The specialty crop industry can enhance competitiveness by ensuring compliance to the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). This project will support California's Central Valley specialty crop industry with adoption of FSMA requirements and related food safety methodologies by providing affordable food safety training.

The local specialty crop industry has difficulty attending food safety training as these trainings are offered in the larger cities and require out of town travel that is costly and disruptive to business operations.

College of the Sequoias has experience delivering value-added, local, convenient, and affordable FSMA and food safety related training. The project's aim is to reach the local specialty crop industry including the workforce on farms, in packing houses, and in food processing plants.

The project will measure success by the number of individuals completing the training and the increased level of food safety skills knowledge. That is, 400 individuals learned about prevention, detection, control, and intervention food safety practices and 350 of those individuals increased their food safety skills and knowledge.

In the first reporting period, we have trained 51 people from 29 companies in five different classes with 38 participants indicating knowledge increase (out of 41 who filled out the class evaluations). The class breakdown is listed below:

- HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points) (2)
- Preventive Controls for Human Foods (1)
- Produce Safety Rule (1)
- Good Agricultural Practices (1)

Overall, participants’ knowledge increased by 64%. Overall class satisfaction has been rated at 4.9 out of 5.