2015 NATIONAL VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE

The Future of the U.S. Food System: Providing Nutritious, Sustainable, and Healthy Food for All Americans

May 18-20, 2015 in Austin, Texas

Austin Marriott South

January 14th, 2015

Dear Community Supporter:

We would like to invite you to attend the 17th Annual National Value Added Agriculture Conference hosted by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Department of Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M University. The conference will be held from May 18th to May 20th, 2015 at the Austin Marriott South, Austin, Texas.

We also extend the invitation for companies and organizations to set up a booth or poster for promotion of their products and services.

The National Value Added Agriculture Conference is held every year in a different state in the United States to address food security, rural development, and value added agriculture. This year, the conference will feature current issues that impact the value added of food and agricultural systems, food security, and rural development. The recent farm bill, food waste, current labor issues, functional foods, aquaponics, technology and big data, food hubs and regional food networks, the adaptability and resilience of the food and agricultural system in the new century are among the topics to be discussed toward the goal of designing and building a sustainable regional food network and agricultural systems.

The conference participants will have the opportunity to interact with innovative business owners and economic developers from throughout Texas and around the United States to discuss food security, adding value to agricultural products, and rural economic development. The conference will include breakout sessions and tours to allow maximum interaction between participants and practitioners.

The conference is open to all researchers, extension educators, teachers, and students from universities, tribal and community colleges, and K-12 schools; University Extension Specialists, Rural Development Specialists, State Department of Agriculture officials, Small Business Development and Farm Bureau Service providers, producer/consumer associations, farmers, producers, consultants, service providers; local, state, Federal policy makers, and food policy professionals.

The conference Call for Abstracts is attached for your information. Further information is available on http://www.agmrc.org/national-value-added-agriculture-conference/. We would be glad to answer any questions you may have and provide necessary clarifications where needed. We look forward to seeing you on May 18-20, 2015!

Yours Faithfully,

Dr. Marco Palma

Associate Professor and Extension Economist

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