Section B

Future Perspective
3-Ps: The Community Food Security Method

- Projects
- Partnerships
- Policy
Projects

- Community gardening and urban agriculture: show more promise for community building than for promoting food security

- Food co-ops: limited impact on low-income communities; limited business management capacity

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Partnerships

- Anti-hunger coalitions: food only, neglect poverty; ignore economic disparities

- Coalitions start to broaden: anti-hunger, sustainable agriculture, and public health begin to join forces

- Emergence of obesity and diabetes issues broaden coalitions; food system’s connections become apparent
Partnerships

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Convergence: Policy

- Supermarket development (food to the people): projects that would not succeed without policy
  - New Haven, Connecticut
  - Fresh Food Financing Initiative (Pennsylvania)

- Public transportation (people to the food)
  - New bus routes in Hartford
More Convergence

- Farmers’ markets (projects, partners, and policies): connecting justice and sustainability—farmers’ markets grow in low-income areas; Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program and EBT

- Community supported agriculture: private innovation and public strategies
Unifying 3-Ps: Food Policy Councils (FPCs)

- Specific geographic and jurisdictional focus

- Considers all elements of the food system

- Multi-stakeholder orientation
  1. Coordinates food system players
  2. Influence local or state food policy
  3. Food democracy in action
FPCs: Issues and Results

- Farmland Preservation (Connecticut and Montana)
- Nutrition rules in schools (New Mexico)
- Improved food economy (Michigan)
- Improved WIC Program (Hartford)
- Farm to School (New Mexico and New Haven)
- Sustainability planning (Portland, Oregon)
Challenges

- Oligopolistic forces of multi-national agribusiness
- Food banking still dominates public’s understanding of hunger and poverty
- Low-wage economy and need for living wages—holding the for-profit sector accountable
- Obesity threatens nation’s health and health care cost containment
Opportunities

- Local and state food policy
- Over 100 FPCs in North America
- New York City food strategies
- Cleveland and urban agriculture
- Gardening, cooking, and food democracy as pathways to individual self-reliance and community health
Finding the Balance

- Food system comprised of many parts (and many uncommon connections)
- Can’t forget hunger’s cause (poverty)
- Can’t focus on only your food (your health)
- Farmer has right to earn a livelihood, but not at expense of consumer or the natural resources
- Closing the food gap is a multi-faceted enterprise that requires we connect many dots