



**RC MEMBERSHIP MEETING,
WINTER FORUM &
9th ANNUAL NETWORKING DINNER
December 3-5, 2014**

AGENDA

Welcome to our 2014 Winter Forum – *We send our warmest welcome to all the participants in our 2014 Winter Forum. We will all benefit from the wisdom that each participant has to share and we appreciate the work you bring to us and the shared work we will take away.*

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 3rd, 2014

Rural Coalition Visit to USDA - *USDA Whitten Building Room 104-A, 14th and Independence Ave SW (enter mall side on Jefferson Drive)* - *We will gather at the US Department of Agriculture for dialogue with our federal partners and to learn more about expanding the engagement of our communities in USDA initiatives.*

1:00 PM – USDA Panel One – Jennifer Yezak, Intergovernmental; Brent Elrod, National Institute of Food and Agriculture; Kenya Nicholas, Office of Advocacy and Outreach; Linda Cronin, Farm Service Agency; Lillian Salerno, Rural Cooperative and Business Development and RD REAP team. (Jacqueline Davis Slay moderating both panels)

2:30 PM – Networking

3:00 PM – USDA Panel Two - Elanor Starmer, Know Your Farmer/Local Regional; Max Finberg, Strikeforce; Kirk Hanlin, NRCS; Anne Alonzo, Agriculture Marketing Service.

4:30 PM - Networking

7:30 PM – 9:00 PM – RC Membership Meeting - *Savoy Suites Hotel - All RC Member Groups are encouraged to participate in our Annual Membership Meeting where we welcome our new members, share our stories and accomplishments, and discuss where we are and where we are going in our work.*

THURSDAY DECEMBER 4th, 2013 – WINTER FORUM DAY ONE

American University School of International Service Founders Room (Entrance is from Nebraska Ave across from intersection with New Mexico Ave NW)

8:30 AM Registration and Coffee

9:00 AM - Welcome from AU/SIS and Introduction to our Forum and Sponsors, and to each other - *During the opening session, we will receive messages of welcome and introduction, reflect on our goals and commitments, learn about our partners, and briefly meet those around us.*

9:15 AM – Making Transformative Change in the Current Political Climate— *In this session, we will hear about reflect on our work to transform the current political climate and organize for action. (John Zippert, Moderator; Opening Address by Rev. Wendell Paris, Panelists Jose Oliva, Food Chain Workers Alliance; Navina Khanna; Jerria Martin, 21st Century Youth Movement, Katherine Ozer, National Family Farm Coalition)*

11:00 AM - GROUP PHOTO and Break Outside the Founder's Room

11:15 AM - Partnerships to Build our Food and Energy Systems and Our Communities — *In this session, with our federal partners and our community leaders, we will review progress and challenges; and consider opportunities and solutions through cooperative and community development, small businesses, energy, value added, housing and related issues.* (Moderator: Willard Tillman, RC Board; with Terrie Badhand and Pati Martinson, Taos County Economic Development, Dorathy and Philip Barker, Operation Spring Plant; and Lorena Andrade, La Mujer Obrera, and comments from other communities)

12:00 PM – The Federal View – Partnerships to Build our Communities – Dr. James Barham, Ph.D., Agricultural Economist, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA Rural Development

12:30 PM - Nourishment and Networking – *Over lunch, we will hold table discussions with our federal partners and each other on our visions for the future development in our communities to share our ideas with our Federal and Academic Partners*

1:30 – Sharing Our Ideas for Solutions - The View from Washington DC – Rudy Arredondo, Moderator with Dr. Sabine O'Hara, *Dean and Director of Landgrant Programs for the College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences (CAUSES) of the University of the District of Columbia (UDC).*

2:00 PM – 50 Years of Struggle - Partnerships in Research: Documenting Our Successes, Defining Our Challenges, Using to Data to Strengthen Our Analysis and Strategies– *During this session we will explore our progress in our many years of shared work in securing equity in (inter) national, federal, state and local systems, and the tools we have developed to secure accountability and build inclusion. In particular, we will look at where we are and where we want to go after 50 years of work for civil rights and equity in agriculture, environmental justice, workers rights, trade, and democratic participation.* (Moderated by Savonala Horne, with Chris Musser, USDA-NASS; Dr. Spencer Wood, Kansas State University and Dr. Annie Lorrie Anderson-Lazo)

3:30 – Break

3:45 PM – Partnerships for the Health of the Earth, Health of Animals and Plants, Health of the Community –*Our panel will lead us in a participatory reflection how we can work to build wellness fo, our families, our communities, our society and our mother earth, including in animal and plant health, energy development, marketing, forests and communities* (Moderated by Chukou Thao, with Ken Johnson and Sophia Kirby, APHIS, Megan Larmer, Slow Meat; on Honey Bees with YARPO, Alfonso Abeyta, Rural Coalition Farm and Ranch Team Co-chair)

4:45 PM – Plenary Report Backs, Highlights of the Day

5:00 PM – Terra Madre Report Back – The Terra Madre Team

5:30 PM - Agri-food Studies Research Symposium in SIS Atrium – Join us in sharing and viewing posters on your work and to view the cultural displays our members presented at the Terra Madre Slow Food Event in Turin, Italy in October 2014. (Opening by Dr. Garrett Grady-Lovelace, AU-SIS; RC Board member Maria Moreira, World Farmers, and Megan Larmer, Slow Food USA)

7:00 PM Popular Research, Popular History: Engaging from the Ground Up – During this session, we will hear a presentation by the scholars of SIS to explore the work of the 2014 and 2015 Farm Bill Practicum Teams and their exciting research and an exploration of the roots of our agriculture and food system and seeds for continued collaboration in our shared research on sustainability. (With Dr. Garrett Grady Lovelace and Adam Diamond, AU-SIS, and Tahirah Cook and Forrest McGraw, Rural Coalition)

We will also share and discuss the film “*Come Hell or High Water, The Battle for Turkey Creek*” - a documentary by Leah Mahan that follows the painful but inspiring story of Derrick Evans and the African American community of Turkey Creek on the gulf coast of Mississippi as they battle powerful developers and myopic politicians in an effort to save their community’s land, history, and culture. Encapsulating pertinent issues of environmental racism, land loss among African American communities, urbanization, and lack of political recognition, the story of Turkey Creek parallels and reflects the story of many communities in the South who have organized for environmental justice and land security. (Introduction and discussion led by RC Board member Savonala Horne)

FRIDAY DECEMBER 5th 2014 - WINTER FORUM DAY TWO and NETWORKING DINNER - Forum at American University School of International Service Founders Room, Networking Dinner at National Press Club

8:30 AM Registration and Coffee

8:45 AM – Welcome and Introductions, Review of the Previous Day

9:00 AM – Popular Scholar-Community Partnership Research Needs – Dialogue on scholarly contributions to advocacy, community based partnerships how they contribute to scholarship and brainstorming of research needs. (Moderated by Dr. Garrett Grady-Lovelace, AU-SIS)

10:15 AM – Community Solutions to Global Problems – Roundtable on Partnerships to Build Our Farms, Cooperatives and Communities —In this session, our panel will lead us in a participatory reflection on our accomplishments and future work on with our federal partners and our community leaders, including Agroecology and sustainable, progress and opportunities in using food, farm, child and community nutrition and garden programs, mentor farmers, microloans, access to land and credit and advancing food sovereignty in our communities. (Mily Trevino Saucedá, Moderator, with Georgia Good, Rural Advancement Fund and Maria Moreira, World Farmers and Alfonso Abeyta on growing food and farmers; and Blanca Moreno, Rural Coalition, Marcos Crisanto, and Elvira Carvajal, Farmworker Association of Florida on growing communities with campesino gardens)

11:00 AM - The Federal View – Community Partnerships for Solutions – Our Federal Partner will Share the View from Farm Service Agency (Val Dolcini, Administrator, USDA Farm Service Agency)

11:30 AM – Interactive Dialogue on Community Solutions - *Conversations at our tables on our own work in advancing food sovereignty in our communities, with opening reflection by the youth of YARPO, and a proposal by Healthy Food Action (Becca Klein)*

12:15 – Report Backs

12:20 – Day 2 GROUP PHOTO - Outside Founders Room

12:30 PM - Lunch and Conversation

1:30 PM – Reflections on Our Shared Work on the Right to Food – Dr. Hilal Elver, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, with dialogue

1:45 – Break

2:00 PM – Ag Trade Past and Future Panel *discussing the 20 years of the North American Free Trade Agreement, and the political, economic and ecological impacts which led to rural exodus and migration and related political issues including immigration, (inter) national and people to people trade and workers rights.. We will also look toward the future by discussing subsequent agreements including the pending TTIP and transparency in the processes of trade negotiations, and how European grassroots groups are organizing.* - (Moderated by Lorette Picciano, with Carlos Marentes, RC Chairperson Emeritus and North American Co-Chair, La Via Campesina; Ben Burkett, Chairperson, National Family Farm Coalition; Tirso Moreno, Farmworker Association of Florida, View from Mexico with Altagracia Villarreal, RC Board member; and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, Karen Hansen-Kuhn, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy)

3:30 PM – Summarizing our Action Plan for the Year Ahead in the Current Political Climate – Facilitated by RC Board Member Starry Krueger

4:00 PM – Summary of the Forum, Gratitude and Closing Circle (John Zippert and Georgia Good with Jerria Martin)

6:00 PM – 10:00 PM – NETWORKING DINNER AT NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

National Press Club Ballroom

529 14th Street NW, 13th Floor, Washington, DC.

Reception, Dinner, Program – Stronger Together – Partnerships for Community Futures

Addresses by: Doug O'Brien, Deputy Undersecretary for Rural Development, USDA

Rev. Wendell Paris, Jackson, MS

Music by Henry Diaz

Musical Selections with David Battey

WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OUR SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
USDA Agricultural Research Service
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