This project will enable the specialty crop industry to enhance its competitiveness by ensuring compliance to the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). It will support California’s Central Valley specialty crop industry with the adoption of FSMA requirements by providing local and affordable food safety trainings.

The local specialty crop industry has difficulty attending convenient and affordable food safety training as these trainings are offered in the larger cities and require out of town travel that is costly and disruptive to their business operations. College of the Sequoias has experience delivering local, convenient and affordable FSMA and related food safety trainings.

The project’s aim is to reach the local specialty crop industry and their workforce on farms, packing houses and food processing plants. The project will measure success by the number of participants completing FSMA and related food safety trainings and their increased level of food safety skills and knowledge.

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 second reporting period, we have trained 83 people from 40 companies in 10 different classes with 63 participants indicating knowledge increase (out of 82 who filled out the class evaluations). The class breakdown is listed below:

- HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points) (3)
- Preventive Controls for Human Foods (2)
- Produce Safety Rule (3)
- Good Agricultural Practices (0)
- Internal Auditor (1)
- FSVP (Foreign Supplier Verification Program) (1)

Overall, participants’ knowledge increased by 58%. Overall class satisfaction has been rated at 4.84 out of 5.