SURVEY
COMMUNITY GARDENS AND LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Urban Studies and Planning Program at UC San Diego, with funding from the University of California Global Food Initiative and in collaboration with the San Diego Community Garden Network, is interested in learning more about the relationship between community gardens and local economic development.

Your participation in this survey is completely anonymous. Responses will be used for research purposes, and we will not share any information about you. If you do not know the answer to a question, or if it does not apply to you, please feel free to leave it blank or ask one of our survey assistants for help. Completing this survey will take approximately 15-30 minutes. In appreciation of your participation, you will receive a $10 gift card upon completion of the survey.

If you have any questions about this survey and/or would like to receive a copy of the findings from the study, please contact Dr. Mirle Rabinowitz Bussell (mbussell@ucsd.edu) or Jim Bliesner (jbliesner@gmail.com). The results will be ready by June 2016.

Community Gardens and Local Economic Development Survey Guide (Please leave blank)

Name of Survey Facilitator: ________________________________

Date of Survey: ________________________________

Location: ________________________________

Type of plots: ________________________________

Survey Number: ________________________________
**Instructions:** Please provide responses to the questions below. If you need assistance, let us know and we are available to help you.

**I. Personal Involvement in Community Gardening**

1. Which community garden do you use? ______________________________________

2. How did you first hear about this community garden? (Check all that apply)
   - Local organization
   - School
   - Friends
   - Place of Worship
   - Family
   - Other: __________________________

3. Why are you involved with the community garden? (Check all that apply)
   - Leisure activity
   - To meet new people
   - To supplement my income
   - To grow my own food
   - To spend time outdoors
   - I don’t have room for my own garden
   - To improve my health
   - To improve my family’s health
   - Other: __________________________

4. How do you benefit by being a part of this community garden? (Check all that apply)
   - Community connections
   - New friendships
   - Business opportunities
   - Enhanced gardening skills
   - Employment opportunities
   - It is relaxing
   - My health is better
   - My family’s health is better
   - Enjoy spending time outdoors
   - Other: __________________________

5. Has your household’s diet improved since you started growing your own produce? (Check one)
   - Yes
   - No

6. Does your household eat more fresh fruits and vegetables since you started growing your own produce? (Check one)
   - Yes
   - No

7. How many hours each week do you spend at the community garden? (Check one)
   - Less than 1 hour
   - 1-4 hours
   - 5-10 hours
   - More than 10 hours

8. What months of the year do you plant and grow produce at the community garden? (List all months):

9. How long have you gardened at this location? (Check one)
   - Less than 1 year
   - 1-3 years
   - 4-6 years
   - 7 or more years

10. How long did you have to wait to receive a plot at this garden? (Check one)
    - It was available immediately
    - 1-3 months
    - 4-6 months
    - 7-11 months
    - 1-2 years
    - Over two years
11. Is this the first time that you have belonged to a community garden? (Check one)  
   _____Yes  _____No

12. Does your neighborhood need more community gardens? (Check one)  
   _____Yes  _____No  
   If yes, where should they be located?_________________________________________

II. Gardening Activities

13. How many different types of fruits and vegetables do you grow at the community garden? (Check one)  
   _____1  _____2-5  
   _____6-10  _____More than 10

14. What are the main fruits and vegetables that you grow? (List all)  
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

15. Do you grow any herbs? (Check one)  
   _____Yes  _____No

16. What are the main herbs that you grow? (List all)  
   __________________________________________________________  
   __________________________________________________________

17. How do you decide what to grow? (Check all that apply)  
   _____My family eats these items  _____These items are inexpensive to grow  
   _____These items are easy to grow  _____I can sell these items  
   _____These items make a lot of money  _____It improves my state of mind  
   _____It improves my family’s state of mind

18. What do you do with your produce? (Check all that apply)  
   _____Eat it at home  _____Drink it at home  
   _____Give to my extended family  _____Give to my friends  
   _____Donate it  _____Sell to buyers  
   _____Trade for other products/services

If you sell any of your produce, please complete Section III below. If you do not sell any of your produce, please skip to Section IV.
III. Selling Produce
19. If you sell any of your produce, where do you sell it? (Check all that apply)
   ____ My house
   ____ At the community garden site
   ____ Neighbors/friends/family
   ____ Farmer’s market
   ____ Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)
   ____ Farm stand
   ____ Local restaurants
   ____ Other: ____________________________

20. On average, how much money do you make a month selling your produce? (Check one)
    ____ 0-$100
    ____ $100-$200
    ____ $200-400
    ____ $400-600
    ____ $600-800
    ____ $800+

21. Has your participation in the community garden helped you to increase your household income? (Check one) _____ Yes _____ No

22. Would you like to increase the amount of produce that you are able to sell? (Check one)
    _____ Yes _____ No

23. If you would like to increase the amount of produce that you sell, what skills would be helpful for you to expand your business? (Check all that apply)
    ____ Sales and marketing skills
    ____ More land
    ____ Food and safety training
    ____ Networking
    ____ Branding
    ____ Technical training (learning to use tools, etc.)
    ____ Accounting
    ____ Other: ____________________________

24. Has your food growing led to employment in other related fields? (Circle one)
    _____ Yes _____ No
    If yes, which fields? ________________________________________________________________

IV. Growing Your Produce
25. Tell us about your community garden plot:
   a. What is the size of your plot in square feet? ________________________________
   b. How many plots do you rent at this community garden? __________________
   c. Is your garden organic? (Check one) _____ Yes _____ No
   d. Do you rent plots at other community gardens? (Check one) _____ Yes _____ No
   e. If you rent plots at other community gardens, list them by name:
      _______________________________________________________________________
      _______________________________________________________________________
      _______________________________________________________________________
26. What resources are made available to you at the community garden for free? (Check all that apply)
   _____ Training in gardening skills
   _____ Training in business skills
   _____ Assistance in selling food
   _____ Maintenance of my plot
   _____ Water
   _____ Soil
   _____ Seeds/seedlings
   _____ Equipment and tools
   _____ On-site composting area
   _____ Mulch
   _____ Other: _________________________

27. What resources are made available to you at the community garden for a charge? (Check all that apply)
   _____ Training in gardening skills
   _____ Training in business skills
   _____ Assistance in selling food
   _____ Maintenance of my plot
   _____ Water
   _____ Soil
   _____ Seeds/seedlings
   _____ Equipment and tools
   _____ On-site composting area
   _____ Mulch
   _____ Other: _________________________

28. What are the barriers to growing your produce? (Check all that apply)
   _____ Water costs
   _____ Plot cost
   _____ Transportation costs
   _____ Time commitment
   _____ Lack of information
   _____ Lack of training
   _____ Difficulty in growing crops
   _____ Seed/seedling costs
   _____ Equipment costs
   _____ Land availability
   _____ Other: _________________________

29. What are the barriers to selling your produce? (Check all that apply)
   _____ Water costs
   _____ Plot cost
   _____ Transportation costs
   _____ Time commitment
   _____ Lack of information
   _____ Lack of training
   _____ Difficulty in growing crops
   _____ Seed/seedling costs
   _____ Equipment costs
   _____ Land availability
   _____ Other: _________________________

30. What is your annual fee to rent the garden plot? (Check one)
   _____ 0-$49
   _____ $50-74
   _____ $75-99
   _____ $100-149
   _____ $150 or more

31. If you pay for your own water at the garden, what is your monthly water bill? (Check one)
   _____ 0-$24
   _____ $25-49
   _____ $50-74
   _____ $75 or more
32. On average, how much money do you save every month on your grocery bill because you grow some of your own produce? (Check one)
   _____ 0-$19  _____ $20-$39
   _____ $40-$59  _____ $60 or more

33. Is there ever any extra food from your harvest that you do not eat or sell? (Check one)
   _____ Yes  _____ No

_If you ever have unused produce that you do not eat or sell, please complete the questions below. If not, please skip to Section V._

34. Approximately how many pounds of unused produce do you have each month that you do not eat or sell?

35. What do you do with your unused produce? (Check all that apply)
   _____ Donate it  _____ Compost it
   _____ Throw it away  _____ Other: ________________________________

36. If you take your unused produce to other locations, please list the locations:

37. Do you experience any challenges finding uses for your unused produce that you do not eat or sell? (Check one) _____ Yes  _____ No
   If yes, what are the challenges? ______________________________________________

_V. Traveling to the Community Garden_

38. How much time does it take you to travel from your house to your community garden plot? (Check one)
   _____ 0-15 minutes  _____ 15-30 minutes
   _____ 30-60 minutes  _____ Longer than 1 hour

39. What is the distance between your house and your community garden plot? (Check one)
   _____ Less than one mile  _____ 1-4 miles
   _____ 5-9 miles  _____ 10-19 miles
   _____ 20-29 miles  _____ 30 miles or more

40. What is the distance between your community garden plot and the main location where you sell your food? (Check one)
   _____ Less than one mile  _____ 1-4 miles
   _____ 5-9 miles  _____ 10-19 miles
   _____ 20-29 miles  _____ 30 miles or more
41. What is the primary mode of transportation you use to travel from your house to your community garden plot? (Check one)
   - Walk
   - Bike
   - Car
   - Carpool
   - Public transportation

VI. Tell us about yourself

42. Age (Check one)
   - 18-29
   - 30-59
   - 60-79
   - 80 and over

43. Gender (Check one)
   - Male
   - Female

44. Ethnicity (Check one)
   - Caucasian
   - Hispanic or Latino
   - African American
   - Asian/Pacific Islander
   - Middle Eastern
   - African
   - Other: ___________________________________________

45. Country of Origin (Where were you born?): ___________________________________

46. Primary language spoken at home: _____________________________________________

47. Household size, including yourself (Check one)
   - 1 person
   - 2 people
   - 3 people
   - 4 people
   - 5 or more people

48. Employment Status (Check one)
   - Full time
   - Part time
   - Retired
   - Student
   - Unemployed

49. What is the highest level of education you have completed? (Check one)
   - Less than high school
   - High school graduate
   - Completed some college
   - Associate degree
   - Bachelor’s degree
   - Post graduate degree

50. What is your household’s average monthly income? (Check one)
   - $500 or less
   - $500-999
   - $1000-$1499
   - $1500-$1999
   - $2000-$2999
   - $3000 or more

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!