplinatory, introductory agroecology course for diverse undergraduate audiences. By the end of the workshop, participants will be able to identify diverse pedagogical strategies, tools, and topics for agroecological course design. Facilitators will begin by sharing our experiences as graduate TAs for Agroecology 103: Introduction to Agroecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, from the course’s inception to the present. We will provide a brief overview of how our course has evolved over five years, with particular emphasis on our iterative design process that incorporates student feedback and interdisciplinary instruction. We will then pose discussion questions prompting session attendees to reflect upon and share their own teaching experiences. Questions will be discussed in small groups before returning to a large group to compile and organize responses.

Notes will be shared with all attendees after the session. Discussion questions include the following: - What are the core concepts that should be presented in an introductory agroecology course? - What are successful strategies for building true interdisciplinarity into agroecology courses? - How can the biophysical and socio-political components of food systems be cohesively integrated? - What assessment tools and approaches are most successful for evaluating student learning? How and to what extent should place-based learning and site-specific histories be incorporated into the curriculum?

Decolonizing Seed – Beth Bridgeman, Antioch College

There is no food sovereignty without seed sovereignty. The first hour of this workshop explores community seed-saving as a resilience tool, including relocalizing seed, seed sovereignty, stewardship, and rematriation. It covers the history of seed patent law in the U.S, the Plant Variety Protection Act, The Coordinated Framework for Regulation of Biotechnology, seed politics, and how to save your own seed, including genetics, pollination, and selection. The second hour provides several hands-on seed activities that educators can use in the classroom.

Unpacking Undergraduate Identities Surrounding Sustainable Agriculture at Bridge Gaps In and Outside the Classroom – Chris Gambino, Delaware Valley University Food Systems Institute

The next generation of the agricultural workforce must be able to effectively cooperate across the agricultural, natural resource, environmental, and social science disciplines to jointly evaluate the merits of proposed solutions to complex problems. Incorporating identity data into teaching and learning may offer a bridge to diverse worldviews. This workshop will begin with a 5-10 minute presentation of recently collected and analyzed data from 300+ undergraduates across disciplines. The survey reveals a snapshot of how fields of study, experiences, and other sources of information are influencing undergraduates’ ideas of sustainability connected to agriculture. Specific inventories were used to uncover undergraduate beliefs about a good farmer and engagement with the natural world (e.g., EcoTypes). Gaps exist across fields of study and political leaning. Understanding these gaps and identities uncovered through inventories presents an opportunity to get students talking about topics and sharing experiences to bridge divides among diverse viewpoints. With these data, audience members will discuss best practices to incorporate data collection in the classroom as a learning tool and/or as a measure of outcome assessment. Participants will walk away from basic skills in designing, administering, collecting, and analyzing student responses to assist with classroom use. Moreover, participants will help determine shortfalls and practical applications.

Roundtables

Farming the Forest: nourishing our community through hands-on agroforestry – Suzanne Slavens, Maya Chen, Elder Tree Forest School

At this roundtable discussion, we will discuss forest farming as a method of connecting the generations and the new youth agroforestry program that is being developed at the Elder Tree Forest School in Dayton, Ohio. We will investigate these questions: What is forest farming? How can agroforestry programs be used to cultivate relationships between the generations? What is elderhood and how can we find new ways to nourish ourselves that are grounded in old ways of knowing?

Stories of us: Capturing and sharing histories with dynamic purpose – Julie Cotton, Michigan State University, Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems, Jen Silveri, Michigan Food and Farming Systems

Recording and sharing public narratives adds meaningful paths – heart – to the “logos” information of food system research. It recovers community and expands and diversifies who represents “ethos” (authority) in food system movements. In our work, we have found ways to preserve the ownership of these narratives with our partners and pursue creative reciprocal and generative outputs for our community partnerships. We know that these recordings provide meaningful institutional memory for food movements and a potential avenue for sharing purpose and turning points. This intergenerational knowledge may influence the future of food system policy and practice, and certainly elucidates the past that shapes today. Example work includes: the grocers and public historians on the impacts of urban renewal on food access, and the formation and support of a farmer advocacy organization committed to undeserved farmers. This round table would address best practices in gathering, preserving, and sharing oral histories and public narratives. How can we best share these stories to encourage student, individual, and community agency and civic literacy? How can telling inclusive histories help tackle agriculture and food system challenges?

Individual Oral Presentations

Food Systems Thinker: Systems Thinking in the Context of Sustainable Food Systems – Minjia Charoenmuang, Cornell University, Neil Knobloch, Purdue University

This presentation will give an overview of a free online curriculum, Food Systems Thinker, which was developed with a support from the NCR-SARE Graduate Student Grant to address limited resources for teaching sustainable food systems and systems thinking. The curriculum consists of ten self-directed lessons, scaffolding worksheets, and experiential learning guidelines. Lessons address inputs, influences, and outputs as well as production and distribution, health and well-being, and environmental impacts in the food systems. Five video lectures in the lessons highlight real-world examples from Indiana farmers discussing about biodiversity, seed saving, disruption of food transport, sustainable practices, labor injustice, local economic development, and power of consumers. Systems thinking is encouraged through the practice of identifying relationships within a food system and with other systems, setting boundaries for a systems analysis, considering different perspectives and variables, recognizing concepts of stock and flow, feedback, and leverage points, and learning about delay and time horizon. Learners of this curriculum will learn the importance of supporting sustainable agriculture and how their food choices can be related to the environment, economy, and community. This presentation will also share the project outcomes and future implication of the Food Systems Thinker project.

Towards Aligning Conservation Wildlife Outcomes and Livestock Production – Madeleine Buzzeo, Delaware Valley University

This presentation highlights student research that questioned wildlife biologists and livestock farmers about wildlife predation via online surveys. We analyzed responses to make mental models that convey how people connect their own ideas, concepts, and experiences. Our research compares the differences between the farmers’ and wildlife biologists’ views on livestock predation.

Transformative Learning in an Immersive Agroecology Semester: Pedagogy and student perspectives – John Mischler, Ruth Mischler, Juan Llama Chardon, Gonzalo Barahona Hernandez, Glen Malast, Goshen College

For the last 18 years Goshen College has offered an immersive, residential, summer semester program at the Merry Lea campus field station farm in northern Indiana. The Agroecology Summer Intensive (ASI) focuses on: (i) practical skills for raising food in plant/animal integrated systems, (ii) the coupled socio-environmental nature of food systems, (iii) the power of food in facilitating community-scale benefits, (iv) decision-making when making personal decisions regarding what to eat, and (v) networking with diverse professional practitioners across the food system. This presentation will focus on both the pedagogical approaches utilized when designing and implementing this semester as well as student reflections as evidence of transformative learning. Through this presentation we will discuss student reflections perceptions and experiences, including student engagement with our work and the formation and support of a farmer advocacy organization committed to underserved farmers. We will explore student reflections as evidence of learning.
Creating diverse internships for changing career opportunities in sustainable agriculture and food system – Angel Cruz, Center for Environmental Farming Systems - North Carolina State University

The goal of the presentation is to highlight four different internship programs for undergraduate and graduate students to gain hands-on experience in sustainable agriculture and/or food systems, as well as sharing common elements of success between the four programs. All of the internship programs are part of the Center for Environmental Farming Systems career pathways programming and started in the last two years in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. The internships range from a more traditional in-person research internship to a completely remote internship where students are helping farmers and small businesses develop websites and online marketing tools. The diversity of opportunities in internship types and styles meets the needs of changing career opportunities in sustainable agriculture and food systems, as well as a more remote working environment. Some core elements of success to all internships include racial equity training, a variety of professional development experience and shared learning through a cohort.

Panels

Similar to indigenous cultures throughout North America, indigenous Hawaiian agricultural and education practices are being revitalized and hold promise to address multiple challenges to farming in the future. The participants in this panel are a part of a network of farms that are collaborating within Project Konohiki, a USDA funded program aimed at supporting konohiki (a native Hawaiian land and food system manager) in sustainable agriculture in Hawai’i through hands-on education and knowledge sharing. The project focuses on developing relationships and collaborations among new and established farmers and elevating the leadership skills of youth, particularly current and recent college students to build our regional ag workforce. Through presentations from each panelist and an open panel discussion, this session will provide a view into an indigenous lead farm and food-systems education program.

Stepping Out and Stepping Up, Truth and Reconciliation for Land Grant Institutions – Steve Gavazzi, John Low, Marti Chaatsmith, Michael Charles, Brian Snyder, and Casey Hoy, Ohio State University

This session will share the story of our work at Ohio State toward acknowledging the truth of the land grant that supported the founding of the university and begins the process of reconciliation with the descendants of at least 39 tribes and bands whose land was taken by unjust means and sold to generate Ohio State’s land grant endowment, along with other Indigenous people with Ohio Ohio connections.

Buckeye ISA, Institution Supported Agriculture for Sustainable and Resilient Neighborhoods – Casey Hoy, Minister Aaron Hopkins, Tom Redfern, Ohio State University and Central Ohio partners

Buckeye ISA is an innovative, WK Kellogg Foundation supported, network of small scale producers in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods in Central Ohio who produce fruit and vegetables to improve the lives of their family members and the resilience of their neighborhoods. Producers had the option of selling surplus produce to Ohio State University. This session will begin with sharing the story of the Buckeye ISA from the varying perspectives of those with various roles in the project to date, followed by an open discussion of how institutional purchasing can encourage similar programs that create demand for education in sustainable agriculture and connect educational institution communities with economically disadvantaged neighbors.

Undergraduate Agroecology Research Fellowships at the University of Vermont Center Transdisciplinary Co-Learning in Agroecology – Ernesto Méndez, Karen Nordstrom, Katie Horner, Laurel Marshia, Sophia Wilcox-Warren, Rachel Stievater, Ava Murphey, University of Vermont

This session will focus on two undergraduate agroecology research fellowship programs led by the Agroecology & Livelihoods Collaborative (ALC) at the University of Vermont (UVM). These programs intersect with participatory action research and extension-based education on regional farms. The first program reflects the development of the PSS 212: Advanced Agroecology course and centers a soil health project that takes place with long-standing farm partners. The second program articulates the design of a nascent agricultural extension workforce development project that pairs students with UVM Extension mentors over the summer and prioritizes an equity lens. Through our diverse and representative panel perspectives, we share what we’ve learned about critical- and equity-oriented approaches to sustainable agriculture and food systems education through these two programs. Our panel will represent a diversity of faculty, student, and farmer perspectives. Our introduction to these two programs will spur dialogue centered on the following broad themes: program development that links undergraduate research fellows in agroecology to participatory action research and extension, knowledge co-creation and co-learning within a transdisciplinary community of practice in agroecology, and critical- and equity-oriented approaches to agroecology and sustainable food systems education, which seek to link the affective domain of learning to identity development.

Posters
Conucos: A school garden network for sustainable agriculture education – Marisol Dávila-Negrón, Olglya Ramos-Rodríguez, Department of Agricultural Technology, University of Puerto Rico -Utuado.

We want to share our experience in the development of a school garden network in different municipalities of Puerto Rico. Also, we will teach about our web page and present more than 30 educational modules that can be used for three different levels of education: elemental, middle and high school. The participation of undergraduate students from our academic department in the development of the school gardens will show the importance of breaking generation barriers and how they can be role models for kids and young people. Finally, our presentation will emphasizes the importance of teaching sustainable agriculture in early stages of the learning process.

Cultivating the Liberal Arts: The Eckerd College Community Farm and the Promise of Campus Food Production Projects – Dave Himmelfarb, Liza Conrad, Adam Guerin, Eckerd College.

Definitions of liberal arts education are many, but most share an emphasis on fostering critical thinking, multi-disciplinarity, and civic engagement. Food and food production—topics which cross-cut the natural and social sciences, arts and humanities—represent ideal foci for initiatives that seek to embody the liberal arts approach. This poster provides an overview of the mission, structure, and the first year of production and programming for the Eckerd College Community Farm, a new initiative founded on the principles of the liberal arts. We examine how the Farm has sought to balance ecologically-sound production with the creation of diverse educational opportunities and cultivation of civic partnerships. Through a wide range of classes, workdays, and events, the Farm has facilitated a host of novel connections—between courses, between faculty, between the college and wider community, and among students themselves. While still in its early stages, the Eckerd College Community Farm has enabled students to experience the interdisciplinary integration of knowledge and the synthesis of theory and practice first-hand, demonstrating the promise of campus food production spaces for meeting the diverse learning outcomes associated with liberal arts education.

Academic Session Schedule
12:00 – 1:30 PM: Lunch, JISC Rotunda

During lunch or before 4:00 PM (closing time): Visit the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center on campus

Open Space Sessions (refer to the Open Space Agenda Table in the Rotunda)
• Sessions on topics proposed by attendees earlier on Saturday morning will take place in the rooms and at the times identified on the Open Space Agenda Table, located in the Rotunda.
The Inter-Institutional Network for Food, Agriculture, and Sustainability (INFAS) is honored to help sponsor the 2022 SAEA annual conference! INFAS is a network of US food system scholars, educators, and action-researcher activists who collaborate to help catalyze food system work, raise its visibility, diversify who is doing it, and increase our institutional capacity to do it. INFAS is led by an executive committee of faculty serving at institutions across the U.S. and operates primarily through working groups focused on food system research, education, justice, extension, and organizational development. Our Education Working Group collaborates regularly with SAEA to support research and diversity in food systems and sustainable agriculture education.

We welcome anyone who engages in this type of food-system work to consider joining us! INFAS members are eligible to join working groups, as well as engage with INFAS fellowship/mentorship program partnerships and participate in INFAS professional development and networking opportunities. Thanks to an endowment from the WK Kellogg Foundation, joining is free! For more information, contact Ben Cousineau, our INFAS coordinator at infas.coordinator@gmail.com.

The College of Food, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) is proud to support the national conference of the Sustainable Agriculture Education Association, and welcomes the participants to our campus and our state. CFAES is currently launching a Sustainable Agriculture Education major, a product of many years of faculty, staff and student support for education in this vital context. Sustainability is one of the four grand challenges on which CFAES focuses – simultaneously ensuring viable agriculture production, food security and safety, and environmental and ecosystem sustainability. Best wishes for a rewarding conference.