

NACDEP SESSION 3A – JUNE 2, 2020

Racial Equity in the Food System: National Workgroup Efforts and Opportunities

Racial Equity in the Food System workgroup - represented by:

Lindsey Lunsford, Food Systems Resources Specialist – Tuskegee University

**Crystal Tyler-Mackey, Community Viability Specialist – Virginia Cooperative Extension/
Virginia Tech**

**Lucy Diekmann, Urban Ag & Food Systems Advisor – University of California Cooperative
Extension**

INTRODUCTIONS



Please enter in chat:
Where are you from?
**What is your connection
to this work?**



OVERVIEW

- Introductions
- History of Racial Equity in the Food Systems (REFS) Workgroup
- Who We Are
- What We Do
- Closing quote and final Q&A

RACIAL EQUITY IN THE FOOD SYSTEM (REFS) WORKGROUP

A community of Cooperative Extension professionals and community stakeholders who *connect, learn, and collaborate* to facilitate change within our institutions and society to build racial equity within the food system.



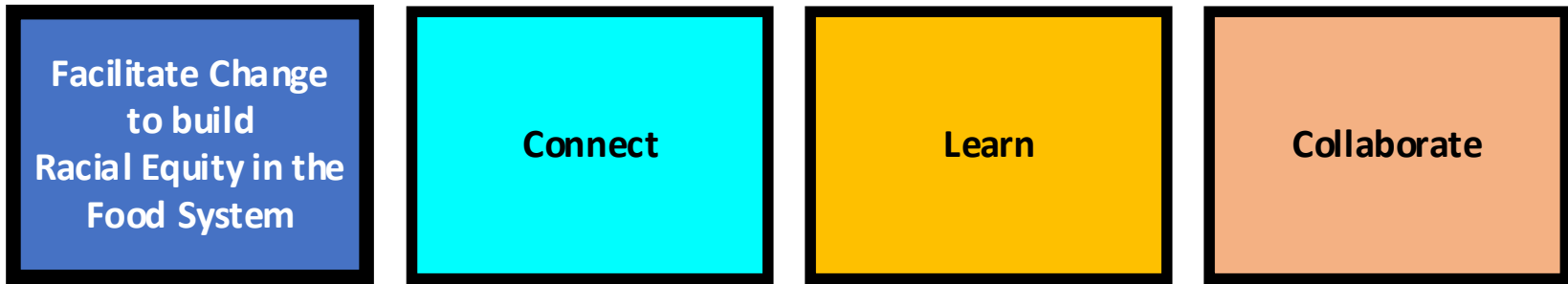
Web page:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/racial-equity-workgroup/>

The workgroup is funded in part by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation

REFS Strategy:

Facilitating Food System Change by Connecting, Learning & Collaborating



REFS WORKGROUP HISTORY

2014 – Community, Local & Regional Food Systems Conference with training by the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond

2015 – Conference follow-up and initial meeting

2016 – Internal learning opportunities and member survey

2017 – Launched first public webinars

2018 – Became part of MSU's Center for Regional Food Systems



RACIAL EQUITY IN THE FOOD SYSTEM (REFS) STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Shorlette Ammons, NC State Extension

Aurora Buffington, University of Nevada Extension

Kimberly Carr, MSU (CRFS and C4i)

Lucy Diekmann, University of California Extension

Vanessa Garcia Polanco, Michigan State University

Heather Heyden, University of Kentucky Extension

Rachel Lindvall, South Dakota State University

Lindsey Lunsford, Tuskegee University

Marcus Coleman, Louisiana State University

Erin Peot, University of Wisconsin Extension

Rich Pirog, Michigan State University - CRFS

Diego Thompson, Mississippi State University

Courtenay Simmons, Consultant

Gizem Templeton, Duke University

Crystal Tyler-Mackey, VA Coop Extension - VA Tech

Reneé V. Wallace, Doers Consulting Alliance

Dwayne Wharton, Consultant

Mekko Tyner, College of Muscogee Nation



Quote from a Racial Equity in the Food System (REFS) Committee Member

“Oregon is a predominantly white state, and I think one of the biggest challenges I face is that I live and work far away from the urban areas where the largest concentrations of people of color live (I’m the only Afro Latina faculty in OSU Extension). My work is related to community food systems, and although I work with low-income and underserved populations, I have developed a deep interest and awareness on social justice and food justice issues that I cannot fully address through my current line of work.”

*Joyce Senior, PhD
EFNEP Manager & SNAP-Ed Coordinator
Oregon State University Extension
Committee Member - REFS*

RACIAL EQUITY IN THE FOOD SYSTEM – NATIONAL SURVEY

Webinars hosted by REFS



* % of survey respondents who attended each webinar

RACIAL EQUITY IN THE FOOD SYSTEM – NATIONAL SURVEY

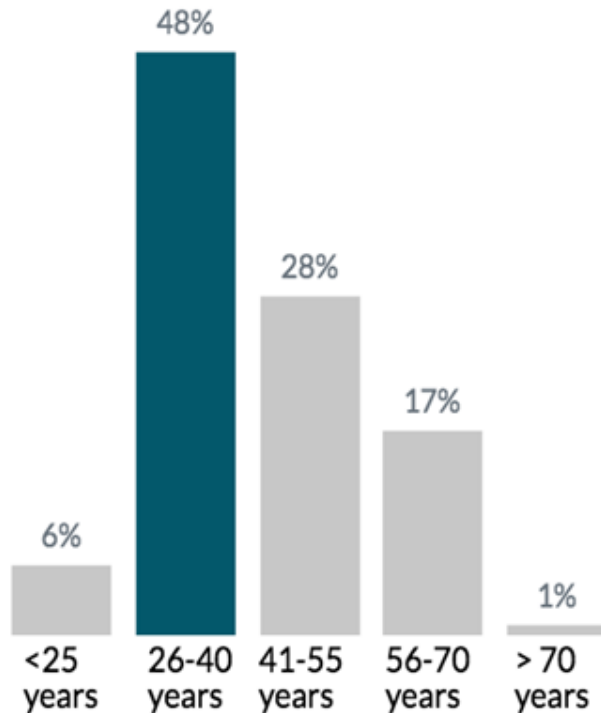
Which best describes your organizational affiliation (check one)

Answer	%
Land grant university or college	41%
NOT a land grant	7%
Non-Profit	33%
Local, state or Federal agency	13%
For-profit business (includes consulting)	3%
Other*	4%
*Other includes k-12 educators, farmers, foundation program officers, writers	

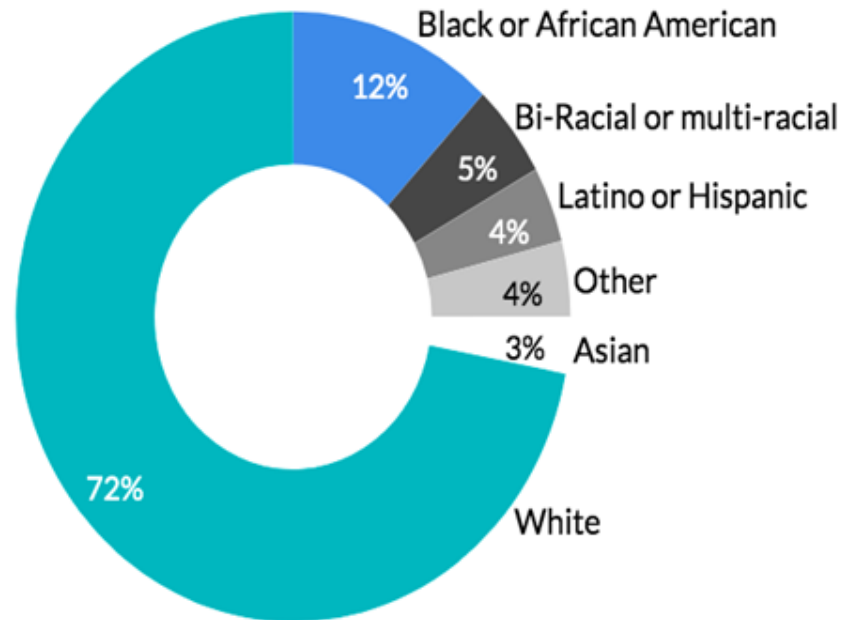
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Racial Equity in the Food System – National Survey

Almost half of respondents are between 26-40 years old



The majority of respondents identified as white or black or African American



Most (83%) survey respondents identified as female

Racial Equity in the Food System – National Survey

What are your top priorities in learning more about racial equity in the food system?

1. Learn how to use a racial equity lens in my work (29%)
2. Understand and address issues of racism in the food system (30%)
3. Understand issues of racism within my own organization (18%)

Racial Equity in the Food System – National Survey

Top challenges that limit your ability to work in the racial equity in the food system

1. Lack of financial resources within my organization (White – 26%.... POC - 27%)
2. Lack of personal knowledge on how to move forward (White - 28% POC -15%)
3. Lack of support/interest/priority by leadership (White – 16%POC - 24%)

Racial Equity in the Food System – National Survey

In the next five years, what level of progress do you expect your organization to make in reaching racial equity related goals?

Answer	% of total
Significant progress	30%
Some progress	53%
Little to no progress	9.8%
Do not know	7.2%
Total	100%

N = 710

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Visit the Racial Equity in the Food System Workgroup webpage:
<https://www.canr.msu/racial-equity-workgroup/>

Join Listserv

Attend
webinars

Use the
tools

Share the
resources
and
information

Food For Thought

You have to get over the fear of facing the worst in yourself. You should instead fear unexamined racism. Fear the thought that right now, you could be contributing to the oppression of others and you don't know it. But do not fear those who bring that oppression to light. Do not fear the opportunity to do better.

Ijeoma Oluo, [So You Want to Talk About Race](#)

Thank you for your participation!

Any questions?



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Please subscribe to the list serv from this web page!

EQUITYFOOD