# FAQs – Workgroups

**University *of* California**
**Agriculture and Natural Resources**

## What are Workgroups?

**What is a Workgroup?** Workgroups (WGs) represent vibrant "**Communities of Practice**". They **connect** people to **plan** and **implement** their research and extension around **common problems or themes**. (They may help members understand how better evaluate their impacts.)

**Are Workgroups permanent?** They should be nimble; responsive to the changing needs in California. After 3-years, if the need still exists, then groups can be easily extended.

How do Workgroups, Program Teams and Strategic Initiatives fit together?

**Workgroup leadership?** Leadership rotation (2-3 years) is encouraged to grow leadership skills in members. WGs should define a Chair and Co-Chair with clarity of responsibilities (e.g., sharing impact and leadership succession, etc.).

**Who can join a Workgroup?** Workgroups bring together Agricultural Experiment Station (AES) and Cooperative Extension (CE) personnel along with stakeholders and collaborators.
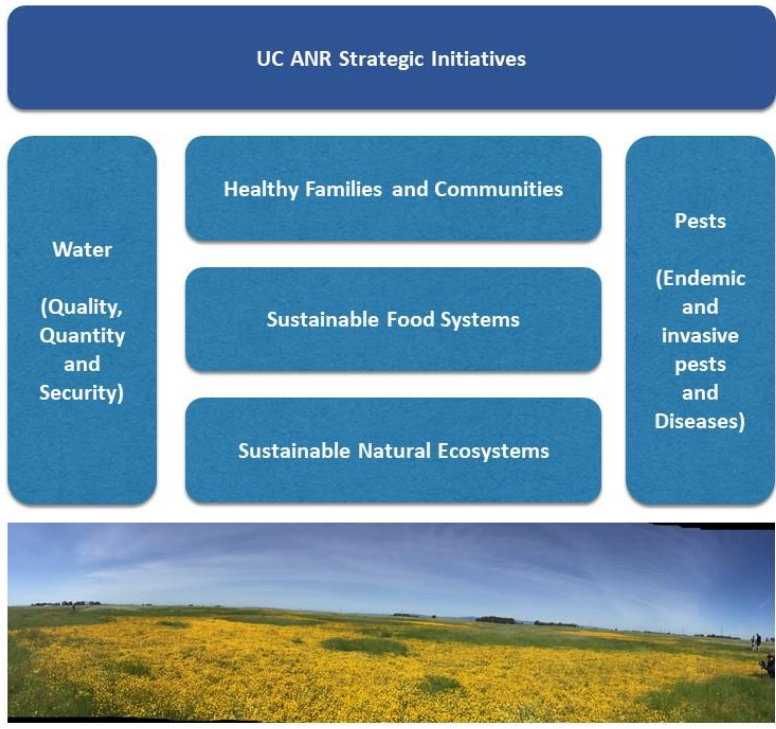
join

**How do Workgroups meet?** Meetings can be virtual or in-person (e.g., Increasingly, workgroups are meeting virtually (e.g., by Zoom), while others raise funds to bring people together). Sometimes WGs try and meet in association with Program Team meetings.

## How do Workgroups fit with the other elements of UC ANR?

- **How do WGs align with Program Teams? Program Teams link people at a higher level than workgroups;** allowing people to **network**, **share** and **learn** across a broader range of distinct though related topics.

- **Strategic Initiatives** are the **umbrellas - our highest level of aggregation -** with the goal to **unify, communicate** and **advocate** for our broad range of work.

    **What does the SI UCA mean? See the figure (next page)**

## UC ANR Strategic Initiatives

**Water** (Quality, Quantity and Security)

**Healthy Families and Communities**

**Sustainable Food Systems**

**Sustainable Natural Ecosystems**

**Pests** (Endemic and invasive pests and Diseases)

### Unify
1. Create vision
2. Identify Focal areas, emerging issues & priorities (Grand Challenges)
3. Input to UC ANR strategic plan
4. Hold meetings
5. Manage grants
6. Operate a think tank
7. Help build capacity
8. Input to staffing needs

### Communicate
1. Collate stories & highlights
2. Develop materials (white papers, etc.)
3. Foster debate

### Advocate
1. Represent UC ANR/SI
2. Engage stakeholders and government
3. Raise awareness
4. Representatives on Program Council

## The UC ANR Jigsaw

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Program Council** | Policy, Directions | |
| **Strategic Initiatives** | Unify Communicate Advocate | **Campus** |
| **Program Teams** | Network, Share, Learn | **County-based personnel (including State Wide Programs)** |
| **Work Groups** | Plan, Implement (Communities of Practice) | **Davis (2nd St)** **Oakland** **Partners** |