

## The Green Initiative Fund (TGIF) Agroecological Fellows Program at the UC Gill Tract Community Farm

Project Lead: [REDACTED]

**Objective:** The UC Gill Tract Community Farm (UCGTCF) requests \$31,734.35 to develop an Agroecological Fellows Program (AFP) for UC Berkeley students at the UC Gill Tract Community Farm to enhance food justice work and increase student involvement.

**Background:** The UC Gill Tract Community Farm (“the Farm”), currently a 1.1-acre operation, was established in September 2013 to address the lack of access to fresh and healthy food within East Bay communities. The mission of the Farm is to conduct collaborative community-driven research, education, and extension focused on environmental and food justice through urban agriculture; and to foster equitable economies, a healthy environment, and increased resilience in vulnerable communities, both urban and rural. As an innovative program through UC Cooperative Extension and the College of Natural Resources, the Farm serves as an active classroom and production space for both UC students and community members. Students and volunteers produce and distribute over 15,000 lbs./year of free organic produce throughout the community. Each month over 200 volunteers of students and community members come out to the Farm to engage in farm activities which include planting seedlings, harvesting and weighing food, applying organic pest management practices, attending ‘how-to’ workshops or social justice forums and much more.

**Sustainability Benefits to Campus:** Located on the corner of San Pablo Ave. and Buchanan St. in Albany, the Farm is highly visible and accessible to students and the nearby community with a total of 17 open hours per week from Sunday through Thursday. The location and size of the Farm is a unique addition to the UC Berkeley campus community. Approximately 3 miles from main campus, the Farm successfully engages low-income, non-traditional students, visiting scholars and faculty living in the UC Village housing complex adjacent to the Farm. The Farm also regularly collaborates with student-led initiatives to address student food insecurity, such as monthly Harvest Days that benefit the UC Berkeley Food Pantry. In addition, the Farm is adjacent to approximately 9 additional acres of open, highly arable farmland-- an untapped resource that could substantially offset UC Berkeley’s food sourcing carbon footprint. It also complements and expands upon current UCB programs focused on sustainable agriculture, including the Student Organic Garden Association (SOGA), Berkeley Food Institute (BFI), DeCal courses, Undergraduate Minor in Food Systems, and Graduate Studies in Agro-food Systems.

**Proposal:** A need exists to implement a long-term student fellowship program to expand on-farm research, establish comprehensive planting and operation plans, strengthen outreach to the UC Berkeley community and solidify the Farm’s long-term reach and vision. The development of the Agroecological Fellows Program will be a significant step forward in educational programming at the Farm through ensuring proper training and program support of fellows and increasing accountability and quality of learning. Furthermore, the proposed fellowship program would work to foster more student participation through creation of the UC Gill Tract Community Farm Student Group. The Agroecological Programming Fellow will develop detailed fellowship programs, advertise positions and interview prospective candidates throughout Summer 2016. Four additional Fellows—Campus Outreach Fellow, Farm Operations Fellow, Fundraising Fellow and Community Fellow-- will undergo technical training by the current farm manager over a 4-week period prior to the Fall 2016 semester and continue their fellowships through Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 which includes facilitating monthly student group meetings. These fellows would also be responsible for advertising about the farm on campus and setting up informational booths at periodic campus-wide student events.

In order to continue the Fellowship program beyond the proposed yearlong period, the Farm aims to establish a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program by Summer 2017 that sells “tasting kits” to local classrooms and produces boxes to individuals.

**Measures of Success, Monitoring & Approvals:** We will measure success through a variety of metrics, including: the number of students directly involved in experiential learning at the farm; the number of participants attending the Farm's student group meetings; and the growth and effectiveness of the farm, as measured by the number of community days, numbers and diversity of crops planted, pounds of produce harvested and donated. Student Fellows will be monitored on an ongoing basis, including weekly check-ins and weekly blog posts about their fellowship experience. Dr. Jennifer Sowerwine will serve as the sponsoring faculty member for this project through the College of Natural Resources.

**Goals:** The Agroecological Fellows Program aims to (1) design a Fellow program, with advice and expertise from students; (2) promote the Fellows program to a wide range of students and select 2016 - 2017 Fellows; (3) coordinate a successful Fellows program that continues to support and expands student participation; (4) and plan for the long-term success of the program through evaluation of its pilot year.

**Budget:**

Timeline	Item	Cost per Item	Quantity	Total Amount	Responsibilities
SUMMER 2016	<i>Student Agroecological Programming Fellow</i>	\$15/hr [20 hours per week for 11 weeks]	220	\$3,300.00	Design & Coordinate Agroecological Fellows Program (AFP)
	<i>Intensive Technical Training of Fellows by Farm Manager</i>	\$16/hr [15 hours per week for 4 weeks]	60	\$960.00	Intensive training to Ag. Fellows of farm history, operations, organic practices, community partnerships etc.
<i>Subtotal: Summer 2016</i>				<b>\$4,260.00</b>	
Timeline	Item	Cost per Item	Quantity	Total Amount	Responsibilities
FALL 2016 & SPRING 2017	<i>Student Agroecological Programming Fellow</i>	\$15/hr [10 hours per week for 32 weeks]	320	\$4,800.00	Supervise and support Fellows throughout Fall and Spring semesters. Write a weekly blog post.
	<i>Student Agroecological Campus Outreach Fellow</i>	\$15/hr [10 hours per week for 32 weeks]	320	\$4,800.00	Coordinate collaboration with SOGA, BFI and other programs focused on sustainable agriculture at UC Berkeley. Write a weekly blog post and submit article(s) to Daily Cal.
	<i>Student Agroecological Farm Operations Fellow</i>	\$15/hr [10 hours per week for 32 weeks]	320	\$4,800.00	Develop crop plans and systematic basis of seeds-to-harvest program. Write weekly blog post.
	<i>Student Agroecological Fundraising Fellow</i>	\$15/hr [10 hours per week for 32 weeks]	320	\$4,800.00	Spearhead grant writing efforts, coordinate crowd-funding campaigns and plan benefit events. Assist in CSA program development. Write weekly blog post.
	<i>Student Agroecological Community Fellow</i>	\$15/hr [10 hours per week for 32 weeks]	320	\$4,800.00	Develop partnerships with food justice organizations, local business, and other agricultural organizations. This may include investigating partnerships with local restaurants to source produce as well as leading collaboration efforts with other urban farms and NFPs in the area.
	<i>Support and Supervision of Fellows by Farm Manager</i>	\$16/hr [6 hours per week for 32 weeks]	192	\$3,072.00	Support and supervise fellows throughout Fall and Spring semesters
	<i>Printing for AFP supporting materials</i>	\$0.10/page	500	\$50.00	N/A
	<i>Scientific Notebook</i>	\$20.47	5	\$102.35	N/A
	<i>UC Gill Tract Community Farm Student Group meetings (posters to advertise meetings, handouts, materials to conduct meeting (markers, printouts, etc.), refreshments)</i>	\$25/meeting [1 meeting per month]	10	\$250.00	Foster student support through monthly student group meetings about the Farm
<i>Subtotal: Fall 2016</i>				<b>\$13,737.18</b>	
<i>Subtotal: Spring 2017</i>				<b>\$13,737.18</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$31,734.35</b>	