

SERA-47 Process for Developing the Mission and Values Statements

At the August 2017 SERA-47 meeting in Atlanta, the team discussed the importance of developing a set of values that represented the future work plan activities for supporting local and community food systems through Research and Extension. A small values discussion group was formed at this meeting and participants discussed values attributes, existing values statements from other groups, previous work on the topic and a strategy for establishing a set of values for the SERA-47 team.

Following the meeting, a small group periodically met via Zoom to discuss plans for developing a set of values that would drive the teams work. The Values Planning group reviewed existing values statements and discuss ways to capture input on important issues that should be included in SERA-47 values statement.

Elizabeth North and Amanda Perez moved forward on the task set forth by the Values Planning team. They designed and administered a qualitative survey to SERA 47 participants requesting input about values important to local and community food systems work. Next, a qualitative content analysis of those responses provided codes and themes that guided the development of a set of values statements. The questions included:

- * What are the values that should guide our work in supporting local and community food systems?
- * Why is it important that we are doing this work?
- * What do we believe and believe in?
- * Do you have any values statements, principles, or existing resources on values that should be considered?

Using responses from these questions, a student categorized the responses by major categories/codes and Amanda Perez conducted a qualitative analysis to further develop values themes.

Elizabeth North and Amanda Perez worked to create a draft SERA-47 Organizational Mission and Values Statement using the values themes.

Please review the draft SERA-47 Organizational Mission and Values Statement and provide any suggested changes or additional feedback.

SERA-47 Organizational Mission and Values

Mission

- To build the capacity of the Research and Extension system to foster community collaboration and become a trusted source of high-impact education and research supporting all aspects of local foods.

Vision

- To provide a safe, healthy, and affordable food supply that is accessible to all consumers.
- Farmers, ranchers, and food businesses are able to profitably market their products locally and regionally.
- People and communities are empowered to participate in all aspects (including production, distribution, preservation, purchasing and consumption) of the local and regional food systems.

Values

We value and seek to:

- Promote justice and fairness
- Support farms, food businesses, and local economies that thrive
- Improve food access and security
- Encourage food systems that support environmental, economic, and social wellbeing
- Foster healthy people and communities
- Recognize and respect diverse, local identities and cultures
- Utilize community-driven and evidence-based practices